



Innovation in Bankruptcy Software

Client Service Newsletter

Summer 2008

Your Best Reporting Tool is One You Already Own

With the availability of many reporting tools on the software market, the one that is perhaps the most user friendly and one you already own is right under your nose; it is Excel. Excel has been the data analyst's best friend for many years but did you know about some of its hidden potential?

the second sheet can be set up as an analysis tool. This data is refreshable with the click of a button.

As with all good things, there are a couple of "watch outs" when setting up this type of model. When you connect to your data source, it should be one used exclusively for reporting. It is never recommended to allow an ad-hoc tool to run against a production environment. And when you do set-up this reporting data source, you should always spend time to structure the called for data, considering the security limitations to insure that sensitive information cannot be read by unauthorized users. However, write security is not a concern in this recommended approach because we are querying against a copy of the data and not the actual system. With these design constructs in mind, happy reporting!

Analysis. The second sheet of the Excel workbook in our scenario is for analysis. This sheet can be setup as a pivot table with default formulas for referencing the disbursement data. This analysis sheet shows your daily report, indicating monthly disbursement statistics to date. The analysis can be done easily while working in Excel.

Cost Saving. Most financial savvy users out there already know the tools offered by Excel quite well. Therefore, your learning curve is already minimal.

Connectivity. Excel has native functionality to connect to RAMAPO's TAS/13 database as well as other data sources of your choice. It can not only connect to but also setup your Excel workbook so that it can refresh the data daily. Imagine setting up an Excel workbook with two sheets. One sheet contains the raw data disbursements for this month to date, and

In This Edition

Your Best Reporting Tool

What's New in TAS/13

EOUST Final Report

What's New in TAS/13

TAS/13 continues to be improved based on new responsibilities placed on the Trustee's and from users' experience and requests. Space in this publication does not permit the detailing of every new feature or improvement, but here are a few major ones:

the court creditor information as filed by the debtor's attorney in the matrix. This benefit has been substantially improved by the downloading of claims as they are file and as they are amended by creditors. Separate tables exist in the data base for the different types of data. The procedures are designed around the requirement of each office to meet their administrative and security needs.

This service is dependent on the cooperation of the Court and it requires the court to send data filed the previous day to the Trustee's site. The data is reformatted, tested and then loaded into the Trustee's system. Each of the claims records created or modified are marked NOT to disburse until the changes are reviewed and approved by the staff person responsible. Reports are generated and emailed by

Download Claims From the Court

For several years RAMAPO has been downloading from

RAMAPO INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC.

510 Hamburg Turnpike
Suite 104
Wayne, NJ 07470
Phone: 973-389-1904
www.ramapo.com

(Continued on page 2)

What's New in TAS/13

(Continued from page 1)

the Trustee's system to their office administrator detailing the import activity and exceptions.

The benefits of this service:

- Greater accuracy in data entry
- Data agreement with Court records
- Agreement of local claim number with Court's claim number.
- Significant data entry cost savings
- Timely data entry of claims (entered each day)

Remote Viewing of Real Time Caseload Data

One of the newer features of TAS/13 is being updated. It allows the Trustee and staff to view real time data from remote locations such as the Court and hearing rooms. Data is viewed through a secure web browser connected to the data in the Trustee's Office. This system was de-

signed for the purpose of accessing office data while in a hearing, a meeting or preparing cases for either of these. The data fields are presented in a very easy to read format and can be configured to be display only the data elements the user needs to review. Cases can be sorted and displayed in the calendar order.

Access is protected by secure passwords. Sensitive fields such as SSN are redacted or not displayed. All data is displayed as Read-Only except the Case Notes which can be used to document the meeting or hearing. The data passing through the internet is protected using VPN technology; it is not public.

The user's PC requires only a web browser such as Internet Explorer and VPN software, as well as a connection to the internet through a standard broadband connection. This connection could be wireless such as the ones offered by Cingular or Verizon or could even be a dialup.

Data Base Integrity

There are two major risks to the data-

base's integrity. The first is that a transaction may be partially posted when a transaction is incomplete due to hardware, electrical or user error. When processing disbursements to creditors, for example, a power failure may result in only the debtor record being posted without the proper entries in the claim record. TAS/13 protects the data by saving an image of the records prior to the start of the transaction. If a failure occurs, when the database is restarted, this "before" image is restored.

A second threat is corruption of the data on the disk. In high volume offices where a once-a-day backup is not sufficient, TAS/13 provides the ability to concurrently write data to the database and to a second file on another disk surface that contains records of every change to the database. This "after image" file provides the ability to restore data right up to the point where there was a failure on the primary database device. This is accomplished by restoring the last complete backup followed by automatically updating all the changes made after the backup.

EOUST New Final Report

As the EOUST completes its process of developing the TRUSTEE FINAL REPORT AND ACCOUNT, RAMAPO is completing the programs that will produce them as data enabled pdf files as well as modifications of the database and the procedures necessary to accommodate the new data requirements. The development has been a long process with the U.S Trustee's program actively seeking input and participation from members of the Bankruptcy Community, including the software vendors. It is likely that this report will be required early next fiscal year.

This report will become the standard nationwide as the case closing account of the Trustee's administration of the case. The purpose of the report has been

expanded beyond the accounting of the funds in the cases to include measures of how expeditiously the case was managed and the amount of debt discharged. These changes require new data elements that includes date of last receipt, order date, amounts exempted and abandoned and the listing of all scheduled creditors.

The Standing Trustee will be required to submit these reports as a pdf image files both to the Court and the U.S. Trustee's Office with the data embedded in the file in a machine readable form. This will allow the data to be automatically compiled into reports. This feature will aid the EOUST in meeting its reporting and policy making responsibilities.

As a software provider to Chapter 13

Trustees, RAMAPO has participated in this planning since the spring of 2005. We continue to receive input from Washington about changes and we work with our clients to design our software to meet the needs created by these modifications. Important considerations in making the changes are not only the nature and volume of the data requirements, but also designing the software to facilitate the offices' changes in work flow. With input from our users, data maintenance programs have been developed to make the compliance with the new reporting responsibility as efficient as possible. The new report format has been prepared and will be completed when the final form is promulgated by the EOUST.