

# Release Notes: HeadOffice V3R1





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# About Vista

Vista Entertainment Solutions develops software for the Cinema Exhibition industry. The Vista software system consists of a number of integrated products that cover almost all aspects of managing and operating cinemas. The product line is scalable so as to be suitable to exhibitors who run from one cinema to hundreds of cinemas.

The Vista Point of Sale and Vista BackOffice (base Vista) provide all Cinemas level function for Box Office and Concessions. At least one installation of Base Vista is required for all Vista customers. All other modules are optional.

The optional modules are:

- **Web Ticketing** - a customisable system that enables ticket sales on the Internet along with display of show times and movie information.
- **IVR Ticketing System**- an automated touchtone phone booking system.
- **Vista Kiosk** - a customisable ATM ticketing system that features touch screen and state of the art multimedia technology for remote ticket sales either on or off-site.
- **Call Center** - provides a central web based application for booking and selling seats across a circuit of cinemas.
- **MobilePOS** - utilises a Pocket PC based PDA's to sell tickets and concessions while connected to the Vista system via a wireless network.
- **Vista Signs** - manages configured animated messages on cinema signs including LED, TV Monitors and Plasma.
- **Vista Projection** - controls the export of cinema show-time schedules to automated projection systems.
- **Vista Air Conditioning** - provides an interface between base Vista and the air conditioning system to regulate air circulation and temperature depending on head count information stored in the Vista database.
- **HeadOffice** - provides central maintenance of key cinema data, uploading of cinema performance data to HeadOffice, a film settlements system and a business intelligence system for analysing circuit wide performance.
- **CashDesk** - a companion product for Vista BackOffice for cinemas that wish to have higher levels of cash and treasury control within the cinema.
- **Employee Scheduling** - provides a graphical employee roster system at cinema locations, along with a HeadOffice module that consolidates all roster information.
- **Film Programming and Scheduling** - a companion product to HeadOffice. It is a system for planning and booking films across a circuit from a central location. The booking system generates best fit schedules to download to the cinema.
- **Voucher Management** - a companion product to Vista HeadOffice that controls the ordering, stocking, transfer, and redemption of coupons, vouchers and passes.
- **Loyalty** - a customer relation management program for the creation, maintenance and evaluation of loyalty programs.

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## CHAPTER 1

# Overview of Version 3 Release 1

Version 3 Release 1 is the latest release of the Vista Product line and is available from Q4 2005. This version is a new generation of Vista software with a number of infrastructure, security, installation and look and feel changes. This release provides Vista with a new framework from which to build new releases.

This release includes Vista's HeadOffice applications: HeadOffice, Film Scheduling and Voucher Management.

We have included in these release notes, all the new features we released as part of a special enhancement pack we released called Cinema Release Version 3 Service Pack 3 - Enhancement Pack. This is because most cinemas did not apply this release as it contained specific features for prepare/pickup that most cinemas do not use.

The highlights of the new and enhanced functionality included in Version 3 Release 1 are:

- A new Key Performance Indicator by Cinema Report
- An entirely new and enhanced HeadOffice Upload System
- Improvements to the HeadOffice Downloads Process
- Increased assistance with help enabled on many forms
- Enhanced Film Scheduling functionalities
- New Stock Level Report and Stock Transfer Report included in Voucher Management





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## CHAPTER 2

# HeadOffice

## New Functionality

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### Key Performance Indicator by Cinema Report:

A new HeadOffice Report has been added. This is named **Key Performance Indicators by Cinema**. This Report displays KPI figures such as Admits, Average Ticket Price, Profit per Head, Gross Box Office, Strike Rates, Labour Cost at both summary level for each cinema across a circuit and also at a detailed level for each day of the week for each cinema.

### HeadOffice Uploads:

V3R1 includes an entirely new upload system. The new V3R1 upload system is compatible with the previous V3 system, and both can be operating side by side across a circuit. However, the new system operates using an entirely new set of components. The new upload system is optional, and includes a host of new features and improvements to the processing, management and monitoring tools for HeadOffice upload.

**Incremental Uploads** are now supported in the V3R1 upload system. This means the HeadOffice data warehouse and the Infoworks cubes can be updated more regularly, while remaining accessible for analysis.

Upload monitoring, management and issue resolution tools have been created and/or enhanced. Serialisation of Upload Sequence numbers is no longer a requirement.

**Staff Time** and associated Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) have now been uploaded to HeadOffice.

### HeadOffice Downloads:

Reliability and audit ability have been enhanced in relation to the download process. The issue handling and resolution process has also been improved, so that an issue within a download batch does not necessarily stop the remaining data from being imported.

Vista now supports site variable data for sales tax codes.

### HeadOffice Film Hire:

A new attribute has been added to mark some distribution terms as reusable. Only those marked as reusable will appear in the Distribution Terms drop-down menu in Contact Maintenance.

