
Mun-Ease News

Prescient Software jr, Inc.

www.mun-ease.com

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Mun-Ease 2003 - Release 11.90

11.90 Version Overview

We are shipping 11.90 CD ROM to our current customers with this newsletter. The 11.90 release contains 5 new reports, major enhancements for variable rate bonds and loan pools, and a new version of our Internet Add-On Module. We'll describe these enhancements later in our newsletter. The 11.90 CD ROM is sent to all of our 11.0 customers free of charge.

New Features for Very Large Databases

A few Mun-Ease customers have created very large databases. These users include some of the larger state and county agencies in the U. S. as well as third-party professionals who keep bond data for their clients.

The 11.90 release contains new features that will be extremely useful to users who have created large databases. First, we've added a "search" feature to our Bond Directory window. The user inputs selection criteria which Mun-Ease collects and parses into SQL statements. When the SQL statements are executed, only those bonds that meet the user's selection criteria are displayed. This feature eliminates the need to scroll sequentially through the Directory window to find a particular bond issue.

In addition to the search features, we've added new

fields to the Bond Master file to track changes to the their databases. We now maintain a record of the person who created a bond issue and the person who last modified the bond issue. We also record the time and date that the bond issue was created and the time and date that it was last modified. These fields are displayed in the Bond Directory window.

Reporting Enhancements

A few months ago, a user called asking for help sizing a bond issue with a face value over \$10 billion dollars. While Mun-Ease has always had the ability to create combined debt service and combined indebtedness reports with amount fields of this size, it was the first time (to our knowledge) that a user has tried to size an individual bond issue over \$10 billion dollars. Based on that incident, we've modified our input screens and reports to correctly display amounts in excess of \$10 billion dollars.

We recently had a request to enhance the print quality of the 8038 tax forms. Previously the tax forms were scanned at a 300x300 DPI resolution. Our new 8038 forms contain bitmaps that are scanned at a 1200x600 DPI resolution which greatly improves their readability. There is a small downside to enhancing the resolution of the tax forms. The report specifications that contain our 8038 tax forms have increased in size from one megabyte to about 4 megabytes.

We've also added a new title line to many of the reports in our Stand-Alone Reporting module. This title line will contain a description of the user's choice.

This release includes five new reports. They are:

- o The issuance costs amortization report (#92) (Stand-Alone Reporting module),
- o The Single Year Indebtedness and Summary Report (#36e) (Allocations module),
- o The Available To Loan Report (#93) (Allocations module),

In this issue...

Mun-Ease Release 11.90, class schedule for the second half of 2004, new Internet Add-On module, new reporting enhancements, and other miscellaneous features.

- o Interest Rate Calculation From Weekly Resets (#94) (Base module),
- o Allowable Debt Service Reserve (#91) (Arbitrage module).

Finally, we took this opportunity to make several cosmetic changes to many reports within Mun-Ease. During this process, we reviewed all of our reports to find situations when information could potentially be truncated. We were able to change most of our reports without reducing the font size. In a few instances though, we had to reduce the font size.

New Version of Our Internet Add-On Module

Our Internet Add-On module allows you to place your Mun-Ease database on a web server. We include web application files that allow individuals from outside your immediate organization to retrieve information from your database and to generate reports. Among the reports that users can generate are (a) debt service schedules, (b) bond production reports, (c) combined debt service and indebtedness schedules, and (d) allocated debt service reports. Note that users accessing the Mun-Ease database never have write-access to your debt information.

Our new version of our Add-On module includes new selection criteria (loan pool codes, three separate rating agency codes, and the dated year and suffix of the bond issues). We also allow you to keep multiple databases on your web server. Users can then select the database from which they want to view information.

You can view an example of the Internet Add-On module by going to the City of Wichita's web site. That address is:

<http://services.wichita.gov/wmuni/>

Seats Still Available for 2004 Mun-Ease Classes

There are still openings for our classes in the second half of 2004. However, we anticipate that our Orlando class will be full by early September. Thus,

you should book your reservation early if you are planning on attending that class.

