



Have questions about what you read this month in our newsletter?

Want more information about our products or services?

Visit our website:

www.cogitateinc.com

Contact Us:

Phone: 1-866-634-9991

Fax: 1-989-649-5900

Email:

President@CogitateInc.com

Important Article on the back page of the newsletter. Thank you.

New Reports

A new version of the Cut-Off Notice report is available for UtilAbility; and new Inventory, Import Fuel, and corrected reports for HMS and MMS are now available.

9G Backup Update

Thanks for all your input. We will be adding a new 9G Backup server next month. We are working on the billing side for 9G Backup. We'll let you know when the billing is in place.

New Positive Pay Format Available

A new format for Positive Pay is now available. It's the standard MI cash format. It was developed for Newaygo County; however, it's a standard format that may work with certain other banks. Brett checked with Newaygo to see what bank they're using. They said they are using Independent Bank and this bank contacted them to let them know the Positive Pay format they're using works just fine. We're not sure for which other banks this format might be okay, but you could try it with your bank to see if it works. If it does, please let Brett know (866-634-9991, ext. 5) and he'll add your bank's name to our list.

HMS and MMS Tip of the Month

When you run a Trial Balance be sure to check all your funds. Not only should your Grand Total be zero, but each fund should be zero. Sometimes a debit or credit will be posted to one fund, and the offsetting debit or credit will be posted to a different fund. In total you will be in balance, but the two funds will not. If you run into this situation, and can't find what caused it, give us a call and we can give you hints on how to fix it.

UtilAbility Tip of the Month

When you calculate meter based services within UtilAbility, the program will determine the

usage for the period you specify by subtracting any previous readings from their subsequent readings and then adding all the calculated usages found within the specified period for each account together. The result is then multiplied by the Factor for the type of meter being calculated, which is found within the Meter Types Maintenance form, before applying the rates from the related Meter Rate Type Tables for the metered service. This process is performed for all meters found for all accounts. There are other factors taken into consideration such as the Maximum Digits for each meter type, which is found within the Meter Types

Maintenance Form, to determine when a meter has rolled over. You can also have different rate formulas based on the amount used for any meter and you can even apply surcharges and discounts to the calculated amounts. This may sound a bit confusing at first, but it becomes quite easy to setup and follow as you begin using the program and is very flexible to accommodate a wide variety of rate structures.

Did you know you can modify this behavior for certain situations in which this may be necessary?

UtilAbility Tip of the Month
(continued)

If you have a situation where you have changed a meter at some point within the billing period and you do not know the ending reading for the old meter and/or the beginning reading for the new meter or if you have a situation where you need to adjust the usage for an account for any reason, you may want to calculate the amount to bill for the service based on a usage other than what usage could be determined from the actual readings.

UtilAbility allows you to ignore the actual readings and calculate the services based on any usage amounts you wish. To do this, you can still post the ending Readings as you normally would, but then you would modify the Meter Readings Maintenance records of any meter readings you wish, changing their Calculated Usage value to the Usage you wish to calculate. You will also need to check their ABS Calculated Usage check box before saving your changes. This check box tells UtilAbility to use the Usage value that you have set for calculation rather than determining the Usage from the actual meter readings and since you are not changing the

readings, your next periods usages will be determined from the meter readings again as usual.

Please Note: While the factors related to the readings, such as the Maximum Digits found in Meter Types Maintenance, will have no affect on the Usage to calculate when using this method, other factors such as the Factor found in Meter Types Maintenance and the surcharges and discounts you may have setup still remain in effect and will still affect the amount to bill as intended.

Time for Thought

An Editorial by Jim Harlan

I know it's strange but I think a lot about Time. Not the everyday flow of time that we all experience but the physics of time. Thoughts like Einstein would think but much dimmer and without anything useful coming from my efforts. But I enjoy the challenge.

The problem with Time is that no one understands it. Here's something that's so big and envelopes us and the universe and we, as a species, don't have a handle on it. Yes we can measure it. We even know that the rate of Time changes depending on the curvature of space and acceleration.



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Time for Thought

An Editorial by Jim Harlan
(continued)



But how can there even be a rate of time since rate uses time as one of its variables? For things like photons that travel at the speed of light there is no Time since the rate of Time decreases as speed approaches light speed. Photons are everywhere at once! And how can you talk about the speed of light if Time has stopped?

This is so confusing!

It shows that our understanding of the universe is very, very limited. This is also confirmed by the fact that the math of physics

from large scale to quantum scale just doesn't work out. Our math is correct but the things we assume and that we measure must really have nothing to do with the real structure of the universe. In an effort to make the math work, physicists are forced to construct 11 dimensional models of the universe and go through other contortions to make the formulas 'sorta' work. That suggests that our approach, our vision of what the universe is, is completely wrong.

So, I think about Time. We know Time slows down as the curvature of space increases. So if I'm falling into a black hole will I be destroyed before Time

stops? Indeed, is it even possible to fall into a black hole since Time will be slowing down (whatever that means) as I get closer to the black hole? Also, since Time is relative, even though Time is slowing down, for me it seems like it is passing normally. Might I, then, live forever?

And so I think. And since I'm not Einstein, I'm not getting very far. But the mystery of what the universe really is, is out there, and I enjoy the challenge. This is a great universe!

My big problem is that I am always running out of time for thinking about Time! Perhaps I should stick to what I know and just get back to work!



**Important
Information
on the last
page.**

Version check time!

Just the other day I helped a customer get to the latest version of our products after they swore they checked for updates every Friday. So I want to be really clear that there is a new check for update program and the latest version of our Highway Management and Mainstreet Management software is 6.0.0.6060.



The version for UtilAbility is 4.0.0.4000.



And finally the check for updates screen should look something like this:



If your system is not up to date, please contact Cogitate ASAP.

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