## Enhancements

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Enhancements in HeadOffice Version 3 Release 1 are provided in the following categories:

- HeadOffice User Interface (General)
- HeadOffice Upload/Download Behaviour Changes (V3 system)
- New HeadOffice Upload Features (V3R1 system)
- Cinema Export/Import User Interface
- Transfer Monitor User Interface
- HeadOffice Import/Export User Interface

## HeadOffice User Interface (General Changes)

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### Cabinets:

The name of the cinema complex now displays on the top of the menu and on the logon screen. This is to assist Headoffice and IT staff to confirm they are accessing the correct cinema, if accessing the cinema remotely.

On the Help menu, a new option has been added called "Vista Online". This will take a user to the Vista Customer Services Web Site, with a page containing the following options:

- Vista News
- Documentation (a site where users can access or download all Vista manuals, including user guides, operations manuals, FAQ, release notes and product information)
- Vista Forum
- Vista Knowledgebase (once this becomes live in late 2005)

The 'Help About' also has a link to Vista Online.

All Backoffice Maintenance forms can also access the Vista Online Web Page via the 'Help About' option.

### **Report Launcher:**

The Vista Report Launcher has been extended to support the creation of a **Schedule Format** for a report which is posted to the Vista Scheduler for activation and scheduling of automated report production.

The Schedule Format functionality is available for any report in the Launcher menu. The operator is able to set the report prompts using the same criteria as the Launcher itself and define the report delivery mechanism and the output format.

Reports can be delivered by printing, writing to file or e-mail. E-mail delivery provides the report as an attachment in a variety of formats - HTML, PDF etc.

The name of the cinema complex, name of the computer it is being run on, and software version are now displayed on the top of the menu. This is to assist Head Office and IT staff to confirm they are accessing the correct cinema, if they access the server remotely.

The ability to "Schedule" reports has also been included. This allows a user to open Report Launcher, choose any report and have it run automatically (requires the Vista Task Service to be installed). Valid options include both automatically printing or e-mailing the report.

### **Item Maintenance:**

Menu Location: Concessions / Concessions Maintenance

This function has undergone major changes to streamline its ease of use. Most-used fields have been moved to the default tab with more specialised fields moved off it.

The download process has been enhanced in V3R1 so that all new fields located in Item Maintenance (e.g. the Alternative Items Tab details which configure Feature and Options) now get downloaded.

#### **General Tab**

The field called Master Item Code has been changed to be HO Item Code, to make it consistent with other maintenance forms.

A new combo box is available to allow a voucher template to be assigned. If one is not defined but this item is to be printed on a voucher, the default template voucher.txt will be used. This allows the ability to support different printer templates for different vouchers.

The Box Office Sundry Item selection has been moved to the General tab. When selected the Box Office tab becomes available.

The Promotion, Combo and Upsell Item options are now used by some reporting, in particular the new Marketing report.

The Item Type drop-down list includes a new Item Type: Parent Sales. Concession items which have Options must have Parent Sales as their Item Type.

### Stock Details Tab

User interface has been improved. The following new fields have been added, which are used by the Reorder Worksheet.

- Reorder Planning Group
- Default Order UOM
- Purchase Lead Time (Days)
- Minimum Stock Level
- Default Order Quantity
- Maximum Order Quantity
- Length of Time to Make Item

### Voucher Items Tab

Two new fields have been added that become available if an item is a voucher.

- Start Voucher No
- Last Voucher No. Used

These are for use only at cinemas that want to print their own vouchers and coupons at sale time. They are used to control the voucher numbers/barcodes that are printed on the voucher.

### Box Office Tab

The user interface has been enhanced.

### Barcodes Tab

If the item is not a voucher, this tab only prompts for barcodes. If this item is a voucher, then the user is prompted for extra information to do with the barcode.

New fields have been added to allow the serial number position and barcode length of a voucher to be defined. These are override values and if not defined, the default barcode format is used from the system settings.

### Alternate Items Tab

This tab is used if the item is one of the following:

- Feature
- Option
- Upsell

If the item has features e.g. Sundae, then all items that can be added to the order if the item is selected e.g. Chocolate Sauce and Raspberry Sauce are entered. Features have a cost that is added to the order total if the item is selected.

If the item has options e.g. Small Drink, then all items that are options for this item are defined e.g. Small Coke, Small Lemonade.

If the item can be upsold from other items, then these items are defined.

The Prompt text field defines what the operator is prompted for when the item is chosen e.g. Select which flavour.

### **Ticket Type Maintenance:**

A new field has been added to allow the serial number position of a voucher to be defined. This is an override value and if not defined, the default barcode format is used from the system settings.

