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Check 21 Creates New Opportunities for CheckCache™ Users



Generating a lot of interest at the MCTA's 57th annual conference on local taxation and finance was the presentation on remote deposit capture. This class featured a panel of banking experts who discussed solutions and methods available for taking advantage of the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, more commonly known as Check 21. Check 21 went into effect as a law on October 28, 2004 and now the rules of banking have been extended to fully support the

exchange of "substitute checks" between remittance processors and banks.

This is exciting news for Point Software's CheckCache™ technology that we developed over three years ago, as it now provides an avenue to blend back office check processing with the banking industry. While the financial institutions also promote these concepts, they have yet to solve the back office needs to post these items. The banks' positioning for this technology is similar to the early stages of lockbox wherein the deposits ultimately need to be posted to the receivable through some form of data bridge. CheckCache eliminates this duplication of efforts.

CheckCache also yields another key advantage in that it is a "bank neutral" solution. This lets municipal governments retain the bargaining power typically associated with se-

lecting bank services. Point will work with any financial institution to produce and transmit Check 21-compliant check images. We invite you to contact us to ensure both the banking requirements and posting requirements are satisfied so that we may frame your office with a complete solution.

While electronic check handling is nothing new, Check 21 enables it to enter into the mainstream. This is because Check 21 does not have the shortcomings of other methods:

- MICR capture and ARC require the consent of the check writer (payee).
- MICR codes are subject to a variable form factor.
- Not all check types qualify for conversion under ARC, which handles transactions through the ACH network.

Check 21 support is just one of the features offered by CheckCache. Implementing CheckCache enables municipal tax collectors to process incoming checks, store and update payment information electronically, and capture check images as graphic files to permit permanent recall of checks from an in-house digital archive. Equally important, CheckCache is tightly integrated with TaxValues™ RevenueNET™ to generate an internal lockbox file for automated updating of the receivables system; however, we have designed CheckCache so that it can be bridged to any collection product.

If you are interested in learning more about CheckCache, we invite you to contact one of our business developers. Either [Scott Choiniere](#) (ext. 120) or [Brian O'Donnell](#) (ext. 118) would be happy to arrange a web demo.

Point Launches Online Forum to Foster an Open Exchange of Ideas

At the recent Point Users Group conference, we introduced a new concept in user learning: the open forum. Gathering in the informal setting of the Sea Crest Resort lobby, Point's staff and users discussed a number of topics and shared their knowledge, thoughts and concerns. Participants discovered they could act as a resource to each other in exploring different approaches

to solving common problems.

All who attended were very pleased with the open dialogue. In fact, several customers expressed their desire to continue their exchange of ideas on a regular basis. Point offered to put the open forum online, a suggestion met with such enthusiasm that we began work on it the next day.

The online forum, now live on

our website, serves as a collaborative space on a website to which visitors can post questions, comments, news and information on a particular subject. To participate in the forum, Point users simply need to register themselves at the logon screen. The registration information is then validated and a user ID and password sent to the e-mail address provided.



We strongly encourage all Point users to check out this free communication tool. You can find it at:

<http://forums.pointsw.com>



Calendar of Events

Date(s)	Event	Location
Aug. 6-11	MAAO 51 st Annual School	University of Massachusetts Campus Center Amherst, MA
Aug. 15-18	MCTA 36 th Annual School	University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
Sept. 27	MCTA Fall Meeting	The Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Road Holyoke, MA

Security Session Highlight of the 2006 PUG Conference

Following on the heels of the MCTA conference, the 2006 Point Users Group Conference proved to be a success in meeting the educational needs of our customers. Attendees of the PUG conference expressed overwhelming satisfaction with all presentations, with 29% giving an overall approval rating of “excellent” and 69% giving an overall approval rating of “good.”

One of the most popular sessions was “Security in the Point System,” kicking off the conference on June 14. This class provided an in-depth look at Point’s security model and how using roles and permissions helps restrict access and protect the integrity of your data.

Other high-rated presentations included “How to Get the Most from Customer Support” and “Tax Billing Conversion Review.” One customer remarked the conversion session provided good information, especially for those new to Point Software.

General comments on the conference were positive as well. Various users said that it was a good format and that



they “learned a lot as to where Point is going.”

Point would like to thank everyone who took the time give their feedback either by completing our survey or by speaking to us. We value your opinion as it helps us to continually improve our users conferences and in turn make them more beneficial to you.

If you did not have the opportunity to attend this year’s conference, we still wish to include you in the planning process. Let us know what topics you would like to see addressed at future meetings by sending your ideas to ThePoint@pointsw.com.



Q: How do I enter a real estate abatement?

A: Once a real estate abatement has been reviewed, you can enter it into the system as either approved or denied. Use the following procedure to enter a real estate abatement:

1. Go to the BOA database if you are not already there.
2. Select ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION from the main menu.
3. Select COMMITMENT REGISTER.
4. Enter the levy tax year.
5. Enter the bill number.
6. Press **Enter** to get into the abatement entry screen.
7. Enter the application date or press **Enter** to use today’s date.
8. Enter the application reason code. (TIP: Enter ?? to view the list of available codes.)
9. Press **Enter** to take the default of “granted” or enter **D** for “denied.”
10. Enter the date of the vote or press **Enter** to use today’s date.
11. Determine to adjust by value or to adjust manually.
 - To adjust by value, enter **Y** then enter the percentage adjustment for each class.
 - To adjust manually, press **Enter** to take the default (No) then change the values for each payment period in the selected fiscal year.
12. Enter the code and amounts for any betterment and lien abatements. Press **Enter** at the code prompt to leave it blank.
13. Enter **Y** to save.

From the Help Desk to Your Desk