

Newsletter

Tabs *FM*

March/April 2008

Welcome to our March/April Newsletter. As usual, the first quarter of the year flies past and we have been exceptionally busy in the Tabs Offices. This edition covers new clients, new development, new staff and new opportunities. That's a lot of NEWS and reflects our approach to a fast evolving market place. Enjoy your read and keep in touch!

Tabs Forum Day...

On March 12th, we held our first Tabs Forum, here at our Woolwich Arsenal offices. The day was extremely well supported and early feedback suggests very well received as well.

"The venue was spacious and the atmosphere relaxed...promoting an environment where people felt comfortable to talk".
Debbie Pickering, Senior Facilities Officer, Hertfordshire County Council.

"I got so much from the day which went past in a flash".
Kathy Mason, Senior Administrator, Flagship Training.

The client interaction and comments to us were of great value. We have picked up some good ideas which we are already acting on and we feel that those present have a greater understanding of Tabs and the collaborative way forwards.

Thanks once again for your efforts. We look forward to the next event.



News Clients...

Tabs would like to welcome The Facilities Management Group International (TFMG) as a new client to Tabs FM. TFMG is an international firm with a call centre based in Australia using the Tabs software. TFMG offer facility solutions and support, from cleaning to building services, from waste management to washroom management.

tfgm:international
united kingdom

We already have an exciting few months planned ahead of us, as new clients come on board.

Tabs Training...

It is probably true that we all have more potential than we appreciate. We need motivation, inspiration and learning experiences to help us tap into our unused well of resource. The same can be said of a software system such as Tabs. It is important to fully understand the potential and depth of our modules to maximise the benefit to your department and business. Please let us know if you can identify any areas where a training session will lead to greater value from your Tabs System. We can arrange sessions for individuals or groups either onsite or at Tabs Training facility here in London.

Services...

Have you ever wondered what the effect would be if you lost all of your Data!!! For the safety of your data it is important to ensure that your Tabs data is backed up and kept in a secure location. As part of our service we can provide advice on the secure backup of your system, so in the event of an accident your system will be fully operational with the minimum amount of down-time. Our consultants will investigate any disaster recovery procedures in place and also provide you with a guidance document to avoid the loss of data. For more information on this service please contact us.

"I've got to admit it's getting better. It's a little better all the time". Sir Paul McCartney

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New Developments...

Invoicing

The process of invoicing jobs has previously involved unnecessary steps. Our development team has streamlined the process so that invoices can be raised direct from the job. For this feature, an additional button has been added on the job review screen which creates an invoice for each job response. This button then by-passes the usual steps of creating an invoice and takes users direct to the invoice to preview. Once the invoice has been issued, the job is updated with responses accordingly. This does not replace the original method, it's purely an enhancement to the system.

Area Field

An additional field has been added to the Reactive Maintenance module called 'Location Area'. This provides a further layer to aid finer definition, particularly to more complex sites/estates.

Reports

Our reports expert has recently been enhancing the current reports within Tabs, as well as adding some additional ones. There are three new reports which are of particular interest, 'Planned Maintenance Weekly Report', 'List of Responses Not Invoiced' and 'Total Hours, Labour, Mileage and Materials against jobs'.

These have both been incorporated into the main Tabs system and are available as part of an upgrade. We have also continued to develop custom purchase order and invoice reports for our existing clients. Please contact us if there are any additional reports you require.

Staff...

We would like to welcome the following three employees to the Tabs team.

Stephen O'Neil has been brought onboard as a support consultant. Steve will primarily be working in the field, installing/upgrading Tabs systems at various sites around the UK, training and dealing with any support issues. Steve possesses a variety of IT skills across multiple platforms including Citrix and is already proving to be a valuable member of the team.

The second member we would like to welcome to the fold is Nick Elson. Nick has already demonstrated great enthusiasm for the Tabs system and is keen to get involved. Nick will be providing internal support focusing mainly on the management of helpdesk queries and internal software testing.

Andrew Parker has now joined the Tabs team as a PAT tester. Focusing initially in the London area, Andy will be testing portable appliances to ensure that they are safe for operation.

Moving forward with Access 2003...

On the 1st of September Tabs FM will cease development in Microsoft Access 97. From this date our base format for development will be Access 2003. There are two primary reasons for this migration:

- 1) Microsoft no longer supports Access 97
- 2) Tabs for Access 2007 is soon to be released.

Please contact us for more information regarding this upgrade. We recommend any clients using Access 97 should upgrade to Access 2003. If an upgrade is not possible, Microsoft offers an alternative 'Run Time' version of 2003. Please be aware that the Run Time version does have limitations.

"You can't just ask customers what they want and then try to give that to them. By the time you get it built, they'll want something new". Steve Jobs