As of this writing, there are several openings for our August class in California. With respect to this class, we received a few phone calls asking us for the names of alternative hotels that are nearer to the beach. Our current hotel is about 7-8 miles from the ocean. If you are interested in alternative hotel arrangements that are near (or on) the beach, call us and we can give you some recommendations.

Class Locations & Dates

Mission Viejo, (Orange County) CA August 16-August 18, 2004. (Mission Viejo CompUSA located at 25262 El Paseo, Mission Viejo, CA. Hotel Accommodation - Holiday Inn, 25202 E. La Paz Rd, Laguna Hills, \$99.00 plus 10% tax).

Orlando, FL October 11-October 13, 2004. (Orlando CompUSA located at 7802 South Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL - Hotel Accommodation - Adams Mark Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Rd, Orlando, FL \$90.00 plus 11.5% tax).

Mun-Ease classes are comprehensive in nature; covering all aspects of debt management in the public sector. The classes are conducted by having the student solve real-life problems using Mun-Ease on a computer provided by CompUSA. Our classes are 2^{1/2} days in length and cost \$995. We limit each class to 12 students to ensure a productive learning experience.

The Classes page of the Mun-Ease site contains additional information including: (a) class syllabus, (b) directions to the class locations and hotels, (c) a downloadable class registration form in Word and PDF format, and (d) additional hotel information. You can register for a class by faxing or mailing the attached registration form to Prescient Software at 949-248-5789. You can e-mail us at classes@mun-ease.com. The registration form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.mun-ease.com/class.html>

Tips: Using the Report Package Feature

The 11.0 release has a report package feature. This feature allows you to combine all of the selected reports into a single report package and to print the report package along with a table of contents. This feature is

available in the *Sizing*, *Refunding* and *Arbitrage* modules. Many third party professionals find this feature useful when they are preparing reports for their clients.

You may wonder how we are able to combine completely separate reports into a single report package. Basically, the report package feature works because we convert our report headers and footers into page headers and footers for each section (subreport) in the package.

The report package works well when the individual reports are one or less pages in length. However, if the individual report is greater than one page, then the page header only displays on the first page of each section in the report.

What should you do if you have sections in the report package that exceed one page? You can overcome this limitation by clicking on the *Crystal* speed button below the main menu. Select the report that exceeds one page in length and Mun-Ease will allow you to input the starting page number. Because the report is printed individually, the page headers and footers are displayed on all pages of the report. You can then insert this report into your report package.

Tips: Using Crystal Reports to Customize Mun-Ease Reports

Mun-Ease reports were written using the 9.0 version of Crystal Reports. Our report specifications reside in the Wmuni\Crystal folder on your local drive. You can customize our reports if you own the Developer version of Crystal Reports. When installing Crystal Reports, be sure to choose options so that the data interfaces for the Borland Database Engine (IDAPI DLLs and native Paradox drivers) are also installed. The Developer version of Crystal Reports costs \$595 and can be ordered from Business Objects at the following web address:

www.crystaldecisions.com

12.0 Version to be Shipped in Early 2005

Our current plans are to ship our 12.0 version in early 2005. We'll also mail new manuals with the CD. The 12.0 release will have new sizing and refunding features and new features for adding housing bonds to your database. All of our manuals will be improved and the Tutorials guide will contain important new sections that will help in learning Mun-Ease. Our plans are to also ship a version of Mun-Ease that uses the SQL Server database sometime in the first half of 2005. The 12.0 version and manuals will be shipped free-of-charge to all of our current customers.

New Features in the 11.90 release

Base Module

New Audit Features - We've added new fields to the Bond Master file to keep track of the person who created a bond issue and the person who last modified a bond issue. We also record the date and time that the bond issue was created and modified. These fields are displayed when the user views a directory of bond issues.

