

News from N TIME SUPPORT®

As we start the new year, we would like to thank everyone for their support. 2009 was definitely a challenging year. The economic challenges will probably continue through 2010, but there are signs of economic improvement. 2009 was the “crisis” year. The bank crisis with new regulations, healthcare debate, economic debate, climate change debate, and yet, we are all still here working and assisting our customers. In the last newsletter, I stated that the word “crisis” was over used. Now we are hearing the word “debate”. No matter where you stand regarding these political issues, we need to strike a reasonable balance.

Our business definitely witnessed the economic impact on our customers. We spent quite a lot of time working on site to migrate and combine databases because of company consolidations. Early retirements of experienced personnel required training for the new personnel. We have seen quite a turnover in the metrology industry during 2009 and many experienced people have moved on. Companies are still demanding products that increase productivity. We have been working on some new products for 2010 that will take On Time Support in some new directions, and our customers will be pleased with the results.

Our Fast/Track support plan has become popular and we will be adding new features to Fast/Track allowing for more support options, both on site and remotely. Keep an eye on the On Time Support web site for details. We will also update the METLIST as we add these options. Not a METLIST member? Its easy to join and its free. METLIST is a safe and spam free way to communicate with the metrology industry regarding issues such as calibration procedures and methods used for calculating measurement uncertainty



Steve Consterdine has joined OTS in Europe

We are pleased to announce that Steve Consterdine has joined the On Time Support team and is based in the United Kingdom. Steve formerly worked at Fluke in the UK and he will be providing training and sales support for our customers in Europe. Steve is very knowledgeable in the use of MET/CAL, MET/TRACK, and OTS products. He is a valuable resource that can help your organization solve metrology problems. You can contact Steve at sconsterdine@ontimesupport.com for information on training, on-site work, and OTS products.



Barcode Magician Turns a “Lucky” 13 Years Old

During 1997, we introduced a program called Barcode Magician®. It was very simple and worked with MET/TRACK version 4.x (So, how many of you remember version 4?). The program would prompt for a user ID, select an Action Code, enter one instrument, and process the instrument. It would only process one instrument at a time. Customers purchased the product and immediately asked for a version that could process several instruments at one time. This was called the multiple entry version. Customers had a choice of which version to purchase, the single entry or the multiple entry version. Well, the single entry version was replaced very quickly by the multiple entry version. It was not long before we had a release that would print two reports after processing the instruments. Subsequent versions have added new capabilities and features like running SQL scripts. Barcode Magician 1.7 (BCM17) is released and this newsletter will focus on the new enhancements. There is also an update on the Metrology Xplorer web products.

New Release - Barcode Magician 1.7

Barcode Magician 1.7 has many new features. This version supports MET/TRACK 7.1 and 7.2x utilizing Crystal Reports version 10. We have streamlined the installation procedure which has been tested on Windows 2000, XP, Vista 32 bit, and Windows 7 32 bit. Customers that currently have Version 1.6 and earlier can upgrade their systems to the Plus and/or Basic Version. Below is a list of some of the new features.

NEW or CHANGED FEATURES	1.6.1	1.6.1	1.7.0	1.7.0
	Basic	Plus	Basic	Plus
BCM License Manager in BCM System Configuration	No	No	No	Yes
User ID Entry Timeout in Minutes – Set in BCM Users Editor per User	No	No	No	Yes
Display Instrument Images Per Workstation	No	No	No	Yes
Number of Crystal Reports per Action Code	0	0	4	7
Number of Critical Expressions Per Action Code	4	4	4	25
Number of Warning Expressions Per Action Code	2	2	2	10
Number of Dialog Boxes Per Action Code	5	15	5	25
Dialog Box Validation Required Per Dialog Box	No	No	Yes	Yes
Dialog Box Entry per Asset Per Dialog Box	No	No	Yes	Yes
Dialog Box Local Validation Per Dialog Box	No	No	Yes	Yes
Select Desktop per Workstation	No	No	No	Yes
Lower Level BCM System Password for BCM Users Editor	No	No	No	Yes
AbeYance Cal Due Date Calculation when entering a cal record	No	No	No	Yes
Number of User Fields / Selective User Field Suppression in BCM	6/ No	6/ No	12/ Yes	12/ Yes
SQL Command Text Editor Form in BCM Action Code Editor	No	No	Yes	Yes
Alternate Field for Asset Selection besides I4201	No	No	No	Yes
Group Field for Asset Selection like I4217 to populate asset list	No	No	No	Yes
Populate Asset list from a CSV file – Set with a Parameter in BCM Runtime	No	No	No	Yes
Add New Asset with Last+ or Max+ Increments Per Action Code	No	No	No	Yes
System Variable \$INSERTRECORD\$ in Custom Mods	No	No	No	Yes
System Variable \$CALDUELASTDAYOFMONTH\$ in Custom Mods	No	No	No	Yes
Moved settings from the PC Registry to the OTS_BCM_Workstation table	No	No	Yes	Yes
System Variables for Temporary Storage (TVAR1...TVAR5) in Custom Mods	No	No	No	Yes

