

# iPro Intelligence



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An Information Resource for iPro's Exact North America Clients

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## *iPro Holiday Schedule...*



iPro sincerely thanks you for your patronage this past year.

In observance of the upcoming holidays, the iPro offices will be closed Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26, 2003 and Thursday, January 1, 2004.

**We will be providing help desk coverage Friday, December 26, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

May each of you have a safe and festive Holiday Season. Here's wishing you a prosperous and joyful 2003!

## **Year End Closing Procedures**



As the year end approaches, be sure to find your documentation on proper month and year end closing procedures.

As always, if you need any assistance in performing these activities, please contact us to schedule an appointment to help.

## **Important Information from Starship**



On Friday, November 21, 2003, UPS announced an increase in its rates

effective January 5, 2004. The StarShip 8.2 upgrade will incorporate these new rates as well as any new rates by carriers that StarShip supports that have not yet been announced.

If you are current on Subscription, you will automatically receive the StarShip 8.2 upgrade during the third or fourth week of December. This upgrade will require that StarShip 8.0 be installed, so please ensure you have upgraded to 8.0 before that time.

## **Payroll Sites Must Upgrade**

Due to new Internal Revenue Service requirements, all businesses currently utilizing the payroll functionality and running Progression versions prior to V7.6.200 need to update their software to V7.6.200 as soon as possible.

If you are not running that version and you try to run year end payroll (especially if data involving stock options or W2's for employees who have reached the annual Social Security maximum is planned) you will not be able to complete the run successfully.



Also, for Macola Accounts Payable users, it appears that 1099's may also be affected but the IRS has not yet sent specific information. So, essentially any businesses running year end payroll needs to move to 7.6.200 quickly.

Why now? Because the updates will be easier if you move to V7.6.200 now and then install the Q4 updates when they arrive, rather than trying to do it all at once.

If you are not current on Subscription then you will need to choose one of the following options:

1. Purchase the One-Year Subscription Plan for **\$495.00**. This includes new 2004 rates and service changes along with software enhancements for 12 months.
2. Purchase JUST the January 2004 rate-change upgrade for **\$295.00**. You will receive the StarShip 8.2 upgrade, but no future releases. You may purchase future releases as they become available for up to \$295 each.

## Last Chance...Event Manager Price is going up

January 1, 2004 the price for Event Manager is going up 15%. Through December 31, 2003 get 10% off the current pricing.

	'03 Retail	Promo Price	'04 Retail
Single Database	\$2,500	<b>\$2,250</b>	\$2,875
Two Database	\$3,600	<b>\$3,240</b>	\$4,140
Unlimited Database	\$6,000	<b>\$5,400</b>	\$6,900

**Does not include applicable sales tax, maintenance or support fees.**

Want to know more about what Event Manager can do for you? Contact Jeff DeSchon for more information or to schedule a convenient and quick online demo.

## Eyes Everywhere: Business Activity Monitoring

Every afternoon at 4:30, a screen pops up on the PC of Neil Montgomery, CEO of Davis Controls Ltd. in Oakville, Ontario. It tells him of the important events of the day. His business activity monitoring (BAM) system also tells him about things that didn't happen. For example, Montgomery's BAM system sends him 15 daily e-mail alerts, one of which identifies any remote salespeople who haven't logged in that day to download the latest information from a corporate database about the customers in their territories.

"Sometimes those remote sales guys will just sit out there in never-never land, and as long as they think no one is watching, they'll march to their own drummer," he says. BAM, a term coined by Gartner Inc., refers to the automated monitoring of business-related activity affecting an enterprise. Although BAM applications are seldom truly real-time, they generally look at and report on activity in the current operational cycle—the current hour, day or week, for example—and are designed to spot problems early enough to head them off. Montgomery says BAM enables him to manage his company more proactively. "Before, I'd have to wait until a customer called with a complaint or I'd have to wait until the month-end financial statements to really get a feel for how the business was doing."

Montgomery generally gives his employees free rein to use **Exact Event Manager** and to define alerts, which can be triggered by events in the company's front-end systems, such as CRM, and back-office systems, such as purchasing, inventory, order entry and accounting. "Anyone who needs to know something now has no excuse not to know that thing," he says. (Portions of this article have been omitted due to space limitations. For the complete article, visit [www.computerworld.com](http://www.computerworld.com) )

## Third Party Spot Light: Barcoding

**aSCAN** for Exact Macola from alphaSIGMA Consulting is a wireless Bar Coding solution. It is designed to assist a company in improving its ability to control the accuracy of its inventory both in terms of quantity and location in an efficient and effective manner. It uses state-of-the-art RF technology, MS-SQL and Exact Macola Software.



**aSCAN** for Distribution allows the user to record transactions related to the receipt of items in Purchase Orders, the movement of inventory within a warehouse, and the shipping of products.

**aSCAN** for Production allows the User to record transactions related to Production Order and report finished production.

There is an Advanced Version of **aSCAN** that supports serial/lot numbers, bins and multiple warehouse locations.

**aSCAN** is more than just a software product. It is a solution which can be enhanced and contoured to meet the specific needs of a company allowing it to use technology to better manage, control and eliminate unneeded paper.

Better control in putting away material after receipt. For example, the Advanced Version of **aSCAN** could suggest to the person doing the put away an area of the warehouse to place the item and warn that person if the item is placed in an improper location.

**aSCAN** is paperless, in that a message can be sent to the individual device, working in the rear of the warehouse to bring a product located in that area to the front of the warehouse without the need to print a paper transfer notice.

For more information on this product, contact Jeff DeSchon.

