

CPMS Newsletter

“As the Wrench Turns”

Volume 26, Issue 2

April 2020

The New “Normal”

And, it really stinks! We are so tired hearing about this pandemic and we really don't know when it's going to be over. With the warmer weather here it will be a lot harder for people to stay indoors and continue to practice good social distancing. The graphs and projections change everyday and some countries who were recovering may be reinfected. Hopefully we won't be one of them.

As a youngster I remember my grandfather telling me about the Spanish influenza after World War 1. (Wikipedia says an estimated 50 million died worldwide and 675,000 in the US in the years 1918 - 1920.) He lived in Portland, OR and his wife died in the early months of the pandemic leaving him with my mother and her sister. He spent most of his time visiting families with the flu although there was not much he could do other than provide a little comfort, a cool towel, water and maybe some food. At one house, where the father had died, he took care of the mother and five children. “Warren” adopted the family of six and sometime later married the mom, “Edith”.

Thank goodness something like that *should* never happen again but here we are: Pandemic 2020



Until we get past this terrible event there is not much else to talk about. It really is the entire world versus COVID-19. Although I am confident we will get through this, it won't be any time soon.



Many of us are working from home which is certainly better than all the poor folks who are out of work. But, even after this outbreak is “over” it will take a long time to get back to “business as usual”.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 The New “Normal”
- 2 When is your backup not really a backup?
- 2 ...good time to do some CPMS Spring cleaning?
- 3 Unable to delete files in CPMS folders?
- 3 And the Winner is...
- 3 CPMS Quiz

When is your backup not really a backup?

Although you or your IT folks are faithfully backing up your data every day you could still be in trouble if your hard drive or server crashes, your data is damaged by a virus, hacking or other malicious software, or your computer(s) or files are physically damaged.



Many years ago my boss said to plan for the worst case scenario and it will probably never happen, but if you don't...

When evaluating the CPMS data base, remember that when you use the CPMS backup utility an "unloaded" copy or your data base is placed in the \Archive subdirectory. This is on the same drive as your data base folder and so it's not a secure backup.

The server, where your CPMS files are usually located, is being saved by your IT folks. But, even if this is done automatically (or manually) every day, at some locations we found that the backup "generations" only went back for a week. If you need to recover from a problem in CPMS which occurred a month ago you may be in trouble. However, CPMS has a belt and suspenders approach with each backup file named MMDDYYYY which allows you to restore a backup prior to the last time the server was backed up. We would want to coordinate with you and your IT folks if you ever had a serious data base problem.

And lastly, you should consider something as

simple and inexpensive as a USB drive. Your CPMS data base is located in the four MMIS files and can easily be copied each week when you make your normal backup. It could be a real lifesaver.

Is this a good time to do some CPMS Spring cleaning?

If you are working from home but still have access to your CPMS data base, this could be a great opportunity to fine tune your system. We understand that "work from home" employees may be on a reduced work schedule but this is certainly not a "make work" project.

There are major cost savings associated with having accurate PM work cards. The right tasks assigned to each piece of equipment at the correct frequency will make a big difference in your PM efficiencies and effectiveness. This may seem to be a daunting undertaking but here is a way to make it more doable.

Start by identifying only the equipment that is needed to make your products. Other non production areas of your plant can be addressed in "phase two". Forklifts, loading dock doors, restrooms, office lighting, etc., are certainly important but preventive maintenance there can wait until production is running smoothly.



Let us know when you are ready for us to help you with this important job.

Unable to delete files in CPMS folders?

When you use CPMS, a number of files are added and/or deleted to various folders. For example, when you use the CPMS backup utility a new pair of backup files are added to your \Archive folder. You also have the opportunity to delete old backup files by highlighting those which are no longer needed.

Check when you run CPMS backup that files which you highlight are in fact deleted the next time you run backup. If they are still there then your IT folks need to make sure your Access rights allow you to erase files. Have them log in to Windows using your User name and password.

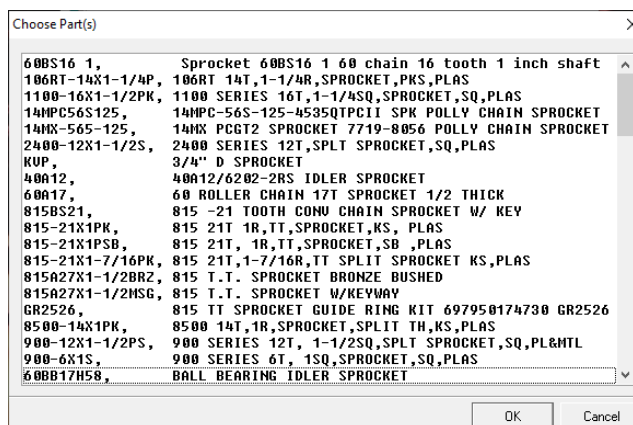
Another function where Access rights may be a problem is when you or your IT folks load a CPMS update. A number of files are copied into your data base folder and used to bring your system up to date. They include new forms, reports, labels and changes to the CPMS program. When complete, the temporary files are deleted including the actual update file.



However, in order to delete the update file so that it is not run twice, the CPMS program must exit and then run a utility program which deletes it. Trying to delete a file that you are using (open) is shown in the picture above. If you have access to your CPMS data base folder, check if you have any files with a name of UpdateVVV.rmd where “VVV” is a version number like “449”.

And the Winner is...

Cindy Like from Lewis Bakeries; Bill Morrow from Cerocimo Lumber; and Ken Redden from Klosterman Bakeries, all received partial credit for the last CPMS quiz. And the question was: Using the Part Search option and “Sort by” Description, the rows are sorted alphabetically by description. In this example the search criteria was “Sprocket”. Why would “Sprocket 60BS16” in the first row appear before those with a description beginning with a number?



And the answer is: When scrolling through the part descriptions you may miss the one you are looking for if you accidentally enter a space as the first character of the part description.

CPMS Quiz

For \$100

In the Purchase Order module, Enter Receipts, what would you enter for Received and Order Status if the order quantity is two but only one part was received today? (The other part will arrive next week and you accept partial receipts.)

Dennis Fleming

IISCO

101 High Circle, Suite 8G

Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Cell: 570 351-5290

E-mail: iisco@ptd.net

www.TheBestCMMS.com