



Grow Your Office with Extensible Applications

Technology is an investment, and like all investments you want to see it grow so that you can prepare for the future. The prudent way to pursue that goal is by employing extensible applications in your office.

An *extensible application* is one that can be readily extended in functionality through the addition of other software components. Its architecture is such that it allows for natural integration, an attribute that has long been the aim of Point Software in building our suite of municipal solutions.

In order for an application to be extensible, it requires a means of connecting to other, sometimes foreign software programs. It needs a bridge to be able to share data and therefore use that data in new ways for new purposes. This is accomplished through a data key, a common piece of information that ties two or more disparate systems together. The world of municipal government offers many data keys from taxpayer names to parcel IDs, opening up almost endless possibilities for growing your knowledgebase into an array of applications.

The concept of the extensible application is nothing new for Point Software. In fact, we needed to build a framework that allowed our applications to both receive and send data, operating as a conduit to con-

nect many different kinds of applications.

Some would consider that sufficient. In 2001, however, we took a hard look at the future of municipal government and charted a course toward realizing a goal of combining our technology with others, meshed onto an Internet backbone.

The good news is that our hard work and the course we took were spot on for what municipalities need today. Instead of a replacement strategy, we extended our own applications to incorporate a more high-performance database engine, added advanced reporting capability, and paired this with public access portals and a browser-based CAMA solution. We then took this information and bridged it into a centralized document management solution, complete with on-line forms submission and mapping capabilities, proving that government works best when systems are extended.

Our latest enhancement to DocumentLink™ will further the interoperability of diverse programs. Using an innovative switchboard design, municipal applications can be bound to and accessed through a single access point, placing all of your information resources at your fingertips.



While creating this technology wasn't easy, acquiring it is, as our integration framework has very little impact to implement and usually can be managed within existing budgets.

Think about what you could achieve if you could extend and integrate all your applications under a unified platform, then talk to Point. We have that technology today.

To see a live demonstration of extensible applications, be sure to stop by our booth at the MCTA Conference or the MAAO Summer Conference. If you are unable to attend, we encourage you to contact Scott Choiniere at 1.800.368.9538 or on his cell at 413.478.5285. He will be happy to arrange for a web demo.



Calendar of Events

Date(s)	Event	Location
Jun. 2-6	IAAO Course 112: Income Approach to Valuation II <i>Sponsored by the Massachusetts Chapter of IAAO</i>	Burlington Town Hall Annex Public Meeting Room 29 Center Street Burlington, MA
Jun. 2-6	CAAO 65 th Annual School	University of Connecticut Center for Cont. Studies One Bishop Circle, Unit 4056 Storrs, CT
Jun. 8-11	MCTA Conference <i>Come see us at Booth 4!</i>	Sea Crest Resort Old Silver Beach 350 Quaker Road North Falmouth, MA
Jun. 22-25	GMIS 2008 Conference <i>Come see us at Booth 15!</i>	Tropicana Hotel Boardwalk at Brighton Ave. Atlantic City, NJ
Jun. 24-27	MAAO Summer Conference <i>Come see us at our booth!</i>	Red Jacket Beach Resort 1 South Shore Drive South Yarmouth, MA

Stay on Track with Tax Billing Data Conversion Tips

June is here, which means tax billing season has arrived for our quarterly towns. While this is always a busy time, some careful planning can keep it from becoming a hectic one. Stay on track with your tax billing tasks by keeping in mind the following tips and reminders:

- Both the MCTA Conference and the MAAO Summer Conference take place in June. Those educational events are well-attended by key players in the tax billing process, including assessors, collectors and Point personnel. It is important to coordinate tax billing tasks in a manner that reflects the impact those conferences have on availability.
- Standard turnaround time for a tax billing data conversion ranges from 1-5 days. Several factors affect processing time, including the quality of the data provided, completeness of information from the questionnaires and reports, and the num-

ber of customers already in the work queue.

- Errors discovered during processing will delay completion of the conversion. To prevent such issues, assessors should double-check their totals prior to submission of documentation.
- Customers should make Point aware of any special handling needs by noting them in the data conversion paperwork.
- Towns that do not have any form of remote connectivity service (e.g. pcAnywhere, GoToMyPC) need to build in extra time for processing when developing their tax billing schedules.

We encourage all customers to get their information to us by **Thursday, June 12th**. In general, the earlier you can submit your *complete* tax billing data conversion package, the easier it will be to ensure the timeliness of its processing.

Tech Tips

Summer is right around the corner and many of you will be taking vacation time to visit some exciting places. How did you go about choosing your destination? In many cases, you were told about the location and what it has to offer by a friend, neighbor or coworker. They really liked it there and will be going there again. And they want you to enjoy that experience, too.

Point would also like to give you some friendly advice on interesting sites to see. These locations, however, do not have a geographic address but rather a web address. They are handy Internet tools that can help you find the answer to just about anything and are replacing traditional print references for speed, compactness and affordability (free). Just click the links in blue below to go:

- Need directions? You can choose from [MapQuest](#) which will also give you gas prices and traffic conditions, [Expedia](#) which provides an assortment of trip planning tools or [Google Maps](#) which allows you to share a map via e-mail or web page.
- Keep in touch! Find phone numbers at [SuperPages](#) and ZIP codes with the [USPS ZIP code lookup tool](#).
- Look up a word's spelling or definition with an online dictionary like [Dictionary.com](#) or [Merriam-Webster OnLine](#). For a more comprehensive explanation, try [Wikipedia](#).
- Solve simple and advanced math equations or perform unit conversions by typing your query into the [Google](#) search bar. For tips on using Google's calculator function, go to: <http://www.google.com/help/calculator.html>
- What time is it in...? Check with the [World Clock](#) or [Time Zone Check](#).