Frequently asked questions about CSS Windows by CSS DOS users.

Changing the way business operations are conducted is always a serious matter. Here are the most asked and for many users the most significant questions. Please call Bob, 661-547-8726, with any other concerns or information you may need to make a decision or plan your upgrade.

What CSS program modules are available?
CSS Windows is limited to the Dailybook and the Inventory Management and Interface for the Wayne Nucleus/NAMOS, Gilbarco Passport, Retalix, Radiant and Verifone Ruby/Sapphire/Topaz/Commander. In addition, there is an interface for popular accounting programs.

How do I do the general accounting?
CSS Windows has three different options for general accounting interfaces – Peachtree, QuickBooks and Sage 200. The Sage 200 interface is an export function and thus can be used with many other accounting programs that can import the data.

How does the QuickBooks Interface work?
Some of our competitors make you do a two-step export import process. CSS has a true interface that reads and writes directly to the QuickBooks data file.

QuickBooks may reside on the same PC or local area network (LAN) as CSS. The CSS QuickBooks interface also has a built in capability to use an ordinary Internet connection when QuickBooks is located remotely at a central office or another store.

How does the Peachtree Interface work?
Some of our competitors make you do a two-step export import process. CSS has a true interface that reads and writes directly to the Peachtree data files.

Peachtree may reside on the same PC or local area network (LAN) as CSS. The CSS Peachtree interface also can be used across a Wide Area Network (WAN) when Peachtree is located remotely at a central office or another store.

How does the Sage 200 Interface work?
The Sage 200 interface exports the CSS data to a set of data files. The import function of the accounting program will then read the data from these files. Sage 200 can reside on the same PC or local area network (LAN) as CSS. The exported files may also be transferred on some removable media, typically a USB flash drive, or the files may be sent across a wide area network (WAN) or transferred with a remote communications programs such as LogMeIn or GoToMyPC.

My accounting program can import data. Can the Sage 200 interface be modified?
Yes, but like most things it does have limitations. Usually the import function of the accounting program can also be modified. So there is some flexibility but the detailed specifics should first be determined before a decision is made. Cherry Systems will be happy to work directly with whoever is supporting your accounting programs.

What data is sent from the Dailybook to the accounting programs?
Dailybook fuel invoices and any data that affects cash over/short will be sent on a day by day basis.

EFT's are not sent from the Dailybook because they are more easily handled directly in the accounting program. This allows: 1) the person doing the Dailybook to be less accounting knowledgeable and to timely do the Dailybook, 2) the EFT's can be entered at any time by management or accounting personnel, 3) the exact matching and reconciliation of actual transactions especially in the case where credit cards are applied to fuel invoices.

For multiple store operators, the accounting program can separate the data by store (Class in QuickBooks terminology). This provides a P & L with side by side comparisons of each store as well as a grand total.

What data is sent from the CSS Inventory to the accounting programs?
All invoices and credit memos entered as type accounts payable will be sent to the accounting program. There are two ways the accounting can be done. Invoices can be distributed directly to the income statement cost of goods sold accounts or distributed to one or more balance sheet inventory accounts. If the later method is used, then for each days sales CSS will send the cost of goods sold amount to be credited from the inventory balance sheet accounts and debited to the income statement cost of goods sold accounts.

If I use the latter method how do costs for such things as fountain and prepared food get deducted from the inventory?
There are two ways. Each food and drink item has a PLU number and the cost can be determined and entered manually into the PLU data record. Or in the Dailybook a profit percentage can be assigned on a department by department basis. So for example the Dispensed Beverage department could be assigned a profit of 40%. Then for each dollar of Dispensed Beverage sales, 60 cents would be credited inventory and debited to cost of goods sold.

Will CSS offer a general accounting program?
Cherry Systems cannot speak directly for CSS and their future plans. It is our opinion that for many valid reasons a CSS payroll program will never exist. Perhaps in the future an accounts payable and accounts receivable program will be offered followed by a general ledger program. However, with well supported, low cost, and outside accountant

familiar programs like QuickBooks readily available the CSS development will be prioritized to support the continuing changes in the POS systems.

Will the CSS DOS Repair Orders interface with the new CSS Daily Book?
Yes, but not to the extent of the CSS DOS daily sheet. The functions of menu item G., Salesman Menu, do not exist in the Windows Daily Book and this data is not integrated from the RO system. There is no longer a separate RO section in the Dailybook so the RO category sales will be part of the POS department sales. All twenty four RO categories can be integrated as separate discreet amounts and can easily be subtotaled by the use of Groups.

My accountant does the financials but I still need an Accounts Receivable program. What are my options?
The Windows Dailybook can send customer charges and payments to the DOS AR program. So it still can be used. However with a modern program like QuickBooks, the formatting of invoices with custom logos, the ease of viewing, correcting and resending statements makes it a worthwhile investment. Also with the QuickBooks interface if the gallons sold are manually entered as part of the Dailybook AR charges, the gallons can be printed on the customer statement.

My accountant does the financials but I still need an Accounts Payable program. What are my options?
There is no interface between the Windows Inventory and Accounts Payable. You may switch to an accounting interface like QuickBooks. You may continue to use the DOS accounts payable program but all invoices will need to be entered manually.

My accountant does the financials but I still need a Payroll program. What are my options?
You may continue to use the DOS payroll program, switch to an outside third party service or use a general accounting program like QuickBooks. With the continual changing of payroll withholding and reporting requirements it is recommended to stop using the CSS payroll (unless perhaps you have a very simple payroll with under ten employees) whenever convenient. At the end of a calendar quarter or year is the best time for an easy transition.

