



LSG, Inc.

March 2001

Connections

The Newsletter for Lab Manager Users

The Next Generation Lab Manager in 2001

Work is proceeding well on the next generation of Lab Manager and I thought that this would be a good time to tell you a little about the radically new program and ask for your advice on what features you would like to see added. Elsewhere, in this newsletter, is a "Wish List" form you can use to fax or mail back to us describing the things you would like us to add, change, improve, or simply remove from the program. If you prefer, you can go to our website where we have set up an on-line form you can use. *Please take a few minutes to fill out this form. After all, your comments now, will help shape the Lab Manager you will be using in the future.*

Premier October 19-20, 2001

Placing an accurate finish date on a software project as large as this one is nearly impossible. It's our plan to begin beta testing the new program in June of this year and releasing the program to the public, with great fan-fair, at our yearly conference in October. Because this update will be the biggest thing to happen at Laboratory Systems Group, Inc. in many years, you need to plan now to attend this huge software premier, **October 19-20, 2001, at the SunSpree Resort Hotel in Scottsdale.**

Greater Speed More Features:

Many things will change between now and the final release of Lab Manager, but there are a few improvements to the program I can describe right now. To start with, the next generation of Lab Manager will be written in Microsoft's Visual Studio instead of Microsoft's Access. Among other things, this means the user will benefit from greater speed (at least 20 times faster), smaller size, and more features.

Faster Data Entry: New features will include a lower dependency on the mouse, allowing you to do more without taking your hands off the keyboard. Not only will you be able to use the mouse like you can now, but you will be able to do most everything without a mouse if you like. For some of you speedy keyboard operators, this will speed up data entry a lot.

Printer Definable: Another long awaited feature to be included in the next generation of Lab Manager is the ability to define the printer each report and form is to be printed to. If you don't tell Lab Manager what printer to use, it will simply use Window's default printer. On the other hand, if you tell Lab Manager to print invoices to one printer, work tickets to another printer, reports to yet another printer, and labels to a special label printer, Lab Manager will remember all of those settings, so you won't have to tell it again and things will automatically go to the correct printer every time.

Automatic Updates: Because program updates are inevitable, the next generation of Lab Manager will be able to be set-up to update itself automatically or at your request, if you have internet access. Those of you who use Lab Manager on a network will benefit even more because you will no longer have to worry about updating all of the workstations. Lab Manager will do it all automatically. If your data needs to be upgraded in the process, the next generation of Lab Manager will be able to perform that process on the fly in just a few seconds. Most people won't even know that Lab Manager updated the program and data because it will happen so fast.

Reprinting Archived Data: The new Lab Manager will also incorporate a new accounting friendly format which will eliminate rounding errors and at the same time will allow us to do things we simply could not do before. (cont. on page 2)

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For example, reprinting a statement from a previous month. Currently, Lab Manager cannot do this unless you have a backup of the data from that month. However, the next generation of Lab Manager will allow you to reprint anything, anytime, from any month, including statements, invoices, and reports.


Full integration with Quick Books®:

Integration to this accounting system has been on our list of things to do for a very long time and will finally happen with the next generation of Lab Manager. This means that if you choose to use Quick Books, Lab Manager will be able to transfer invoices and payments, amount other things, directly to Quick Books so you will no longer have to type those figures in by hand. This will keep your balance sheet, and profit and loss reports up to date automatically.

Faster Data Retrieval: Another greatly anticipated change will be in the database used to store your data in. Currently, Lab Manager stores data in the Microsoft Jet Engine database. This database has served us well, but has proven to be slow over some networks. The next generation of Lab Manager will use Microsoft's SQL database. Though this change will be invisible to most users, it will greatly improve speed over a network and in multi-user environments. To explain how this change will increase speed over a network, you need to understand that using the current Jet Engine database over a network, Lab Manager must pass all of it's relevant data

across the network to the work station to find a case or print a report. This can mean passing thousands of cases through the network to the work station just to find the one case you are looking for. Because networks operate at a much lower speed than the same operation performed within a computer, the process seems slow by comparison.

Faster Case Searches: The new SQL database engine will only need to pass the final result of the search to Lab Manager. This means if you are searching for a case among thousands, the search criteria are passed to the SQL database, usually on the server computer, where the search is performed at great speed, and then just the resulting case is sent back to Lab Manager. Large laboratories will see an incredible increase in speed. Most things will appear almost as fast as you can take your finger off the enter key.

Your Personal Wish List: There will be many other new features that I will try to describe in our Connections Newsletter in the months to come. Please don't put off filling in and faxing to us your personal list of things you want to see added to Lab Manager. Even if you have already done so in the past, do it again. We will collect all of the requests and compile the information into a single "wish list". We can't guarantee to add everything you ask for, but we will try to add everything we can that fits into our master plan for the program. *Your suggestions do make a difference.* 

My Personal Wish List: If Possible, please add the following new features or reports to the next generation of Lab Manager.

Please fax to **602-279-3633** or mail to LSG, Inc. 1718 E. Rose Lane Phoenix, AZ 85016
This form is also available on our website at www.labsysgrp.com/wishlist

Please use additional pages if necessary.

Considering a new Printer?

Printer issues have become one of the most common problems recently. If you are considering a new printer for your lab, here are a few key issues to consider.

Know What to Look For

There are a number of things that you should know, or attempt to find out when you are making a decision on what printer to purchase.

What are you going to use the printer for?