### **Sales Tax Maintenance:**

This has been enhanced to allow for auto-generation of the Sales Tax code as a 10 character field. Previously, only a 1 character field was supported. This ability is controlled by a system setting and turned off by default for sites using Head Office to facilitate the maintenance of compatibility during the V3R1 upgrade process.

Special changes were also made to this program called 'Versioning'. This has enabled Vista to support different versions of sales taxes for each cinema.

### **Payment Group Maintenance:**

Edit check has been changed to a warning when the payment type for a payment group is denominated.

A new form layout has been implemented to improve the user interface.

Added the ability to de-activate a payment group. The user can now choose a null default payment type box.

### **Payment Type Maintenance:**

The User Interface has been improved:

Enhanced so that appropriate error messages will appear when changing denominated type.

Text boxes have been enhanced to right align with number fields.

A new tender category has been introduced to support "Tabs", also known as Accounts or Debtors. A payment type can now be setup as a tab.

The size of the Payment Type code field has been extended to 10 characters. However, by default, V3R1 will continue to only allow payment types with a code of 2 characters. The system setting HOCOMPAT\_PAYTYPE\_PK10 controls whether a 10 character code can be used. However, cinemas connected to a HeadOffice, must be using HeadOffice V3R1. Once the extended payment type is used, the code no longer needs to be manually defined.

### **Payment Vouchers Maintenance:**

New fields have been added to allow the serial number position and barcode length of a voucher to be defined. These are override values and if not defined, the default barcode format is used from the system settings.

### **Workstation Group Maintenance:**

A flag has been added to allow Offline Concessions for a workstation group. Accessed from the General tab.

Messaging has been added for the Customer Display, with different messages for 'available' and 'non-available' selling states. Accessed from the General tab.

### **System Settings:**

The **System Settings** Cabinet and form have been recompiled to ensure that the form does not lose focus when opened. The warning message box has also been removed.

The textbox that displays the System Setting configuration value on the **System Settings** form has been enlarged to reflect the maximum length of this field in the database.

### **System Settings Wizard:**

Introduced to Vista as a quick start for cinema setup, the Vista Settings Wizard allows the ability to set the commonly used settings for cinema in a Wizard question and answer format.

## HeadOffice Upload/Download Behaviour Changes (V3 system)

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If Upload Sequence numbers are NOT processed in sequential order, Vista Transfer no longer fails, producing an error. The selection of V3 Upload data logic at the cinema is designed to always refresh all data for a selected period, and therefore there is no requirement to enforce a strict order for upload processing. The unexpected loss of an Upload file is still visible as missing data in the HO Audit results page.

If Download Sequence numbers are NOT processed in sequential order, Vista Transfer no longer fails, producing an error. There is no requirement for download files to be processed in a sequential order. The Transfer Monitor and download history available at Head Office clearly display unprocessed files allowing the user to determine if/when download files are actioned.

Download processing is now more fault tolerant - for most issues that occur during download import at the cinema, issues are now logged, and the operator notified - and the download process attempts to continue with the next download record for the batch.



## New HeadOffice Upload Features (V3R1 system)

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### General:

The V3R1 upload system uses an entirely new set of components and technologies to upload data from the cinema to Head Office. However the extraction, translation and summarisation logic remains unchanged and is entirely backward compatible with V3. Because a new set of components is used the V3 upload system remains intact, and operating as it was in the V3 sp03 version apart from some minor changes as described.

Upload files from both systems can be processed at Head Office, enabling support for a mixture of cinemas uploading simultaneously using whichever model is appropriate.

When V3R1 is first installed the V3R1 upload components are not automatically enabled, but the scheduled tasks driving the process can be 'turned on' using the configuration settings found in the Cinema Import/Export and Head Office Import/Export cabinets. Additionally the import/export wizards provide the option to process uploads using the V3 or V3R1 system.

Although both models can coexist a cinema should only be producing upload data using one system or the other. To migrate from V3 to V3R1 upload production at the cinema consult the V3R1 Upload migration document.

### Incremental Uploads:

The V3R1 Upload model differs from V3 most fundamentally in its support for Incremental or 'Trickle Feed' Uploads. The core transactional data from the Vista database (ticket, concession, payment and fund transactions) can OPTIONALLY be trickle fed to Head Office in small portions on a regular basis throughout the day. Each transactional table can be configured to either be included in Incremental Uploads, or alternatively in the V3R1 daily upload. The regularity of feeds is determined by the Incremental Upload scheduled task. The maximum size of individual feeds can also be controlled by the Max Record count per table setting (default 1000, 0=no limit). It is also important to note that no single incremental feed ever spans more than a single business date.

The Incremental upload is controlled by the Incremental Upload transaction log, which records all transactions made since V3R1 is first installed. When migrating to V3R1 upload it is possible to clear this log before commencing incremental feeds (see Migration document for details). Transactional table data is delivered to Head Office at the transaction detail level in a compressed form, providing for more maximum logic centralisation at Head Office, and the ongoing ability for Vista to enhance upload processing and logic from the central software node, rather than distributed this logic throughout the enterprise.