BCM17 has been field tested since May 2009 in some very complex systems and now has several customer installations. This is the most powerful BCM to date. Some of the most used features with our customers have been the pictures function, alternate look up field function, and the dialog box entry per asset function with validation. Because there are so many new features, only a few are highlighted in this newsletter.

Alternative Look-up



The picture at left shows the new Alternative Look-up function in BCM17 Plus. In this example, the CHECKOUT Action Code is configured to include an Alternative Look-up per instrument model. For example, someone wants to check out a Fluke 87 but does not have the Instrument number. When the Run Time Program prompts for the Instrument Number, type in “87” and a list is populated with Fluke 87’s. The Alternative Look-up function is configurable per Action Code to select an alternative field number; eg., Serial Number or Status. In the example at left, the CTRL key and mouse is used to highlight the instruments that we want selected. When the “Green Check-Mark” is selected, this list will populate in the asset list. This is only one of the new features in BCM17.

Using the Per Asset Post Function and Validation

When processing instruments in the BCM Runtime Program, the operator is asked for their User ID, the Action Code to process, prompts for all the instruments to be processed, and finally all the instruments are processed and the database is updated. There have been many requests to prompt for information "Per Asset" as the instruments are processed after selecting the Process List button..

In the example at right, the Per Asset function is configured in the Dialog Box section of the Action Code Editor. There is also a custom validation for our Action Code. Previous versions of Barcode Magician would recognize that a validation was configured in the database and this configuration would automatically create a drop down list to select from. However, it did not enforce or require that the validations were used. The new BCM17 allows the configuration of a required, customized validation. You can even configure a validation for a field that is not validated in the database. The example will prompt for a validated value "Per Asset" after selecting the Process List button.



Displaying Pictures in BCM Runtime



BCM17 allows the display of an instrument as they are being scanned in. Pictures can be stored in JPG or BMP format. The Workstation Configuration program must be configured to tell the BCM17 Workstation where the pictures are stored. The real issue is how to associate the pictures with an instrument. The preferred method is to configure a merge table on the model field in the database. Instead of having to configure a field for each asset, the merge table would configure a picture for each model. This method makes adding pictures really easy. The BCM17 manual lists an example on configuring the pictures. When a picture is displayed in the Runtime program, the operator can click on the picture and rotate or zoom in on the picture. You can click on an instrument in the list to be processed and the picture will be displayed.

BCM17 has many new features and a lot of power to automate your MET/TRACK database. If you would like to try BCM17, we would suggest configuring a test computer with a copy of your database. This will allow you to test the software and try the new features with your existing Action Codes. BCM17 licenses are not compatible with BCM16 licenses. All of the BCM16 licenses will have to be upgraded. Demos are available.

Part Numbers: New License: **5037** Upgrade from Ver 1.6: **5037-UPG**

Metrology Xplorer Series Update

Metrology Xplorer 2 is coming soon with Crystal Reports and several new features. If you want to try a demo of Metrology Xplorer 2, please contact On Time Support.

On Time Support, Inc.®
 25132 Oakhurst Drive, Ste. 185
 Spring, TX 77386
 281.296.6066
 Fax: 281.465.9478
inquiries@ontimesupport.com
www.ontimesupport.com

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Take a look at what's new from On Time Support!

In this issue, we discuss the **NEW Barcode Magician** and what is coming next!

Scan the instrument and the picture is displayed in Barcode Magician!



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**ON TIME SUPPORT, INC.
25132 OAKHURST DRIVE
SUITE 185
SPRING, TEXAS 77386**

Join the metlist at www.ontimesupport.com.

