

May 2006

News from Take Two



www.taketwoinc.com

Feature Article: CIMS Conference 2006 - 14th Annual

It is a little early for the June Newsletter - but there is so much to say from Conference that we felt a Newsletter was the best way to handle communicating!

Thank You to everyone for another tremendous 3 Days of sharing and learning. There is no better way to work at product growth than to have brilliant minds from all districts working out problems and finding resolution. Take Two is in the midst of compiling over 200 new ideas and Kim has already begun turning those ideas into reality. The next release(s) of all products will contain all enhancement suggestions discussed at conference.

CIMS REPORT CARDS: Deb developed a Payroll Report Card per site last year and continues to use this a basis of where CIMS Payroll needs to go as well as how each district could improve. We have adopted the same Report Card for H/R and really look forward to similar success for direction & goal setting.

It is only fair then that Take Two have a report card as well. New at Conference 2006, districts marked Take Two. This is a valuable tool to know how our programming and support services are working and we will use it to measure what we can improve on.

Vendor Sessions were strong this year!

Karen did an amazing job to show how powerful Sequel can assist at data gathering and pretty presentation. We feel that Sequel would be a strategic move for all districts to enhance internal reporting and data gathering needs. Customers have been telling us that reporting and moreso presentation is an issue. Sequel is a solution.

Michael Goulet was very successful at demonstrating strengths of the Synvoice product line in schools for communicating with parents and the community.

Ross Brain is always great to keep in the CIMS loop. His information regarding TRAX is always helpful and it is good to keep up the relationship with the Ministry as being able to contact him personally can be crucial in times of TRAX stress.

Anisoft is a premier partner in our CIMS solution offering. It is important to continue to work with Anisoft in understanding the IBM iSeries world and be able to maintain, enhance, and continue to trust 100% in your iSeries hardware.

On a final note, Thanks again to all customers for your loyalty to the CIMS solution. Across our 20 years we have created over 2 million new lines of RPG code and brand new Web and Windows Product lines. Is it time to re-brand?

News and Views:

- ❑ An Employee release is scheduled for distribution in June. Look to the website in early June for release highlights
- ❑ A Parent Connect Update will be available in late May. If you are venturing into this product and need some help getting started, please contact Take Two.
- ❑ The first 'test' version of Teacher Connect is being released to River East Transcona mid-May. Expecting success with this initial venture, Teacher Connect will be available to everyone September 2006.
- ❑ Need Conference documentation? A CD has been sent to all district contacts. Contact your CIMS support line.

- ❑ Take Two will be visiting the following districts in May and June - Mystery Lake, Louis Riel, River East-Transcona, Brandon, Seven Oaks, and The Winnipeg School Division.
- ❑ It is time to think about annual visit plan and goalset for 2006-2007. Factor visit(s) into your budget!
- ❑ Many districts have had Take Two onsite to do Scheduling training for High Schools. This is an excellent idea. Scheduling is an annual event and deserves refreshing every year to ensure we are building the best timetable possible for students and schools.

Customer Section:

- ❑ From Finance at Conference, many customers were interested in seeing what the Quarterly reporting requirements look like from BC. Nicola from Delta School District provided me with those spreadsheets PLUS she included her VERY cool Account translator Excel utility that delimits, un-delimits and formats your account in a variety of ways. I have included all this Excel work in a sub-folder called 'deltafmsitem'. Make sure to contact your IT or CIMS Support Person for a copy of the CD (we sent Conference CDs out May 10th).
- ❑ Special Thank-You to all School Districts who sent shirts and Logo items for us to include as prizes at the Thursday Banquet. Thank-you River East Transcona, Louis Riel, and Seven Oaks! If other customers want to participate - please consider bringing some of your district logo'ed items to Conference 2007.

The Customer section will be empty without your input - get involved!

Top Tips for the Month:

- Want to forum with colleagues all year long? Consider joining into our CIMS Canadian Forum hosted by Pearson. From www.taketwoinc.com look to the 'other links' tab and then Customer Link. If it is your first time - you will need to sign up (no cost). This is also an excellent place to check for standard CIMS documentation.
- It is scheduling time at the High Schools. Remember that the scheduling worksheet is your best friend at this time of year. Make sure to use it! Look to the website for the latest copy.
- Timetable building? Consider our new Excel Tool. Look to our website for details.
- GST change! Be prepared for the reduction in GST%. In the new financial year in all modules (Accounts Receivable, Warehouse, Fixed Asset, Purchasing) make sure that the GST percentage has been changed to 6% and get that done BEFORE any requisition, purchasing activity gets entered into the new year.
- In the 'Student Support' tab under www.taketwoinc.com there is LOADS of support documents for CIMS Student. Please make sure you and all your friends know about this resource.

And the last word goes to? Donna

Yearend is approaching and to me this means opportunity to change certain things that are timing sensitive. Are you happy with the user menus? Are you happy with the way assignments are showing up for users? Do you need to make element changes in the G/L? Should you be reviewing reporting options and improvements? Take some time in May/June to assess your operations and write up that 'summer list of things to do'. Take Two is available 12 months of the year to work with you on implementing change!