

READ ME FIRST

for Advanced Intercompany Transactions (AIT) version 8.0

1. AIT for Great Plains 8.0

You will need to update tables, if you are updating from version 7.0 or 7.5. If you are updating from 6.0, this update is currently not tested, and you will need to update first to 7.5 before you can update to 8.0. The update procedure is part of the AIT Setup Wizard, and the wizard will automatically indicate that tables that need to be updated if it detects old tables. Make sure you have completed and verified the success of the Great Plains 8.0 update, including all REPORTS and FORMS dictionaries, by running reports and performing Great Plains table maintenance (as recommended by Microsoft) before you begin the AIT update.

- Please read the Setup section of the manual for more information on installing and updating your AIT tables.
- You do not need to run table maintenance on AIT tables before updating to 8.0. Many of the table maintenance routines are run by the 8.0 update process.
- You should uninstall AIT 7.0/7.5 from the workstation using the Control Panel applet before installing AIT 8.0. This will not impact your data but will make sure to remove any old SQL script files and documentation.

2. IF UPDATING THE SAME VERSION WITH A NEW BUILD

Read the build instructions on the web site carefully. Each build may have specific instructions. You should read all instructions posted on the web site that describe updates, fixes, new features, etc., between your current build and the new build you are installing. If any of the in-between builds require table update, reconciliation, installation of SQL Objects, or other procedures, you should run any and all processes that are mentioned. All builds are complete programs.

3. IF CURRENTLY RUNNING ANY PREVIOUS VERSION

Delete all previous IC.DIC files from your system before beginning the installation. If any other version of the IC.DIC file can be found on your system (not only in the Great Plains directory, but ANYWHERE), you may have problems during the installation, update and operation of the application. Some unused forms contained in previous versions were removed for AIT 8.0, so if you install over an existing IC.DIC file, it will still contain the old, unused forms. This could cause problems with your update.

4. IF CURRENTLY RUNNING 4.0 or 4.1

If you are currently using 4.0 or 4.1 of Dynamics and AIT, you will need to update to Dynamics and AIT version 5.0 or 5.5 before you can install 7.0.

5. IF CURRENTLY RUNNING 5.0 or 5.5

If you are currently using 5.0 or 5.5 of Dynamics and AIT, you will need to update to Dynamics and AIT version 7.5 before you can install 8.0.

6. IF INSTALLING AIT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

If you are installing AIT for the first time, you do not need to update any tables. Please refer to the Setup portion of the manual for installation instructions.

6. DO NOT INSTALL INCOMPATIBLE VERSIONS

Each version of *AIT* is designed and tested to integrate with the exact same version of Great Plains. Do not install any version of *AIT* with a different version of Great Plains other than the version for which it was intended. Not only will you almost certainly have problems, but we will not be able to help you fix potential data and upgrade problems.

7. CHECK WEB SITE MONTHLY

At least once each month, you should access our web site www.mc2software.net to see if new updates or fixes have been released.

8. WINDOWS VERSIONS

You may use any version of Windows supported by the Great Plains product line.

9. SQL SERVER IS REQUIRED

You must use Microsoft SQL Server , not Pervasive.SQL or C-tree when installing *AIT*. If you are currently on C-tree or Pervasive.SQL you will have to migrate your data by December 2004.

10. MIGRATING TO SQL

If you are migrating from C-tree or Btrieve to Microsoft SQL Server, please refer to the *AIT* Migration Technical Bulletin for more information about migrating your data. This document is available on www.mc2software.net. We will be glad to assist you through the migration process, but support for a SQL migration is not free. Please call or email us to ask for a proposed price.

11. 800x600 DISPLAY SETTING REQUIRED

In order to accommodate the new expanded window designs, workstations using *AIT* must now have a minimum 800x600 display setting (Task Bar set to Autohide), and 1024x768 is preferred.

Bill Marshall
President

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

for Advanced Intercompany Transactions version 8.0

This document is a summary of situations that could impact your system when using *AIT* with Great Plains 8.0.

THE DYNAMICS RUNTIME ENGINE

The “runtime engine” is the DYNAMIC.EXE application (and components) that manage the business logic and accounting functionality of the DYNAMICS.DIC.

