

September 2006

## News from Take Two



www.taketwoinc.com

### Feature Article: Loads to Talk About

**W**elcome back to another School Year - this will be Take Two's 20<sup>th</sup> Season. How many of you were with us on our first? Oh my, how the technology and software has changed since then!

Customers have been busy since our last newsletter. Other than the usual CIMS day-to-day and ever changing business needs, customers are branching out to our web applications and to Sequel for reporting and data needs. This is exciting! Adding CIMS to end-users on the Web (Parents and Teachers) is key to future growth. Presenting CIMS information better with Sequel is key to finally taking advantage of the wealth of information we have in CIMS.

Take Two has also been busy. Our in-lists are back to manageable as we have applied most of the conference and post-conference ideas into the code. We have also been able to invest heavily into Web. Teacher Connect will be carrying 90% of Teacher GUI function before the end of

September and we will be releasing an EMS Job Posting app and Maintenance Work Order app before the end of December. Deb and Kim are planning to go to San Antonio for advanced web training in early 2007 to sharpen our Take Two development skills.

**T**here is one outstanding item from Conference. Take Two was to survey customers on their development goals, compile thoughts, and then publish a plan. A survey was handed out in April to key district contacts and to date we have received response from only 2 districts. Customers were very vocal at conference wrap up and expressed a need to have input. If this is still true, we need to hear from you.

**T**ake Two wishes the best of luck to you all for a satisfying and successful 2006/2007 School Year. Let's make it a great one!

### News and Views:

- ❑ A Payroll and H/R release was implemented in July. New to Take Two, we offered release highlight webinars for H/R and Payroll. Customer feedback was very positive. We will make it a habit to offer webinars with new releases so customers get exposure to how/what new features they can take advantage of. For those Payroll or H/R departments that did not participate - don't miss the next one!
- ❑ A Student release was implemented in August. Due to school startup timing, we did not have a webinar to show-off highlights. We will offer a webinar for IT and Master Schedule schools sometimes later October.
- ❑ Both Parent Connect and Teacher Connect Web underwent significant enhancement/rewrite. The latest release is September 10<sup>th</sup> with a follow-up to Teacher Connect for early October. We are getting VERY excited about our future in the Web! To date North Okanagan-Shuswap, Delta, Seven Oaks, and River East Transcona have web servers up and running hosting Teacher Connect and Parent Connect.
- ❑ A Finance release will be released in October. There are significant enhancements to warehouse components - bid management, permits, and catalogue loading.
- ❑ The Financial Year rollovers even with new 6% Federal GST reduction seemed to go totally smooth. We noted less calls balancing and carrying forward financial records. If your district had any issues, let us know!

- ❑ What a brutal summer of changes for BC Districts - student and employee related. Bill 33 legislation for class size/Special Ed consult, new September 30/1701 web transmission processes, teacher bonus incentive, new government initiated allowances and a Retro all at the same time along with a new theory about providing advances for TOC/Subs. As a consolation to you all .... BcEsis districts in addition to the above are also facing student software and access issues that are so significant - they have been allowed additional time to submit 1701.
- ❑ Sequel is progressing nicely. Delta, Louis Riel, Comox Valley, and Central Okanagan are all onboard and have received training. Take Two has some pre-developed reports that have already been shared with all districts. Louis Riel schools depend on Sequel reports already for many student and financial reporting. The potential for this product is HUGE.
- ❑ Take Two will be visiting the following districts in August-October - Fort McMurray, Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Mystery Lake, Louis Riel, River East Transcona, Brandon, Seven Oaks, and The Winnipeg School Division.
- ❑ It is time to confirm annual visit plan and goalset for 2006-2007. Factor visit(s) into your budget! Plan training and consulting. Time is money, and CIMS can save lots of it for you.

### Customer Section:

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



### Top Tips for the Month:

- Endusers can turn any CIMS report to .pdf so that they can email it as an attachment or share it with others over the web (eg: Job Postings, financial reports ...). There is a 'How to pdf a CIMS report' document on our website [www.taketwoinc.com](http://www.taketwoinc.com) under the student support tab.
- Never use 'Index and <F4> together. If you are on a course request or employee screen, either choose to 'C' and then <F4> to get the list of names to select ... OR .... Choose to 'Index and Enter to get that same list. If you do both I and <F4> you get the list twice!
- Use CIMS to print employee envelopes. In EIS.380 notice the 'P'. Select the appropriate employee then 'P' and #4 to print their name/address info directly to an envelope.
- Need to send a quick email to all those employees who have CSB deduction to remind them renewal paperwork is due? Wouldn't it be nice to email all OFFICE related vendors to remind them of annual tender? How about emailing all parents of the school to remind them of appreciation day next week? All this is possible through CIMS. Learn how to use PAY.525 (employee), STU.525 (stu/parent), PUR.525 (Vendor) to mass email including attachments.

### And the last word goes to? Pearson School Systems

**Published from a Pearson Newsletter:** With the recent purchase of PowerSchool and Chancery Software, Pearson School Systems offers the widest solution base to districts including web-based Powerschool and Centerpoint, windows based SASI and AS/400 based CIMS. These 3 product suites give us the opportunity to provide services to school districts of all sizes and to leverage the largest development, service and support infrastructure in the student information services market."

**Take Two comment:** Pearson is ensuring that they are the leading student S/W solutions provider. Those aligned with them will have a selection of solutions to choose from.