

****Forward to your Advantage System Administrator****

August 2004



(903) 636-5200 Fax (903) 636-4674

NEW FEATURES ADD BENEFITS AND SAVINGS TO CUSTOMERS

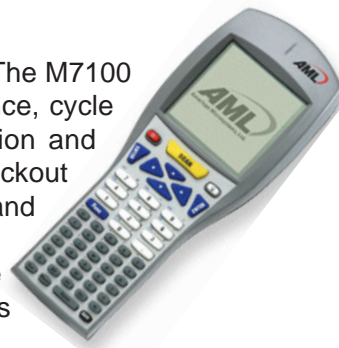
Over the last several months increasing numbers of customers are using some of the advanced features available on the Advantage system.

Document imaging is probably the most significant of these. The customer base using the imaging product continues to grow every month, as customers realize the benefits and savings that can be derived when using imaging. Seeing source documents (like delivery tickets, complete with handwritten notes attached to the voucher in Accounts Payable) speeds up the process of researching discrepancies and receiving issues. Having the source documents at your fingertips without having to get up to hunt through filing cabinets is a tremendous time-saver. On the A/R side the savings can be even greater by eliminating preprinted forms. Even for a single store operation this can be as much as \$5,000 per year! Then there is the labor savings at statement time and beyond.



Another attractive feature is the high speed on-line credit card processing. With typical response times of about 3 seconds from the time that you swipe the card, there will be no more long lines at your POS stations. With this additional software, you are no longer limited to the processor that you can use, so it may be possible to get a significantly better rate than you currently have.

The wireless hand-held scanners are another big hit. The M7100 wireless terminal can be used for inventory maintenance, cycle or full physical inventory counts, spot checks, creation and receiving of purchase orders, and even for POS pre-checkout to provide better customer service, faster checkouts and more reliable inventory counts. For many customers, their inventory is the single biggest asset, and the investment in a tool to help better manage that asset is worth every penny.



New leasing options are another big draw. Just last week we had a lease approval for \$50,000 in 22 minutes! If you are interested in leasing options for your next upgrade, go to:

<http://webdirect.amexbf.com/marketing/?merchant=abcsys>.

The application will only take you ten minutes to complete and you should have an answer within the hour! If you have questions about leasing or any of the features mentioned above, please call the Sales Department at extension 242 or 216.

Newsletter

**P O Box 421
Big Sandy, TX 75755-0421**

•New Features:

Reap the benefits and savings by enhancing your system

•Catalogs:

New catalog update tool

•Trade Shows:

Visit our booth at one of these trade shows

•New Customers:

Welcome to Advantage

•Hard Drive Space:

Manage your hard drive space effectively

•Advantage Academy:

Attend the user classes, Sept. 13 -16

•Advantage Academy:

Registration form

Keeping Your Vendor Catalog Current



Wouldn't you like to know that your catalog is current? Order multiples, prices (if downloaded), costs, item status, and even bar codes change frequently. Now your current catalog can be updated as easily as receiving an EDI purchase order with the new tool we have created for the software. It will save you time and keystrokes...no need to do manual catalog lookups and on-line searches to verify item availability and costs.

Those of you who are on a quarterly catalog update program can update your own catalog without waiting for the next quarter. If you don't already have a current catalog, we can create a catalog for you, and, from then on, you control your own catalog.

The catalog update is available for the most common vendors. It is another way Advantage is helping you run your business more efficiently and cost-effectively. For more information, contact the Sales Department at extension 216 or 242.

Look For Advantage At These Trade Shows

We will be setting up our booth at a number of trade shows in the next couple of months. If you are attending these shows, look for us. We are always glad to see our customers and to hear about how your business is doing.

SHOW	CITY/STATE	BOOTH	DATES	SHOW LOCATION
MOORE HANDLEY	BIRMINGHAM, AL	651	AUG. 19	JEFFERSON CONVENTION CENTER
ALLIED BUILDING SHOW	ARLINGTON, TX	704	AUG. 20	ARLINGTON CONVENTION CENTER
ORGILL	BALTIMORE, MD	1602-1703	AUG. 26-28	BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER
HANDY HARDWARE	HOUSTON, TX	1210	AUG. 27-29	GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER
2004 HARDWARE CONFERENCE	MARCO ISLE, FL		SEP. 10-12	MARCO ISLE MARRIOTT
PURINA MILLS	HOUSTON, TX	213	SEP. 15-17	RELIANT PARK CONVENTION CENTER
LMC	MINNEAPOLIS, MN	543	SEP. 23-25	MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER
BLISH MIZE	OVERLAND PARK, KS	1226	SEP. 24-26	OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CENTER
DO-IT-BEST	INDIANAPOLIS, IN	LE09	OCT. 16-19	INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER

*Welcome
To our
new customers*

Abaco Grocers
Crockett Farm & Fuel
Dillard Feed Mill
Eddyville Hardware
Fasco Ace Hardware
HF&C Feeds

Hughes Lumber
Kaper's Building Supply
Marshfield Lumber
Superior Lumber
Yellowstone Log Homes

We are glad to have you in our family.