AIT is tightly integrated with Great Plains and utilizes the Multi-Dictionary environment (MDE) to seamlessly present a unified, consistent interface to the user. The advantages are many, but the side-effects can be very complex. The runtime engine uses information from *every* dictionary listed in the DYNAMICS.SET file, regardless of the security setting you may have configured in your Great Plains system. The Great Plains runtime engine considers this information “core resources”. Core resources include Table Definitions, field formats, data types, Account Formats, etc. The Dynamics security settings, controls access only to specific forms or reports that you have modified, not to the core resources. The runtime engine loads core resources from every dictionary in the DYNAMICS.SET launch file to determine how to display information to the user, lookup information in your files, and more. Security settings do not impact how core resources are loaded: it only controls which windows are displayed, or which reports print.

For example, even if you have not modified any *AIT* reports, but at one time went into the Report Writer (creating the ICRPTS.DIC file), and that ICRPTS.DIC file gets damaged, a damaged ICRPTS.DIC file can have a serious impact on *AIT*. Another example is as follows: You have at one time created an ICRPTS.DIC file, but never modified any reports. You install a new version, and update the tables, forms and reports for the new version, but in let’s say, for argument sake, that the reports dictionary does not get updated completely. The ICRPTS.DIC will still contain a copy of the table definition from the previous version. Your new version will operate properly until you try to run a report. Even though you do not have any modified IC reports, even though you are printing an original report, the runtime engine will still use the table definition in the ICRPTS.DIC dictionary, will give you error messages, and will stop all processing, including any tasks that needed to be completed after the report runs.

Because of this, it is highly recommended that if you are upgrading from a previous version and have modified any *AIT* reports, you attempt to update the dictionaries using the Dynamics Utilities program. If that does not work, rename the ICRPTS.DIC file, import them from the old reports dictionary into a new one, and run the verification program on each report. If you continue to have problems, you may need to redesign the reports.

Remember also that the DYNAMICS.SET launch file registers all triggers in all developer solutions found in the launch file. Developer solution triggers are active and will be executed regardless of security settings.

KNOWN PROBLEMS

I have encountered a few problems with the runtime engine that may have an impact on *AIT*. I have done my best to anticipate when these problems may occur, and have programmed around some of them. If you have problems with *AIT*, we will work closely and promptly with you to determine the cause of the problem, whether it is in our application, Great Plains, or the runtime engine.

1. Chunk file does not create Solution Developer dictionary in the program directory.

Problem

If you have more than one Dynamics installation on the same computer, the ICXX.CNK file may not unchunk into the same directory to which you installed the chunk file. You will see the unchunking process happen, and you will see the IC.DIC synchronized, but you will then get a message: "Cannot open dictionary IC.DIC". If your Dynamics registry settings are pointing to a directory other than the location of the chunk file, and if a copy of the IC.DIC exists in the directory that the registry is pointing to, and if an IC.DIC file does not exist in the new install directory, the ICXX.CNK will be installed in that directory instead of the one to which you copied it. This problem will exist for all third party dictionaries.

This has been a problem since the original release of version 3.X, and is related to the way the Windows API looks for files in the current directory and the registry listings when you want to see if a file exists. If an IC.DIC file exists in another directory, Dynamics will install the chunk file in that other directory. You should not encounter this problem on a computer with only one Dynamics installation, however if you are running more than one Dynamics system, follow the instructions below.

Solutions:

1. Delete or rename any other IC.DIC file that the current workstation can see, whether on the local drive or on the network. Renaming the directories containing the previous installations of Dynamics does not always work.

Bill Marshall
President

WHAT'S NEW

Advanced Intercompany Transactions version 8.0

AIT Check Links no longer required once setup is complete

You can now post Bank Transfers between companies.

Post Payroll in Summary

You can now post AIT Payroll batches to GL using the Per Batch, if you have selected Per Batch settings on the Posting Setup window.

AIT Setup Menu

You can now post AIT Payroll batches to GL using the Per Batch, if you have selected Per Batch.

User Options

You can now post AIT Payroll batches to GL using the Per Batch, if you have selected Per Batch

Coming Soon in 8.0

We couldn't get everything we wanted into our first release, so rather than hold up partners and customers who wanted to move to Great Plains 8.0, we released this version now, and will soon add more features over the next few months. Here is a preview of some of the features you'll see over the next few months.

SUTA and FUTA

You will now be able to generate intercompany SUTA and FUTA distributions when running Quarter-End reports and processing.

We have had limited requests for additional reporting capabilities, so are postponing some of the planned reporting additions. Please let us know if there are any special reporting needs that you have encountered, and we will reconsider the re-instating the reporting additions.

If there are any features you'd like to see added, contact me:

call me: 203-975-1647
fax me: 203-357-7442
email me: support@mc2software.net

Bill Marshall
President