HandyWork Newsletter

Happy New Year

What's New in Windows

As more and more users give us their wish lists, we continue to add more and more features to the Windows version of HandyWorks. So here is what's new in the last few months.

1. We recently added a running balance field to the Transaction Ledger.

2. The appointment book now shows the patient's next appointment under their name. Also in this drop down pick list is every other appointment you have them scheduled for, previous and future.

3. An onset date of 01/01/80 prints out a GRADUAL for the onset date on the HCFA.

4. A Procedure Code Utilization Summary Report has been added to the Procedure Code report options.

5. A Carrier Productivity Summary Report has been added to the Carrier report options.

6. A Referral Productivity Report has been added to the Reports Wizard.

Training Seminar

Many users have asked us to hold a training and advanced user seminar. If this interests you, please let us know. Would you like the seminar to be held in New York, or someplace warm and tropical? Please let us know, and if there is sufficient interest, we will set one up. Email us at Seminar@HandyWorks.com.

Website Upgrades are easy

We have made upgrading from our website easier than ever. Go to HandyWorks.com. Then go to the item marked Download. On this Download page, at the bottom, is a section where registered users can click on the link to automatically get the latest versions of HandyWorks. The file is sent in a ZIP format, and you will need to know the password to get the program file to extract.

If we have your email address, we will occasionally let you know when new versions are posted (about once a month). Users without web access are encouraged to get it. We offer a $25 inducement credit off of your maintenance bill, if you have a valid email account that lets us send you files. (Sorry Hotmail and Juno accounts don't count).

Regarding email: While we have relied in the past on the post office to deliver fixes and patches to many users, over 50% of you now let us do this by email. Not only is this easier for all of us, but you can get your fix in minutes, rather than the week or so it took the manual way. Send your email address to us at our address of email@HandyWorks.com.

Vacation

The HandyWorks office will be closed from 3/29/99 - 4/2/99. There will be <u>NO SUPPORT</u> this week. Make sure you are backed up, and save your problems for when we return.

DOS to HWW Upgrade Offer

DOS users (now about 50% of total HandyWorks users) can still upgrade to the Windows version for only $500, if you do this by June 1st, 1999. After that, the upgrade price will increase to $700. All of your DOS data can be transferred over while leaving the DOS system intact and still perfectly usable. This low price offer is only available to DOS users who are current in their maintenance.

We recommend upgrading for many reasons. First, the Windows version is a much better program than DOS. DOS was put together over a 10 year period of time, and many of its major pieces, such as the Ledger Card, were never fully integrated into the system. (That is why you need to F5 in End of Day) The Windows version, on the other hand, was completely designed before we started writing code. This means that the Windows version is a seamless program encompassing all of the DOS features, just done a lot better.

On our side, maintaining the Windows version is easier. HCFA changes, which is the most common issue, is a snap in Windows. Oftentimes, we can help you make the change to the form, right in your office, in a matter of moments.

Remember that you lose none of the DOS features, yet gain a myriad of other benefits. For example, Windows supports HMO fixed dollar co-pays. Another great feature is the ability to make payments go to

specific office visits. This helps track those "pesky" insurance errors in which they pay only part your bill. (We wonder if they skip visit dates on purpose, or they are simply incompetent).

For those of you who chose to remain with the DOS version, this is OK! We will continue to support the DOS system, and the DOS version is fully functional under any Windows environment. We understand that some offices are resistant to change from a system they are comfortable with to one that is "unknown".

Y2K - What's it all about

When I started programming in 1969, I worked on a mid size IBM machine, (IBM 1130) that had 8K of memory and a disk storage system (disks the size of a tire) that held 1.2 megabytes. In order to conserve space in storage and memory, dates were stored as mmddyy, taking up only 8 integer storage bytes. The saving of those 2 bytes by not representing the full year as yyyy was, at the time, substantial and valuable.

Now memory and storage costs are non issues, but old programs still maintain the 2 digit year format. Many of these programs will not work correctly when the calendar switches over to 2000.

There are so many old programs that no one is really sure what needs to be fixed. In fact, many of the mission critical systems in the IRS and other government offices are not ready for the new year! What will happen is anybody's guess. Some see a doomsday scenario while others see minor glitches being fixed on a rolling basis as they are uncovered.

For HandyWorks Windows users, it is really a non issue because we are using full dates for internal storage.

DOS users still are on a 2 digit year format, but because the program does not calculate anything using those dates, it is not really a problem. When a 4 digit year needs to be printed, we look at the year date. If it is less than 5, we assume its 2000. If more than 5, its 1900. Hopefully, over the next 5 years, we will get all of our remaining DOS users onto the Windows system.

Link to DC-PowerNotes Complete!

The hard working programmers at DC-PowerNotes have completed the links into HandyWorks. While still undergoing testing, the completed link will allows PowerNotes users to have visit data entered into HandyWorks through entries in the PowerNotes system. No more double entry. HandyWorks users may want to check out PowerNotes, which is a powerful SOAP and Narrative system.

Yearly Maintenance bill enclosed

Yes, it's that time of year when Handyworks sends out the yearly maintenance bill to all current users. In fact, it may even be enclosed with this newsletter! The yearly maintenance fee serves two purposes. First, it keeps us in business, and secondly lets us provide you with the best technical support, upgrades and advice for a whole year. For less than 75 cents a day, you can be sure we will be here to serve you whenever you have a problem, question or suggestion.

Please note that you may deduct $25 from your maintenance fee if you have an email address that we

can use to send you updates. (Sorry, Juno and Hotmail addresses don't count, because they cannot receive attached file transfers.) There is a line on the maintenance bill where you can enter your email address if it is not already there.

Should I Upgrade?

Yes! Computers get faster, cheaper and more reliable each year. Throw out or donate your old 486, 386, AT, XT or PC. We just got several 300 MHz machines (each with 4G disk space and 64M memory) from Tiger for under $700 each. We simply kept our old monitors and printers, copied our backup data sets, and off we went, happier than ever!

Backup Horror!

We have only one minor backup horror story this half year, which is very relieving.

In this case, the users simply were only backing up once a week. They also do a monthly backup. Well, their weekly backup had a fault in it and they had to go back to the month end backup. Only a couple of weeks worth of data was lost, which was easily reentered. The lesson is: **do a write verify!**

Lastly, back up at least 3 times a week, each time on a different disk. We label ours Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

HandyWorks
140 East 28th Street (1F)
New York, NY 10016
(800) 255-0668
(212) 889-8878
Fax (212) 889-8830
EMail: Support@HandyWorks.com