HARD DRIVE SPACE MANAGEMENT

On the older SCO systems, hard drive space is always an issue. The newer Linux systems have larger hard drives and do not have the constant space problems. The tools to be more self-sufficient in controlling hard drive space are on the System Administration-> "Hard drive space management" menu. Several of these options are available to Linux systems only on Patch Level 177 or higher. The options are designed for use by system administrators and several require a "root" login. Also see the End-of-month/year-> How to reference files document on "Hard drive space management."

```
Examine disk space
Size of current area
      Space reclamation
Archived history paths
Company dataset maintenance
Erase end-of-month area
Purge customer sales history
Purge inventory purchase history
Purge inventory sales history
Recover tape to a "/work*/recover*" path
Remove end-of-day log files
Remove end-of-month log files
Remove "old" upgraded software
Remove "temp" files from "./userdata"
Remove old (ABCSCCVS) server logs

Quit/exit
```

- * **Examine disk space** (functional on Linux at Patch Level 177 or higher) - This option shows you the space available on each drive configured in your system. The most important figures are the first ones after the drive name. These represent the unused space in each area.
- * **Size of current area** (functional on Linux at Patch Level 177 or higher) - This option calculates the size of the current dataset and compares it to the space available. You can determine beforehand if you have sufficient space to run an EOM/EOY procedure.
- * **Archived history paths** - This is a sub-menu with options to build a list of history archives to delete. Once this list has been built, the first option is used to backup the selected history archives on tape before permanently removing them from the system.
- * **Company dataset maintenance** - This option allows you to maintain the entries in your system-wide company dataset list. The delete function allows full removal of any dataset in the list after a new backup copy is made.
- * **Erase end-of-month area** - This option is a "last resort" option that will free hard drive space by reducing the number of "file" entries for that directory tree. NOTE: this option does not backup the dataset before erasing it, so make sure it will not be needed again until the next month-end procedure creates a new month-end area.
- * **Purge customer sales history** - This application will remove records from customer sales database. This is the customer sales history found when the [F9] key is pressed on the "Sales" field in A/R customer maintenance. You enter the date of the oldest record to keep and all records that are older will be purged. This same purge option can be configured to run as part of the EOY procedure or can be run anytime your system is getting low on space.
- * **Purge inventory purchase history** - This application will remove records from the purchase history database which is accessed by pressing [F2] in Inventory item maintenance. Again, enter the date of the oldest record to keep and all older records will be purged. These "purge" options should be considered by all users who have been on the system more than two years.
- * **Purge inventory sales history** - This final "purge" application removes records from the inventory sales database which is accessed by pressing [F3] in Inventory item maintenance. The Over/Understock report uses sales history to generate suggested order quantities. Before purging data, consider how many years to keep for this report.
- * **Recover tape to a "/work*/recover*" path** (functional on Linux at Patch Level 177 or higher) - This option automatically reads a tape into a "recover" area on any non-root file system with adequate available space. It has the option to erase an existing "recover" area to free up space (for use only on systems with tape drives).
- * **Remove end-of-day log files** - You can delete End-of-day log directories for all but the current month with this option. Once the log file for a period has been removed, reprinting the EOD report will not be possible. This option provides no backup prior to the deletion of files.
- * **Remove end-of-month log files** - This program allows end-of-month log files to be removed. There is no option to back up this information on tape before the removal is performed. The last daily backup prior to using either of these "remove log" options should be clearly labeled and kept as part of your permanent backup library.
- * **Remove "old" upgraded software** - This program selectively removes files from the system with the option to perform a backup to tape of any information prior to removal. This is useful for recovering space from your "root" and "/work" file systems after upgrading the software. It is recommended that this be done within 30 days of the upgrade.
- * **Remove "temp" files from "./userdata"** - This program removes unneeded, miscellaneous, temporary files and directories in the current "userdata" area. A tape backup of any information is not needed before removal. This option will only be allowed when no one else is logged into the system since these "temp" files are needed during regular operations.
- * **Remove old (ABCSCCVS) server logs** (functional on Linux at Patch Level 177 or higher) - This application allows the selective removal of log files from the ABCSCCVS system. The menu presented is in date order from oldest to newest entries. The ABCSCCVS logs are used for technical support only and should be "pared down" from time to time to prevent the disk storage used by these files from becoming too great. Please note that this procedure does not remove any historical records stored in the "ccd_det1" database in the Advantage software. You must be logged in as root to be able to run this application. On a standard Advantage System these logs are stored in the root file system which is normally a fairly small file system; therefore, this will need to be done periodically to prevent the root file system from filling up and causing operating system related failures.

