

The SSCS Newsletter



SSCS prepares its customers for a graphical user interface (GUI).

Is your system ready for CDBWin?

This special issue is intended to inform SSCS customers and others of the new Computerized Daily Book for Windows and the new features therein.

May 2000 marked one year since the Computerized Daily Book for Windows was installed in a beta test site. Since then SSCS has developed a conversion program to allow existing CDB6 users to convert their data to CDBWin.

Note "Open Tag" transactions and MTD totals will not convert.

New EFT Program

SSCS announces a new Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) program for renewing support services. Unlike most EFT programs there are no fees assessed by SSCS for you to participate in this program. This is another way we can help our customers take advantage of the support program without the one time charge normally associated with renewals. It is a great budget factor.

To sign up for this service, fill out the EFT Agreement which will be enclosed with your support renewal notice. Then complete the EFT Agreement and submit it along with a voided check from the account you want charged each month. Upon receipt your application will be

processed. Allow 3 weeks for the first charge to be reflected on your bank statement. If you have any questions, ask for Crystal in Bookkeeping at (800) 972-7727.

Wayne Nucleus Program

What is the Nucleus?

SSCS has been installing an interface to the Wayne Nucleus EPOS system since 1998. We have installed the interface for Shell and BP dealers. Chevron Nucleus is now in a rollout program. The Nucleus will replace the Wayne Plus system that many Chevron dealers have had for years. Chevron users will be first to get the new touch-screen Nucleus (which is a PC-based POS system) built on the Windows NT platform. The Shell and BP versions of Nucleus were built on OS/2. This new Nucleus presents many opportunities for Chevron and its dealers not only for today but also well into the future.

How do you prepare for it?

To prepare for this new POS you may be required to replace your current

computer hardware with a Windows-based system. We require you have a system with Windows NT Workstation or Windows 2000 Professional installed. The back office system (BOS) will be a workstation on a local area network (LAN) that the Nucleus uses. Remote users can dial a PC on the network using the remote access service (RAS) to interface with the Nucleus. This means a network card must be installed in the workstation (your computer), a network cable, and possibly a hub will also need to be installed. Dial-up users need a modem and a PC at the site. CDB/DOS users must upgrade to CDBWin in order to use this new Windows NT-based Nucleus.

N-Poll: Nucleus Interface to CDBWin

CDBWin incorporates all the benefits of the DOS version of the CDB. It was developed on the Windows NT platform. You will need to purchase N-Poll to interface with the Nucleus. SSCS will be able to convert your DOS CDB files to CDBWin. Finally, you will need training. We will provide classroom training at no cost

and charge our normal on site rates when you want us on site.

CDB Conversion to Windows Program

We are in the final stages of testing our conversion program. We have tested it on stand-alone systems as well as Windows NT and Windows 2000 networked platforms. Our quality assurance team needs to make a few more refinements and then we will be ready to move into a full conversion effort. To convert, you must follow the outline below:

1. Must be on support for all programs you currently have licensed.
2. Must have the proper hardware. Requires a minimum of PII or PIII 400 Mhz for Windows NT. Call your SSCS representative for details.
3. Must agree to get trained on the new software and its many new features. Classroom training is offered at *no charge*. Any on site charges will be billed at our normal on site rates along with travel expenses.
4. The Telxon HHT will not function with the Windows-based CDB. We are offering a trade-in program for our customers. When you return the Telxon PTC-710 unit in working condition with the scanner and power supply we will offer a trade-in allowance of \$1000.00. The Symbol PDT 3100 priced at \$2195.00 will replace the Telxon. Your net cost with trade in is just \$1195.00.
5. File conversion is required *after* you end the month.

Upgrading will take planning and time from you as well as the SSCS team. We have implemented a program that will convert those who paid for the CDB for Windows upgrade before we begin filling new requests.

How do you request the CDB for Windows upgrade?

Simply call your sales representative at (800) 972-7727 and tell him or her you want to move to the CDB for Windows. Your representative will answer all your questions and help you schedule the conversion.

New Features in CDB for Windows (V7.1)

Updating List Prices Immediately

Whenever you create a purchase transaction using EDI or HHT the CDB will identify all items that are new with an asterisk (*), all items that have increased in cost since the last time you purchased it with a red dollar sign (\$) and all items that have reduced in cost since the last purchase with a blue dollar sign. This feature will save time by identifying only the exceptions to the order. You make the necessary price changes and assign new items to their respective departments, etc. and you are done. Customers tell us they find this new feature to be a winner.

Adjusting Multiple Items

Item Adjustment is a powerful new feature that permits you to select inventory items by various criteria and change them. You can add, subtract, modify by a percentage, or assign a set amount to the List Price of the items selected in your criteria. The operator can also change vendors, department assignments, and redemption values (for those POS systems which support it). The items may be sorted by any field in the data sheet and edited right in the same section.