New Search Features - Our new search features allow a user to find a bond issue without scrolling sequentially through a directory of bond issues. The user inputs selection criteria which Mun-Ease collects and parses into SQL statements. When the SQL statements are executed, Mun-Ease displays a range of bond issues that meet the user's selection criteria.

Web Update Reminder - Mun-Ease will check every 30 days to determine if updates need to be downloaded from the Mun-Ease web site. A dialog box is displayed to the user asking if he would like to see the latest changes on the web. If the user agrees, the Mun-Ease Downloads page is displayed to the user.

Reporting Features

New Issuance Costs Amortization Report (#92) - This new report amortizes the issuance costs for a bond issue by fiscal year.

New Feature for Packaged Reports - We've added a new input parameter to several of the reports. The input parameter allows the user to specify the starting page number of the report (*See Tips Section of Newsletter for more details*).

Additional Title Lines - We added a second title line to the combined debt service and combined indebtedness reports.

The second line contains a user-input description for the report.

Revamped Reports - We revamped all reports within Mun-Ease to ensure that amount fields are not truncated when the individual or combined amounts are large value (e. g., amounts over \$10 billion). We also inspected the reports to ensure that date and description fields are not truncated.

Variable Rate Bonds

We've added new columns to the Weekly Reset Grid. In addition to the effective interest rate, we now record the base rate and the spread (*settings / variable rate scales*).

We now allow you change the principal payment frequency on a note that you previously created. This feature allows you to resize a note so that principal payments occur either on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis (*file / variable rate bonds / change principal pmt frequency*).

We've added a new feature when you are editing a variable rate bond. Mun-Ease notifies you if the total of the principal payments is not equal to the original face value of the bond issue. Depending on the option that you choose, Mun-Ease can either change the original face value for the difference or can adjust the final payments in the payment schedule so that the difference is eliminated. This feature is useful when a borrower prepays or skips principal payments (*file / variable rate bonds / create/edit/delete*).

We've added a new report to verify the calculation of the effective interest rates from the periodic resets (#94).

Loan Pools

New Interest Calculation Feature for Variable Rate Loan Pools - After you calculate the effective interest rate from the weekly resets, Mun-Ease can update the interest rate and interest payments for all variable rate loans in the loan pool (*loan pools / update interest pmts in VR loan pools*).

We've added new features to the *bond pool statistics summary* window. The *update* button reads all loans in the loan pool and updates summary statistics for the current month. These statistics include outstanding indebtedness, receipts and payments of monthly fees, and receipts and payments of interest and principal. The *delete* button allows the user to delete a full month of data (*loan pools / bond pool statistics summary*).

New Available-To-Loan Report (#93) – This report displays the amount of bond proceeds that are available to be loaned to participants in the loan pool (*loan pools / available to loan report*).

Arbitrage Module

New Arbitrage 8038 Tax Forms – We've included enhanced bitmap images to our 8038 tax forms. The new bitmaps have been scanned at a 1200x600 DPI resolution.

The *Fund ID* field is now visible in all views of the rebate transaction grid.

Mun-Ease now displays more descriptive error messages when problems are encountered during rebate calculations.

Users can now generate a hard copy report (#91) when they request the menu option to calculate the allowable debt service reserve fund (*arbitrage / utilities / Allowable Debt Service Reserve*).

Sizing Calculations

We have modified all of the Sizing input screens so that the user can create bond issues over \$10 billion dollars. The reports have been modified to display bond issues of this size.

Allocations Module

We've added a new summary report that displays beginning and ending indebtedness and principal and interest payments for a fiscal year (#36e). The report is for the highest level in the allocation coding block hierarchy (*Allocate / by individual maturities / reports / 1 year indebtedness report*) or (*Allocate / by gross debt service / 1 year indebtedness report*).

Internet Add-On Module

We've added new selection criteria for the combined debt service and combined indebtedness reports. Users can select bonds by loan pool code, any of the three rating agency codes, dated year, or bond suffix. Users can now place multiple databases on their web server.