Incremental upload batches are processed at Head Office by the Incremental Upload Processing scheduled task. This task imports, translates and summarises the incremental data into the final Head Office summary tables, while making available to the Cube Processor, just the new transactions. The Cube Processor is driven by the Cube Processing scheduled task, which performs incremental cube updates on all cubes configured for incremental uploads. Thus, Vista is capable of delivering regular transactional data feeds from the cinema circuit to the Head Office analysis system throughout the day, without the need to completely process cubes each day.

Customers have the ability to configure each cube for Incremental or Daily processing as required, again enabling fine grained control over the fit and performance profile of the system.

### **Daily Uploads:**

The V3R1 Daily Upload scheduled task processes non-transactional tables (staff time, daily performance, posting journal) and any transaction tables marked for Daily Upload. This process mimics the logic of the V3 upload system identically, but uses the new V3R1 system components, and delivers the transactional table data at the transaction detail level (compressed).

At Head Office each cube can be configured for Daily or Incremental processing (if appropriate for the cube). The daily cube scheduled task by default runs once a day and replaces the SQL Agent scheduled cube process - with some important differences. The new daily cube process performs a 'refresh' update on all relevant dimensions and cube data ONLY for those cubes marked for Daily Processing. Therefore, if Incremental Cube processing is enabled at Head Office transactional cubes can be incrementally processed regularly during the day, with daily cubes processed each night. This model greatly reduces the down time of the system during cube rebuilds.

### **Translation Errors and Processing Issues:**

The V3R1 upload system logs translation errors using a new model which provides complete translation error details to the HO Import/export UI. This enables for translation issues to be resolved directly from the HO Import/Export UI. This feature is not available using the V3 Upload model.

The V3R1 upload system also includes an enhanced error handling model. Each table in the Upload Feed (using Incremental or Daily feeds) is represented as an independent xml file (though they are delivered in a single compressed package from the cinema). This allows the upload process to continue processing the next table, when an upload error occurs in one table. This means for example that a translation error in the concessions data does NOT halt ticket transactions from being imported into the Head Office system. Additionally any files which create issues are moved to an Errors directory, so that they are not automatically re-processed each time the scheduled upload task runs. This ensures that when Incremental Uploads are running, an issue does not create a 'blockage' in the processing system.

Error logging is also improved in the V3R1 system, with errors associated directly with upload batches. This provides the ability to drill down from a batch with errors, into the errors and translation issues directly related to that batch. In conjunction with the file per table feature and error directory described above this allows for upload batches with errors to be “re-processed” directly from the HO Import Export UI. Reprocessing locates the individual table files which contained errors, and reprocesses ONLY those which created issues.

Again, these features are again not available with the V3 upload model.

## Cinema Export/Import User Interface

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- Full support is provided for processing V3R1 version upload files from the Upload Wizard.
- V3R1 Upload Processing via Upload Wizard is only available when scheduled upload tasks are disabled (via configuration tab).
- Error lists are displayed in a sort-able list format, and can be filtered - drill down to from the import batch list.
- V3R1 upload batch entries include an error count.
- V3R1 upload batch entries support drill down to batch specific errors.
- All Refresh (daily or full refresh V3R1) and Traditional (V3) upload batch entries support a right-click 'Reprocess Batch' command - which reproduces the batch for re-upload at Head Office.
- The upload batch list can be filtered by upload batch data dates.
- Access is now allowed to V3R1 configuration settings. These control upload behaviour including:
  - enabling/disabling upload export scheduled jobs.
  - configuring V3R1 upload table export mode.
  - V3R1 upload tables can be individually marked for incremental export, daily export, or excluded from export altogether.
  - Configure the maximum number of incremental records to be included per table in any single incremental batch.
  - Set an earliest start date for incremental upload to commence from.

**NOTE:** this setting controls the system date time at which the incremental upload job will begin processing, not the earliest transaction dates incremental uploads will select.

- A new command "Purge Pending Incremental Transactions" - is available from the File|Advanced menu. This command resets Incremental Uploads by clearing the Incremental log of transactions awaiting export.

*NOTE: The Incremental log is filled with an identifier record for each new transaction detail line added to the Vista database after installing V3R1 (whether incremental uploads are enabled or not). Purging the log clears the backlog of identifiers not yet uploaded. Each time a 'Refresh' upload occurs for a table, any records included in that upload are ALSO cleared from the Incremental log. This ensures that records cannot be delivered in an incremental upload, after already being delivered in a 'Refresh' upload.*

The "Purge Pending Incremental Transactions" command is useful if V3R1 has been installed for some time, but incremental upload have not been enabled. In such cases you should purge the log, ensure your Head Office database is up to date with V3 summarised uploads, or V3R1 daily refresh uploads, and then enable Incremental Uploads from the 'reset point'. Consult the Upload Migration document for complete details.

