



Unleashing the Power of Information

How Technology can Transform the Way Municipal Government Shares Data



As we look ahead to the coming year, Point is predicting that 2007 will be a year of transformation for government. This belief is based on our perception that municipal government has changed significantly, realizing it can no longer continue to operate the way it has in the past. New ideas must be brought forward, discussed and, most importantly, applied quickly to match the pace of the rest of the world.

Communication, in a word, has gone “digital” and the public expects on-demand access to every aspect of the world that interests or affects them. Blame the Internet or the wireless industry, but like it or not government must adapt to be responsive to this new consumerism. Municipal informa-

tion is content and content is the fabric of the Internet and taxpayers want access to it.

Those that supply content provide the fuel that now drives our world and municipal government can no longer be a spectator in this enterprise. Municipal government needs to get into the game as it plays a pivotal role in society by maintaining records and information that touch the various aspects of our lives. Providing department contact information and hours of operation on the town’s website is a step in the right direction, but municipal government needs to go much further.

Point is ready to take that next step together with you. We are ready because we have been preparing for this by building technology to meet this need.

In the last six years, Point has been building toward Municipal Electronic Government Administration by engineering Internet-based applications, public access websites, electronic reporting, and payment portals that all promote the open exchange of information. Through engineering these solutions, we also recognized that most municipal departments lacked the tools to communicate with each other effectively.

This led to the development of DocumentLink™, our solution for centralizing department data maintained by disconnected systems. DocumentLink™ brings the power of flexibility, enabling the jurisdiction to access and present documents regardless of the database, file type or department of origin. We also adopted the unique position of offering vendor neutrality, making it possible for DocumentLink™ to blend with your existing solutions rather than requiring their replacement. What this means for you is that you can achieve total document management rapidly and with no disruption to your operations.

With these products, we now offer technology that allows any municipality or jurisdic-

tion to share the most critical aspect of municipal operations: information. Whether the information is shared between departments, extended for field use or exposed for public access, our applications create the framework for information exchange.

Government is recognizing technology matters not so much in its availability or promotion, but in how it is applied. Yet change doesn’t just happen. It requires knowledge of available options followed by analysis of needs and execution of a plan with definitive goals.

We at Point Software want the New Year to be a year of transformation for your jurisdiction. The time has come to fully embrace the use of Internet-based technology for the enhancement and extension of municipal operations. Make it your resolution to extend your information through technology.

If you are interested in learning how to increase the accessibility of your municipal information, we invite you to contact one of our business developers. [Scott Choiniere](#) (ext. 120) and [Brian O'Donnell](#) (ext. 118) would be happy to discuss the available options with you.



Calendar of Events

Date(s)	Event	Location
Jan. 5, 2007	Conn. IAAO Holiday Meeting	Hawthorne Restaurant/Inn Routes 5 & 15 2387-2421 Berlin Turnpike Berlin, CT
Jan. 18, 2007	MAAO Winter Meeting	Lombardo's 6 Billings Street Randolph, MA



In this *FAQ*, we review some timely tips regarding the placement of motor vehicle data as we prepare for the first excise commitment of the year.

Receiving Your Motor Vehicle Data

For the first excise commitment of the year, you have two options for receiving your data: *remote connectivity* or *mail*. You should contact Point's Deputy Manager Gina Nascembeni (GinaN@pointsw.com) the *first week of January* to let us know which method you prefer. If we do not hear from you, we will mail the data.

Remote Connectivity

Remote connectivity is the easiest, fastest way to receive your data. We will simply connect to your database and place the data; you just run the totals. We require remote connectivity to your office to use this delivery method.

Mail

If the data for the first excise commitment of the year is mailed, you will receive both a floppy and a CD. The *CD* contains the motor vehicle data file from the RMV because it is too large to fit on a floppy. The *floppy* contains the "label file" that tells the system where to find the data. The instruction sheet we provide will explain how to use the floppy and the CD to place the data.

Making Room for Your Data

It is VERY important that you check your disk free space prior to placement of the data. Otherwise, you run the risk of getting a <DKFUL> (disk full) error and only partially updating the database. (IMPORTANT: *Never* proceed with a partial update.)

The instruction sheet we provide will explain how to check your disk free space. Contact Customer Service to let us know how much space you have free. You may need to have your database expanded to make room for the data.

From the Help Desk to Your Desk

<p>MAAO COURSE 1 Comparable Sales Approach</p> <p>Location Town of Tewksbury Police Station 918 Main Street Tewksbury, MA 01876</p> <p>Class Dates February 9, 10, 16, 17, 23</p> <p>Recertification Credits 34 Hours</p>	<p>MAAO COURSE 2 Cost Approach to Value</p> <p>Location Town of Tewksbury Police Station 918 Main Street Tewksbury, MA 01876</p> <p>Class Dates March 9, 10, 16, 17, 23</p> <p>Recertification Credits 34 Hours</p>
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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Massachusetts assessors can register online at www.maa.org.
- The registration fee for each course is \$225.00 for MAAO members and \$275.00 for non-members.
- The registration deadline for Course 1 is **January 26, 2007**.
- The registration deadline for Course 2 is **February 23, 2007**.

2007 Point Holiday Schedule

Point's offices will be closed on the following dates in 2007. Please be aware of these dates so that you may update your office calendars accordingly.

Monday, January 1, 2007	New Year's Day
Monday, February 19, 2007	President's Day
Monday, May 28, 2007	Memorial Day
Wednesday, July 4, 2007	Independence Day
Monday, September 3, 2007	Labor Day
Monday, October 8, 2007	Columbus Day
Monday, November 12, 2007	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 22, 2007	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 23, 2007	Day after Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 25, 2007	Christmas Day