New Features in Release 6

Introduction

Release 6.x represents a major step in the evolution of the product, with most of the new features resulting from valuable feedback and comments from users of the previous versions. This section describes the additions and changes for readers who are already familiar with the product. If you are new here, a cursory review of this section is all that is required, as all features are fully explained in the related chapters.

List of New Features

Data Table View

In addition to our classic WYSISWG badge display, the database can now also be viewed in a spreadsheet format, which shows all the badge records in a table as well as the primary photograph, the signature and the front and back of the badge. This in optional new feature.

Windows® Compatibility

With each new version of Windows, Microsoft® has introduced updated user interfaces as well as a host of new security features designed to better protect users from viruses, malware, spyware and the like. In doing so, they have significantly tightened the rules about program installation and where files can be accessed. This newest release fully complies with these strict requirements for installation all while retaining complete compatibility with previous releases of Windows. Purchase with confidence that your Badging software is ready for the Windows operating system you have now and the one you will have in the future!

Already have this program and want to upgrade to a new version of Windows? No problem! The new installation program provides comprehensive upgrade capabilities for those who wish to move to the latest release of Windows.

Enhanced Mirror Database Capability

We have enhanced the mirror database feature to optionally permit revisions to be made to the mirror database and then uploaded later to the main database. This allows badges to be created and altered in the mirror database and then the main database synchronized with the changes. This is an optional feature.

Improved Database Field Editing

The ability to revise the fields in the database table has been significantly enhanced. Now fields which are marked as not to be used by the badging program will not be deleted, thus retaining any data those fields might contain. Such fields can be relinked to the badging program if desired.

Where the underlying database system allows, new fields will be added without the need to copy the entire table into a new table. Most modern database systems allow this.

Fast Find Improvements

The Fast Find dialog has been enhanced to allow more control over how the provided string should match the data. This makes selection more precise and reduces the need to use the more complex Select dialog.

Improved Export

The process of exporting the badge database to a CSV file has been enhanced to optionally allow the image files (photographs, signatures, etc.) to be exported also.

Image Optimization

An optional feature has been added that allows you to adjust the color parameters of a captured photo to improve its appearance. Brightness, contrast, saturation and hue can all be modified and the results seen immediately. The feature applies to all methods of capturing photos.

Toolbar Icons

All toolbar icons have been visually improved by making their backgrounds transparent. This makes the icons easier to see and improves the overall appearance of the interface.

Image File Names

Photographs, signatures, etc. are normally given a random name assigned by the program. If your database contains a suitable field, then the contents of that field will be used to develop the file name. This makes it easier to associate an image file with a given person, when images are saved in files.

Rectangle Design Added Features

Rectangles can now be given a name. This is for the convenience of the designer and is only used in the Rectangle List dialog.

Rectangle position and size can now be locked to prevent accidental moving or resizing.

Rectangles can be defined as only to be displayed on the screen representation of the badge but not sent to the printer.

Differences in Program Versions

Some versions of the program do not have all the features described in this manual.

Differences between the features in the versions and those described in this manual may include:

- ODBC - instead of using ODBC for database access, badge databases are stored in Paradox database files using the Borland Database Engine.

- VIDEO CAPTURE - the ability to capture images via a video capture board is not available. Photos can still be captured via TWAIN and bitmap importing.

- DATA ENTRY CONTROL - not all features described in this manual will necessarily be available.

- MAGNETIC ENCODING AND SMART CARD ENCODING - not all versions have this ability.

- SIGNATURES - not all versions have this ability.

- PDF417 BAR CODES - not all versions have this ability.

- DOSSIER - not all versions have this ability.

- PRINTING HEADERS & FOOTERS - not all versions have this ability.

- PRESET DATA ENTRY - not all versions have this ability.

- FLEXIBLE TEXT FORMATTING - not all versions have this ability.

- XML RPC INTERFACE - not all versions have this ability.

- IMAGE STORAGE – image storage to a database may not be available.

- DATABASE MIRRORING – may not be available

Please bear these possible differences in mind when reading the manual and using the on-line help.