## Transfer Monitor User Interface

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### General:

The Transfer Monitor is new user interface designed to provide a central place for technical HeadOffice users to monitor the transfer status of data to and from each cinema in a circuit.

The Monitor provides a graphical view of the Upload, Download and Audit status of each cinema, and by right-clicking the monitor grid the user can drill-down into the Head Office Import/Export User Interface for more details regarding upload and download status.

## HeadOffice Import/Export User Interface

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### General:

Support is provided for drill down from the new Transfer Monitor User Interface to either upload or download details for a date range.

Access to V3 upload/download sequence number editing continues to be supported, but has no impact on V3R1 system.

The fields now editable on the configuration tab by placing the UI in edit mode.

Upload Processing and Cube Processing support added here as part of V3R1 is also available as scheduled processing tasks which execute in the Vista Task Scheduler on the appointed Head Office server.

Manual processing of Uploads and Cubes is not supported if any scheduled tasks are enabled - these tasks can be enabled/disabled from the new configuration tab.

### Uploads:

Full support is provided for processing V3R1 version upload files from the Upload Wizard.

V3R1 Upload Processing via Upload Wizard is only available when scheduled upload tasks are disabled (via configuration tab).

Error lists are displayed in a sort-able list format, and can be filter/drill down to from the import batch list.

Upload Translation errors are displayed in a sort-able list format.

Translation errors generated from V3R1 upload files can be resolved using an in-place translation mapping tool.

Upload batches are displayed in a sort-able list format.

V3R1 upload batch entries include an error + translation issue count.

V3R1 upload batch entries support drill down to batch specific errors.

All upload batch entries support a right-click 'Reprocess Batch' command:

- V3R1 batches when reprocessed include a complete field re-process.
- The upload files from the batch are collected from the errors directory if errors occur.
- In this case only files in error are reprocessed, to enable a re-try when translation issues, or resolved issues have occurred.
- If no errors exist for a batch the entire batch is re-processed to enable a total re-process.
- V3 upload batches are re-processed as per existing behaviour, with just the data warehouse updates being performed.

Upload batch list can be filtered by upload batch data dates.

Access to V3R1 configuration settings which control upload behaviour including:

- Enabling/disabling upload scheduled jobs.
- Configuring cube processing models.
- Access to V3 settings as described in General section.

## Downloads:

Download wizard enhanced to include 'review' options.

Download Wizard enhanced to allow selection of multiple cinemas or cinema groups to create downloads.

Download Viewer graphically displays download data, listing tables, and records in the download in a collapsable tree format.

- Launched by creating a download with one of the 'review' options.
- Launched by viewing a download file from the files waiting to be processed (zipped files continue to open an IE window).
- Includes support for 'Transfer Now' if created using the download wizard with the 'Review and Transfer' option.

Download Viewer includes support for printing the visible contents of the download tree.

### **Cube Processing:**

Support has been added for Analysis Server cube processing.

Cube Processing is **ONLY** supported on workstations with Analysis Server client tools installed.

Cube Processing is only available when scheduled cube processing tasks are disabled (via configuration tab).

New Cube Processing Wizard is launched from the toolbar/menu.

Cube Processing options include Full Process, Daily Process, and Incremental Update.

Full Processing performs a full cube dimension, and partition processing.

Daily Processing performs a full cube dimension and partition process on all cubes marked for daily processing (via configuration tab).

Incremental Update performs an incremental cube update on all cubes marked for incremental processing (via configuration tab).

Incremental Update includes a pre-process of any dimensions referring directly to the cube fact tables.

Incremental Update processes any incremental upload batches which have not been processed into their respective cubes.

After successful processing incremental upload batches are marked as processed so their data is not re-added to the cube during subsequent processing.



## Corrections

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### HeadOffice Upload:

Bugs and errors have been corrected in the Vista Transfer User Interface.

### HeadOffice Download:

The bug concerning <1 HeadOffice code in table causing error has been corrected.

### HeadOffice Technical:

All references to historical database connectors have been removed.

If the user closes the screen while editing a price book or promotion header, the save prompt will appear. Previously this did not occur.

When following the Film Cinema Link it now connects to the 'items' section rather than the 'films' section.

### Cabinets:

Many Cabinet Views, particularly Management Inquires, previously showed dates in DD/MM/YYYY format instead of using the computers Regional Settings. These Cabinet Views have been corrected.

### Item Maintenance:

The Item maintenance copy function has been corrected so that new items do not use existing codes.

Duplicate barcodes are no longer allowed for Items in Backoffice.