Will my CSS DOS data be destroyed?
No. After the conversion all DOS data will still be accessible if needed.

What data will be converted?
All UPC/PLU data from the POS inventory will be converted – vendor, vendor item number, balance on hand, retail price, cost, sales linkages, carton linkages, etc. Invoices are not stored by CSS DOS and thus cannot be converted.

Except for some RO related items, all Daily Sheet data will be converted into the Windows Daily Book. This includes fuel history from as far back as it exists. Fuel invoices for the current month will be converted and if any days have been completed in the Daily Sheet of the current month they will be converted.

What data will not be converted?
The most significant data not converted is any general accounting program data – accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, checkbook and general ledger.

For those using the CSS RO system, the Daily Sheet RO Salesman Menu data will not be converted. This function does not exist in the Windows Daily Book. Depending on how car wash sales are being entered this may not be a complete conversion. The same is true for any Daily Sheet miscellaneous inventory, miscellaneous meters and oil items.

If general accounting data is not being converted, how will this get done?
This needs to be setup manually. You can do it. Your accountant can do it. Cherry Systems can do it.   This is an excellent opportunity to change your chart of accounts.

Will my PC need to be updated?
CSS Windows requires at a minimum Windows 7 with service pack 1. If purchasing a new PC, Windows 10 is OK. Windows 8 and Vista are not recommended. CSS Windows can use a 32-bit or a 64-bit operating system. CSS DOS requires 32-bit.

Will my portable scanners work with CSS Windows?
Yes, both the M3000 and M5000 will work. The newer portable scanners have the ability to do price checks/price changes on the sales floor. And the newer scanners can use a USB port instead a RS-232C serial port.

Will I need to buy new checks?
Yes, new checks are necessary for QuickBooks, Peachtree or Sage 200. Cherry Systems can order these for you and will provide a 20% discount on the first order.

Will my DOS Repair Orders run on Vista and Windows 7?
CSS DOS programs will run on any 32-bit Windows operating system from Win 98 to Win 7.   The CSS DOS programs will not run on a 64-bit operating system.

What will this cost?
CSS will exchange the DOS version for the Windows version if the annual maintenance contract is paid up to date. If not current, it will have to be paid in arrears or a new CSS license will need to be purchased. If the CSS license includes at least two of these

general accounting programs – accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, general ledger – then CSS will also include at no charge one of the accounting interface programs – QuickBooks, Peachtree or Sage 200.

There will be charges from Cherry Systems to install the new programs, do the conversion and provide training. This will greatly vary between customers. After discussing your needs, abilities and resources a detailed proposal will be created for your specific situation. For some customers, this will be less than a day's work. For others several days' work may be necessary for each store.

I am being forced to upgrade my POS system. What will CSS do for me?
The CSS policy could not be better. If the annual maintenance contract is paid up to date CSS will allow the exchange of one POS inventory program license for another at no charge.

When an inventory license is exchanged it must be exchanged for all stores included in that license. So for example if a Ruby Inventory license is being used at two stores both stores must surrender the Ruby Inventory license for a different inventory license.

There will be charges from Cherry Systems to install the new programs, do the conversion and provide training. This will greatly vary between customers. After discussing your needs, abilities and resources a detailed proposal will be created for your specific situation. For most customers, this requires less than a day's work if this is all that is being done.

Will my annual maintenance fees change?
Yes. The annual CSS maintenance fee of $400 has not been changed in over 10 years. As stores are converted to the Windows version the fees will increase. The $400 is primarily used for development and industry required changes and as back up support to Cherry Systems.

From this $400 Cherry Systems receives $100 to do the primary support. This is not adequate to recompense Cherry Systems for its time and costs. So an additional annual fee will be charged by Cherry Systems. For the first store this is $240. For each additional store this is an additional $340. Some customers with central office operations will qualify for a lesser fee. Some customers with an accounting interface may be higher.

For the ease and convenience of both Cherry Systems and the CSS user, CSS will do one annual consolidated billing.

What is included in the annual support fee?
The combined fees make available all of the program updates for your licensed CSS software. Cherry Systems will install the updates at no charge. An update history is provided at www.cherrycstore.com for viewing/printing so that you are aware of changes and enhancements that may affect your business.

This fee includes telephone support of CSS software about its use and reporting, for setup changes to accommodate changes in your operation, recovery of data from backups, transfer to a new PC, the portable data terminals if purchased from Cherry Systems, interfaces to your accounting program, questions from your accountant and IT people.

This fee also includes support for the interface to your POS system and necessary changes to CSS when a POS update occurs. The support fee may or may not include changing to a different POS system. POS interface support does not include reprogramming network routers used for the POS interface. Because of restrictions and limitations on back office vendors some interface problems must be resolved by the oil company or POS support organization.

The fees do not include on-site support; training of new personnel; recovery of data due to faulty or no backups or the inability to restore your data from external media; removal of viruses, worms, spyware, adware or other surreptitious programs; operating system or network problems; other software programs and processes such as word processing; problems for customer supplied hardware and software; Internet problems; and other non CSS related problems. If needed, Cherry Systems will be happy to provide these services whenever possible at our then current billing rates.
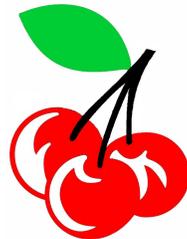
CHERRY SYSTEMS
3041 Glad Way
Lancaster CA 93536

661-948-2291 Sales
661-370-2311 Fax

www.cherrycstore.com

bob@cherrycstore.com