Make sure the printer can handle the volume you are going to need. For high-volume printing, good paper-handling capabilities are essential. Don't be fooled by rated printer speeds—they only tell you how fast the printer can print out the same page over and over. Ask how fast the printer can produce original pages.

With what detail are you expecting to print out? 360 dpi, 720 dpi, 1440 dpi, 2880 dpi?

Don't worry too much about differences in dpi ratings. Text printed out at 300 dpi is all you need to make your letters look crisp and businesslike. Get the same document printed out on all the printers you are considering and let your eye choose the document with the best result.

How much is it going to cost to run?

Check the price of consumables—ink or toner cartridges. Monotone laser printers cost the least per page. Modular ink delivery systems that let you replace individual colors separately can lower the cost of an inkjet printer.

What software is it compatible with?

Be sure the printer can talk to your computer's operating system. Not all printers support Windows NT, Windows ME or DOS, for example. Also, not all printers can be used on a network. Consider the network feature, even if you currently do not have a network. If you think a network might be installed in the next couple of years, this feature will be necessary.

How is it going to connect to your computer?

Most printers use your Parallel port (LPT1), but some are now made to use your USB (universal serial bus) connection available on newer computers. Check whether you only have the parallel port, or you can use either. If two or more computers will be sharing the same printer, look for dual parallel ports or whether it has any network options or limitations. ☐

LSG Discussion Forums



We're Listening!

The LSG Discussion Forums are up, running and waiting for your participation.

These forums are set up for current and potential Lab Manager users. Do you have a question or suggestion about how Lab Manager might work better in your lab? Ask here! Free of charge to use and available 24 hours a day. Talk to LSG staff and other Lab Manager users.

With over 1500 Lab Manager users, we think you'll find the answers you need. ☺

To find our forums, go to:
www.labsysgrp.com/forum

Save an extra 30% off Laser Forms.

Buy 2 or more reams of the DBL-Burg forms and receive an extra 30% discount on top of the regular discounted price.

Help your doctors tell the difference between invoices and statements. If you currently use the DBL-BL (laser double blue form) you might want to try it's burgundy counterpart. Use one color for invoice and the other color for statements.

OFFER GOOD WHILE SUPPLY LASTS. When it's gone..... its gone!

QTY	500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000
	\$40	\$70	\$105	\$140	\$175	\$240
		\$49	\$73	\$98	\$122	\$147

Invoice				Invoice			
From: Your Company Name Your Address Your City State Zip				From: Your Company Name Your Address Your City State Zip			
Page: 1 Invoice Number: 0706-0038 Invoice Date: 06/13/1997				Page: 1 Invoice Number: 0706-0038 Invoice Date: 06/13/1997			
Patient name: John Smith				Patient name: John Smith			
To: Your Company Name Your address Your city state zip				To: Your Company Name Your address Your city state zip			
Ship By Date: 06/20/1997 Shade: C2				Ship By Date: 06/20/1997 Shade: C2			
Qty	Products/Materials	Tooth No.	Amount	Qty	Products/Materials	Tooth No.	Amount
1	Procelain/Gold	7	\$95.00	1	Procelain/Gold	7	\$95.00
2.4	Argon Y-80	7	\$91.20	2.4	Argon Y-80	7	\$91.20
			Sub Total				Sub Total
			Discount				Discount
			Total Tax				Total Tax
			Total				Total

DBL-BURG
1 Part Blank Form
8 1/2" x 11"
Horizontal Perf
used with Laser,
Inkjet and Bubblet

Invoice or Statement Form

October
19 & 20
2001


Don't miss the launching of the newest Lab Manager!

The 2001 conference date and location has been set. Mark your calendars! If you are a

lab owner or manager you need to be at this conference. This is where you will get all the detailed information on the newest features and how they will better manage your lab. This year's conference will start mid-day on Friday to give more people an opportunity to attend. After an exhaustive search, we're very excited to announce that this year's annual users conference will be held at the **SunSpree Resort Hotel** in the heart of all there is to see and do in Scottsdale. Only 20 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport with rooms that have a view of Camelback Mountain and an **on-site, 18 hole golf course for you golf enthusiasts.**

This hotel is a little gem tucked off the beaten path and we were able to negotiate an **incredible rate of \$99.00 per night.** The average room rate in Scottsdale that time of year ranges between \$135-\$199 a night.

After the meeting, you'll find many exciting things to do. Treat yourself to a spa experience, golf, tennis, jogging on nearby trails, a refreshing dip in the heated pool, horseback riding, a desert jeep excursion or helicopter tour, hot air balloon ride, or shopping at the famous Fifth Avenue Shops, Fashion Square Mall or the Borgata.

Come early or stay late and take a sightseeing trip to experience the beauty of the hill country of Northern Arizona or the Sonoran Desert in Southern Arizona. Take a day trip to the Red Rocks of Sedona or visit the majestic Grand Canyon. We'll see you in October! 

HATE to read manuals?



You are not alone.

Fact: 80% of most software goes unused everyday because most people don't want to take the time to read the manuals!

We have the perfect solution.

LSG, Inc has developed a professionally produced set of training video tapes taught by Tom Mueller, the developer of Lab Manager. Tom has a clear, relaxed and easy to understand style that gives everyone the confidence to fully utilize their valuable software tools. Take control over your lab today, the easy way.

Lab Manager 2000 Series

Lab Manager 2000
(Beginners) \$49.95
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Call to order.
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