In countries whose regional settings involved a comma as a decimal place, any update to the item would result in an error message. This has now been corrected.

Error caused by non-numeric data in the item code has now been corrected.

Corrected a problem where Stocktake Group would not clear when the item was removed from a stocktake.

### Payment Group Maintenance:

The layout and error messages have been improved. Payment type loading and validation has been fixed. Errors occurring when payment groups were inactivated have now been removed.

### **Payment Type Maintenance:**

Validation errors have been fixed. Previously this program was not checking version codes for uniqueness.

### **Ticket Type Maintenance:**

Validation has been improved so that duplicate Barcodes are no longer allowed for Ticket Types in Backoffice.

## CHAPTER 3

# HeadOffice Reports

A number of corrections and enhancements have occurred in HeadOffice Reports. The reports which have been modified, are listed below:

## Corrections and Enhancements

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### Box Office Analysis Report:

- Modified cinema name to use site name instead of legal name.
- Removed redundant subtotal column.
- Added formula to calculate numeric value for box office. Assigned sort criteria to WeekTotalNumeric to order by totals.
- Interface changes (realignment, moved circuit information into the table, grand total after the final group)
- Currency accounted for using HOC column to populate report table.
- Altered table fields to calculate correct values for cinema totals.
- Modified currency formulas to use regional settings for decimal places.
- Altered incorrect formula calculating totals for the current week.

### Cinema Performance by Film Report:

- Fixed the totalling of net film income.
- Better labels on contract dates.
- Minor interface changes (renaming "collections" to "revenue", realignment).

### Cinema Statistics Report:

- Modified currency formulas to use regional settings for decimal places.
- Created pop script to generate reports prompts.
- Fixed cinema name and address display in top corner.
- Minor interface adjustments.
- Fixed cinema name and date display on prompt.
- Corrected issues with week ending dates in stored procedure.

### Concessions Sales Analysis Report:

- Report table procedure (spRptConcSalesAR) modified to split items into Report categories (box office items etc) on gross total inserts.
- Items with zero values are no longer displayed.
- Site name used for name of report instead of legal name.
- Head Office Currency string added and values now calculated based on currency rates for the day (modified so using fnGetHOCCYRate).
- Interface modifications (realignment, total lines).
- Modified currency formulas to use regional settings for decimal places.
- Altered incorrect formula calculating totals for the current week.

### Screen Film Hire Performance Report:

- Modified form to group by distributor.

- Formatted to default currency strings.
- Minor interface adjustments.
- Modified .ini file for changes to labels.

**Contract Performance by Cinema Report:**

- Minor interface changes (renaming "collections" to "revenue", realignment and spacing, prompt improvement).

**Weekly Film Hire Report:**

- Modified currency formulas to use regional settings for decimal places.
- Modified percentages to use 2 decimal places.
- Changed report launcher prompt (via pop script) to allow time entry.
- Fixed error in cinema name display.
- Modified .ini file for changes to labels.
- Change title as displayed in the report to be Film Hire By Distributor.
- Change currency fields to display according to regional currency settings, rather than always 4 decimal points.
- Percentage figures have been changed to display to 2 decimal points.
- A Cinema Name column has been added to this report.



## CHAPTER 4

# Film Scheduling

## Enhancements

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Enhancements in Film Scheduling Version 3 Release 1 are provided in the following categories:

- Planning Grid
- System Settings

## Planning Grid

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Enhanced copy/paste session functionality to include trailer time/cleanup time.

Enhanced Split functionality to include trailer time/cleanup time when sessions are copied.

Corrected turnaround time bug, where it would only sometimes complain about an overlap when the turnaround time was adjacent to the next start session time.

Corrected problem with Copy To Location function. Previously it would always display the message 'Unexpected Error occurred' when a copy was attempted. This function will copy the Planning Grid Schedule to equivalent Cinemas that have screens that match exactly, i.e. quantity and screen numbers. However, The 'Copy To' function will also fail if a Planning Grid schedule already exists for the given week/location.



## System Settings

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New system settings have been added for Film Scheduling AutoFill function:

- FS\_AutoFill\_AlwaysUsePlanChrt - If this is set to yes, then always AutoFill the Planning Grid according to the screens the Films were placed on in the Planning Chart. Ignore other AutoFill settings when this is set to true.
- FS\_AutoFill\_UseBoxOffice - Whether Auto fill uses box office information. This is currently set to false as Film Scheduling is not programmed to use Box Office information.
- FS\_AutoFill\_UseFilmBOCategory - Whether BO Category is used to fill Auto Planning Grid. Software uses the field nRankOrder on the referenced FilmBOCategory of the relevant Film where a higher nRankOrder places the film in a bigger screen.
- FS\_AutoFill\_NumDaySessions - Number of Day sessions generated by Auto fill.
- FS\_AutoFill\_NumEveningSessions - Number of Evening sessions generated by Auto fill.
  