ADVANTAGE ACADEMY

Monday, Sept. 13 Through Thursday, Sept. 16, 2004

FREE CLASSES for all Advantage Users

Classes will be held at:
Ramada Ltd. Suites - (903)757-0500
419 N. Spur 63, Longview, TX

TAPE RECORDERS ARE WELCOME

REPORT GENERATOR CLASS

REPORT GENERATOR SCHEDULE:

This class is designed for System Administrators and other knowledgeable computer staff. Report Generator is not recommended for new or inexperienced users. This class is truly for the experienced user. You must have a good working knowledge of the COMPLETE Advantage System.

MONDAY - September 13, 2004
8:00 - 10:00 AM - BEGINNING LEVEL
10:15 - 12:00 AM - CONTINUATION

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION AND DATABASE MAINTENANCE:

History archiving, setting up terminals, printers, users, forms, reorganizing data and other routine maintenance procedures will be discussed. A must for all new users. End-of-Month and End-of-Year procedures will also be fully covered.

ACCOUNTING APPLICATIONS:

Designed for bookkeepers, owners and system administrators, these accounting classes will provide additional insight into routine procedures. New users and existing users should plan on attending these in-depth classes to gain a well-rounded understanding of the system as a whole. These classes will assist in implementing new applications of the system and to improve the accuracy and efficiency of routinely used applications.

INVENTORY, PURCHASING AND SALES:

Purchasing agents, receiving clerks, inventory control managers, bookkeepers and store managers are all excellent candidates for this session. You're using these applications now, but learn how you can utilize these applications more effectively. Accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness are the reasons most companies computerize. Learn about tools that will allow you to get the most usage of the Advantage System.

Learn what these applications are about, how they are used, and what you can hope to gain from them. These issues will all be addressed throughout the classes. The more you use the Advantage System, the more benefit you will receive from your investment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL EXTENSION 216 or 242.**

SESSION SCHEDULE

MONDAY – September 13

8:00 - 12:00 PM Report Generator
1:00 - 1:30 PM Database Maintenance
1:30 - 3:00 PM End-of-Day/Month/Year
3:15 - 5:00 PM System Maintenance
5:15 - 6:00 PM Users/Printers/Terminals

TUESDAY – September 14

8:00 - 10:00 AM General Ledger
10:15 - 12:00 PM General Ledger
1:00 - 3:00 PM Accounts Receivable
3:15 - 4:00 PM Accounts Receivable
4:15 - 6:00 PM Payroll

WEDNESDAY – September 15

8:00 - 9:45 AM Accounts Payable
10:00 - 11:00 AM Accounts Payable
11:00 - 12:00 PM Inventory Counts
1:00 - 1:30 PM Inventory Counts
1:30 - 2:30 PM Inventory
2:45 - 4:45 PM Inventory
5:00 - 6:00 PM Purchasing

THURSDAY – September 16

8:00 - 10:00 AM Purchasing
10:15 - 12:00 PM Electronic Purchasing
1:00 - 2:15 PM Electronic Purchasing
2:30 - 3:30 PM Point-of-Sale Q & E
3:45 - Point-of-Sale

HANDS ON HELP - Do You Have Specific Issues That Need One-On-One Help?

Let us know in advance that you need additional assistance and what the issues are and we will have support reps available at the end of the day to help you. If you plan to take advantage of the one-on-one assistance, please bring a data tape or data CD and the issue specifics.

ADVANTAGE ACADEMY

REGISTRATION

FORM

September 13 - 16, 2004

Class will be held at:
Ramada Limited Suites
419 N. Spur 63
Longview, TX
(903)757-0500

To secure your reservation, please complete this form and fax it to 903-636-4605 at your earliest convenience.

Seating is limited.

Get your reservation in as soon as possible to ensure that you have a place. If the class is full when you send your reservation, we will put you on a waiting list and notify you that we have your reservation. If space becomes available, we will contact those on the waiting list.

COMPANY NAME: _____

CITY: _____

CONTACT: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

Names of individuals attending: _____

DAYS ATTENDING:

SEP 13 SEP 15

SEP 14 SEP 16

(please indicate number of people attending each day)

**\$250 (PER PERSON) DEPOSIT REQUIRED
by August 31, 2004
Make checks payable to
Advantage Business Computer Systems, Inc.**

**Mail Deposits To:
Advantage Business Computers Systems, Inc.
Attn: J. Matatall
PO Box 421
Big Sandy, TX 75755-0421**

**If you have questions, call
903-636-5200 Ext. 216 or 242.**

During the Advantage Academy class sessions we would like to address the issues/questions that are of the most concern to you and your company. With your registration please submit five (5) areas you would like to see discussed. Also if you think you will need more specific help with any of these items, please check the box. See "Hands On Help" on the previous page for more information about one-on-one help.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

Those who attend Advantage Academy classes are responsible for their own room reservations and expenses. Be sure to mention that you are with the Advantage group to receive a room discount. There are airports in Longview and Tyler for those who will be making flight arrangements.