



Changes made in FSC's Computer System...In late November, FSC installed V4R0 of the CONTROL Systems software. This version had numerous changes implemented in the area of grain accounting and tracking. CONTROL Systems Software asked if FSC would be willing to serve as a "beta" site for the release of V4R1. After debating the pros and cons, Bryan Blum, and Suzy Wear agreed for FSC to be the "beta" site after discussing with other accounting personnel. V4R1 was installed in late November, and despite a few minor glitches, has performed well for FSC. We have identified these glitches for CONTROL and some fixes and further enhancements will be made and then installed at FSC. One example would be when you go into sales ticket inquiry, the default is "open". This has been changed so it defaults to "all" since open tickets will be included in "all" as well.



V4R1 of CONTROL will also provide us with some enhancements that we hope to be able to implement in the near future. For instance, we are planning on eliminating the Oki-data printers for sales tickets with laser-printed tickets for work orders, sales tickets, transfer tickets, or other similarly printed items. An "overlay" has been created which prints our branch office information on it, which will print on the sales tickets. We will be able to set by branch printer the number of copies to print (i.e. two or three copies) of each type of ticket. By printing on laser printers, we hope that the tickets are more legible for **SALES** customers and for you.




Also, you probably didn't even notice, but on Wednesday, December 5th, we actually migrated to a new AS/400. Suzy performed a full system backup on Tuesday night after day end, and then Wednesday, Bryan, Suzy, Linda and George Applegate performed various tasks to prepare the system for migration. We replaced our 4-year old AS/400 810 with a brand new AS/400 i515.

Wednesday after completion of Day end, the migration commenced. We ran into a few snags along the way, but the entire process was completed by 1:30 a.m. Our goal was to cut-over to the new system with minimal impact on branch operations, and we are confident that was the case. In fact, as mentioned, you might not have even realized that this migration to a new AS/400 has been completed!!!

The new system has a significantly faster processor and additional memory and disk storage capacity. Our nightly backup of the system went from 3 hours to 2 hours and CONTROL month end went from 30 minutes to about 15. While you might not notice the faster response times because you work over communication lines, the AS/400 is definitely processing your data faster.



 FSC shares our AS/400 with Jacobs Manufacturing, another company located in Harlan. The benefit of this sharing arrangement has enabled FSC to have twice as much box for about half the cost. This sharing arrangement was first initiated in 1999 and has been a very successful joint-venture. We are now 8 years into the agreement and it has been a positive experience for both companies. It has probably saved FSC close to \$100,000 during the first eight years and we know those savings will continue well into the future.

CONTROL continues to create new releases. We usually have one to two new releases each year. The same is true for IBM. Right now we are at V5R4 on the base AS/400 operating system, but we look for a new version, V6R0 to be available before spring season arrives. It is our goal to stay current on IBM hardware and software offerings and the same is true for CONTROL system software offerings.



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FSC Teamwork in Action

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■ We are also investigating software that will take a number of our reports, such as all those that print during day end, and creating "pdf's" from those software and eliminate the use of a significant amount of paper. This is another enhancement that will benefit a lot of you who have to fax copies of sales tickets or other information. You will now be able to create a PDF file automatically from the AS/400 and then attach that file to any email you send. More legible than a fax, and much faster!!

As we proceed with implementing some of the enhancements that are now available because of both the upgrade to a new AS/400 i515, and also the installation of CONTROL V4R1, there will be some training sessions required, such as when we implement the printing of sales and transfer tickets, and work orders utilizing laser printers, and also enable you to use the PDF software. Training is very important for all members of the FSC TEAM. The more you know how to use computers, and our accounting software, the higher the level of customer service you can provide our customers! We thank you in advance for your cooperation in attending and participating in these training sessions.



Lastly, THANKS to Bryan, Suzy, Linda and the rest of the staff for their hard work in making the installation of V4R0 and V4R1 of CONTROL, and the migration of the AS/400 to the new AS/400 i515 a HUGE success, and without even interrupting normal operations in order to implement all these changes!

Excellence!



Linda Hansen, Bryan Blum and Suzy Wear, our FSC TEAM who orchestrated installation of CONTROL V4R0 and V4R1, and the installation of the new IBM 515 AS/400!!



Grrrrreat Job!!

Mary R. Zahn