- Completion instructions attached to sort out ODBC creation and manual DLL registration.
  
- Status @ Site button removed. This is functionality no longer valid (removed menu's button).
  
- A problem existed where the StartDayOfWeek system setting was not being honoured if the language is anything other than English. This has been corrected.
  
- A problem existed where the Planning Grid was not working under non-Australian regional settings. This has been corrected.
  
- US Date format/setting related problems have been amended.
  
- Scheduling control used to 'hang' when hovering over a session and when operating Grid under New Zealand regional settings. This has been fixed.
  
- A problem has been fixed with the Plan Grid Sessions form. Previously sessions sometimes disappeared if the start time was changed to before 9am.
  
- Concession Promotion menu items have been removed.
  
- The release CD has been amended as some additional files were being delivered that were not necessary.
  
- A Crystal 7 Reports Install program has been written to simplify the installation process for Film Scheduling.

- A registration utility has been added to make it easier to register files during installation.

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## CHAPTER 5

# Voucher Management

## New Functionality

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Two new reports have been added to the Voucher Management system. These reports are available only from Head Office. They will be accessed from the Vista Voucher Management Report Launcher. Both will be held in a new folder titled 'Stock Reports'.

### Stock Level/Snapshot Report:

- A report providing a snapshot for each site of units of each voucher stock type on hand at a point in time. This will be similar to the current stock report but must include barcodes.
- This report will be 'Current Stock Levels' in the 'Stock Reports' folder.
- The operator will select either a particular location or ALL locations.

### Stock Transfer Report:

- A report showing what stock has transferred between Voucher Management Locations for a date or date range.
- This report will be 'Voucher Transfers' in the 'Stock Reports' folder.
- The operator will select either a date or a date range.

The following three reports have been introduced to help with Voucher Tracking and Pricing Tracking. These Reports are available only from HeadOffice.

### Voucher Price List Report:

- This report shows the latest pricing of each voucher type.
- This report includes: Voucher Code, Description of the Item, From Date, Issue Price and Redeem Price. If a date range is entered (i.e. 02/02/2006) then all voucher prices will be listed for vouchers from that date. This may mean that there is more than one line for a particular Voucher Type (i.e. Adult Gift Voucher has had two different issue prices).
- There is no totaling or subtotaling, as this is just a listing report. However, the report sorts by using 'Voucher Code' and 'From Date'.

### Voucher Sales by Barcode:

- This report lists all vouchers sold by Location (Venture, Location and Code), and by the Business Date Sold. It also displays the full Barcode.
- This report will be cohesively grouped by Venture, Location and Code. A subtotaling at each grouping level is presented in this report.

- If a voucher has been sold and then refunded, this will be shown on the report along with the refunded date. If the barcode appears more than once on the same day, then it will show once. This could happen for packaged ticket components, depending on the set-up.
- The prompts selected (i.e. Date Range), will be printed within the heading of the report, along with the name of the report, date report has been run on etc.

#### **Vouchers Redeemed by Barcode:**

- This report lists all vouchers redeemed by Location (Venture, Location and Code), and by the Business Date Redeemed. It also displays the full Barcode.
- This report will be cohesively grouped by Venture, Location and Code. A subtotaling at each grouping level is presented in this report.
- If a voucher has been redeemed and then refunded, this will be shown on the report along with the refunded date. If the barcode appears more than once on the same day, then it will show once. This could happen for packaged ticket components, depending on the set-up.
- The prompts selected (i.e. Date Range), will be printed within the heading of the report, along with the name of the report, date report has been run on etc.

## Enhancements

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Performance has been enhanced when opening Completed Transfers. Previously, data load on a large database took 2 minutes, this has been improved to 15 seconds.

Support has been enhanced for Case Insensitive Voucher Code via Online Voucher Validation. **NOTE:** This build is required for complete case insensitive voucher code handling.

Voucher Type definitions defined at the entity level in Vista Head Office will be downloaded to cinemas via the Vista Head Office download sub-system. In Vista Voucher Management it will be possible to override the voucher serial position definition for each Voucher Type.

The error messages in the Voucher Transfer function have been made more informative where the Transfer would be invalid.

The Issues Vouchers function has been enhanced for Voucher Barcode recognition so that it ignores date/checksum that is appended to any valid barcodes when entered.

The Redeem Vouchers function has been enhanced for Voucher Barcode recognition so that it ignores date/checksum that is appended to any valid barcodes when entered.

Voucher Types can now be either case sensitive or case insensitive, according to the system setting: "CaseInsensitiveVoucherCodes".

Voucher Transfers allow Voucher Types to be selected by typing characters directly into grid (simplifies data entry as no need to use the drop down list).