Tracking Fee Op. Commissions

Calculating commissions on fuel sales was added recently. This feature permits the operator to assign a cents

per gallon (CPG) rate to each fuel product. An example might be \$0.02 per gallon. The CDB now shows the margin as \$0.02 CPG and puts the difference into the Cost of Goods Sold for each grade.

The daily cumulative COGS is what the dealer submits as payment to the owner of the fuel.

A/P Payments Report

The new CDB has a field on the Vendor Maintenance window that permits you to enter a Tax ID which will appear on the A/P Payments for 1099 report. The program will then track all payments to that vendor for the calendar year. Any that exceed \$600.00 for the year will appear on a report which can be used for 1099's. This \$600.00 limit is entered by the user when you print/view the report.

Improved Bar Code Printing

When printing bar codes, the operator now has the option of printing just the modified items.

New Sales Reports

There are new reports that list Sales and GP by department for a thirteen-month period.

Linked Inv ID

We have added a linking feature to Inventory Maintenance that will permit the operator to link items to one PLU. This will allow the user to set up and track a promotional item like a lunch special. An example might be the sale of a hot dog, soda, and bag of chips for \$2.99. The cashier uses a PLU linked to all three of these inventory items. Whenever a sale of the PLU is made at the register and these sales are posted to the CDB, the inventory will be relieved of one each of the linked items. The CDB will produce a report that shows how many of each type of PLU were sold in a shift or day or MTD.

Redemption Feature for Use with POS

A redemption field was added to Inventory Maintenance for POS systems which support redemptions. In some states this is used as a fee that is added to containers like bottles, and cans. In California it is referred to as CRV (California Redemption Value). The feature permits the operator to set up different rates for each type of container. The rate is then attached to each item in the inventory. This amount is added to the sale at the register.

Auto Repair

SSCS has implemented an interface for use with the Windows-based ALLDATA system and CDBWin.

Marconi Passport Interface Now Available

Passport is a new Windows NT-based touch screen EPOS that was written using XML and the latest Internet "tools." SSCS and Marconi Commerce Systems (formally Gilbarco) introduced this new POS and back office system at the "nacs.tech 2000" show in Dallas in April. The announcement was enthusiastically received by all who had the opportunity to review it.

SSCS and Marconi now have placed the unit in the field. Watch for more on the P-Poll (Passport Interface).

Station-Minder 3000 Interface

The Station-Minder 3000 (SM-3000) interface program (S-PollWin) is now under development. SSCS is adding S-PollWin to its EPOS interface line of products. The SM-3000 is a Windows NT-based POS system sold and installed by the Suntronic division of Wayne. They have installed several

hundred systems since its release in 1998. Like all other SSCS interface programs, the S-PollWin will permit the user to retrieve fuel sales and department sales as well as PLU/SKU sales. In addition the user can send price updates to the SM-3000 from the Computerized Daily Book (CDB) program. S-PollWin also may be configured to schedule the retrieval of sales or uploading of prices to occur at preset times each day while your office is unattended.

New G/L Interfaces Announced

SSCS has introduced two new G/L interfaces. The long awaited MAS 90 G/L Bridge is now being beta tested at one of the S.F. Bay Area accounts. In addition we have completed and installed our first G/L Bridge for the Real World program.

SSCS now offers G/L Bridge interfaces for Peachtree, QuickBooks, Accounting Plus, Dac Easy, MAS 90, Creative Solutions, ACCPAC, Advantage Energy Systems (AES/2000/GL), Real World, Business Works, and MAS90. V7.1 even offers a printed copy of the journal entry which can be used to manually enter the data into any General Ledger.

Leasing Advantages

SSCS continues to strive to offer our customers financial answers. SSCS and Heller Financial have lease plans and rates for customers who wish to make monthly payments.

Leasing offers many SSCS customers a method to purchase the CDB to obtain the control over their inventory, margin control, reduce shrink, and ultimately have larger profits.

Heller Financial has made their lease plans very competitive. Matt Kilarsky and David Lowe at Heller Financial

Account Representatives have been working with SSCS for the last three years and have a good knowledge of the industry.

They work with our customers. Their goal is to work within your budget.

Below are some suggestions you can use with Heller Financial to purchase the Computerized Daily Book.

- Speak to Matt and tell him your ideal monthly payment. Matt will try to meet your requirement.
- Heller offers a discount on the last payment. For example, if you sign a 24-month lease and pay it off early, Heller will discount a percentage off the final payment.
- If you find your cash flow difficult to purchase a \$14,000.00 system, Heller can help you obtain that same system for a low monthly payment. All the while the CDB is assisting you in increasing your margins, and ultimately creating more profits.

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