## Corrections

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Batch Voucher Redemption and Batch Voucher Sale: Previously, Voucher Management would reject a HeadOffice connect string if the connect string had a blank password. This has been amended.

Voucher Management has been enhanced to work under different regional settings, including date, time, numeric and currency fields. This includes Czech Regional Settings where almost all programs experienced failure on load or in operation. The following changes were made:

- ESSFramework programs (ESSMain.dll, ESSFwk.dll) were enhanced to better handle date/currency fields.
- Almost all Cabinets Form programs were enhanced to handle date/currency fields better.

Logging of Database Errors: Previously all errors to the UserInterface were suppressed. This has now been corrected to raise all SQL errors to the UI, where some of these errors are handled by the software.

Redeem Vouchers/Issues Vouchers: Redeem Voucher and Issue Voucher functions have been corrected so that when validating entered voucher barcodes, any dates or checksums are ignored on a valid voucher barcode.

Transfer Vouchers Function: Additional script has been added for stored procedure upStockCheck. This script was missing in earlier versions. This lead to problems when using the TransferVoucher function.

Transfer Vouchers:

- Corrected so that Voucher Types can be entered by typing characters directly into the grid (simplifying data entry).
- In the case where a transfer would be invalid, Transfer Voucher error messages have been made more informative.

View Stock Inquiry often failed to open when running Voucher Management in a different language. This has been corrected.

Voucher Management would previously reject a HeadOffice connect string if the connect string had a blank password for sales and redemption import. This has now been rectified.

Voucher Transfer has been rectified for Outstanding Transfers and Completed Transfers. This has increased speed by a factor of about 8 for a large database.





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## CHAPTER 6

# Utilities

## Language Manager

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A new Language Manager program to support User Customisable Language Management has been added. This can be accessed from the new Vista Utilities Folder.

Language Manager allows an operator to view then select and load any of the available languages for Vista. The operator can view Standard International English simultaneously if required. The interface allows the operator to create and maintain a Custom Language set for each base language.

When Vista displays a screen it uses the Custom Language entries screen first. If there is no entry in the custom language for a particular word then the Base Language configured for the site is used. If the Base Language file has no entry for the word either, then Standard International English will be used.

In a simple example a local dialect may use a different word for 'film' than that provided in the Vista base language for that locale. Creating a Custom Language entry for that base language for the word 'Film' will result in Vista using the local dialect word for 'film'.

The custom language file is owned and controlled by the cinema and it is not replaced or overwritten by upgrades or new releases from Vista, thus protecting the cinema's investment in localising system language.

The base storage for multiple languages now uses XML format. Vista support for multiple languages has been extensively reviewed, with improvements and extensions at many points across the suite of Vista applications.

## Job Scheduler

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It is now possible to refresh the status of jobs when running. The F5 button does this, and it also displays when jobs will be finished.

The name of the cinema complex, name of the computer it is being run on, and software version are now displayed on the top of the form. This is to assist Headoffice and IT staff to identify they are accessing the correct cinema.

On the 'Help About' menu, a new option has been added called "Vista Online". This will take a user to the Vista Customer Services Web Site. A page can then be accessed with the following contents:

- Vista News
- Documentation (i.e. can access or download all Vista Manuals, including Users Guides, Operations Manuals, FAQ, Release Notes and Product Information)
- Vista Forum
- Vista Knowledgebase

## Diagnostics Program

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It is now possible to refresh the status of jobs when running. The F5 button does this, and it also displays when jobs will be finished.

The name of the cinema complex, name of the computer it is being run on, and software version are now displayed on the top of the form. This is to assist Headoffice and IT staff to identify they are accessing the correct cinema.

On the 'Help About' menu, a new option has been added called "Vista Online". This will take a user to the Vista Customer Services Web Site. A page can then be accessed with the following contents:

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- Vista Forum
- Vista Knowledgebase



## CHAPTER 7

# Detailed Release Information

## Known Issues

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**Automated Head Office Upload (V3 upload system):**

Validation has been removed which has forced the Upload Batch file to be processed in sequential order. However, if a V3 upload batch file is re-processed by the automated V3 upload system – the file content will be imported but the Head Office data warehouse will not be updated. This is because the V3 upload system is a 2 phase system, and the automated phase 2 step only processes the most recent sequence numbers, or files which have NOT been processed at all. This issue does NOT occur when using the import wizard, or in the V3.1 upload system processing, or when importing files which have not yet been imported at all (i.e. only when re-importing).

**Resolution:**

To ensure an older batch such as this is fully re-processed correctly into the data warehouse, copy the file into the transfer directory and then use the import wizard to import the file. The import wizard explicitly requests re-processing of files it has just imported. Alternatively locate the batch in the processed upload batch list, right-click the batch in question and select 'Reprocess Batch' – this action ensures the batch is processed into the data warehouse completely.



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