



Martech

SYSTEMS, INC.

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Check out the following information in this newsletter...

- On-Line Classes – Just in time for Fall and Winter Fairs.
- Keep Your Windows Fair Management Program Current!
- Equipment Plans for 2006.
- Do You have High Speed Internet Access Available to You?
- Lease options for additional computer workstations during your fair.
- Check Orders
- Summer Support Hours Through the End of September.
- Make those backups!!

On-Line Classes – Just in Time for Fall and Winter Fairs:

On-Line classes have been scheduled especially for the fall and winter fairs. The classes held earlier this spring and summer have received rave reviews. Each participant receives a step by step course outline, making the sessions very easy to follow. This outline can be used as a handy reference during your fair. Time is allowed at the end of each session to answer all user questions. Consider joining us for one of the upcoming sessions.

Some responses from participants:

“I was pleased with the amount of information that was covered in the session”

“The online screens were easy to follow”

“I like the one hour, specific focused training. I can more easily carve out one hour of my time and I can sign up for a certain area without being bogged down for a longer period of time covering things that I already know how to do. I hope you continue to offer these types of training throughout the year.

Thanks!”

NOTE: You do not need the Fair Management software loaded on the computer that you will be doing the training on. All you need is an internet connection (preferably high speed) and a phone line for the voice portion of the training.

Current Class Schedule:

(All times listed are Central Time – adjust accordingly for other time zones.)

Course 1: Exhibitor/General Entries/Fairbook - Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2005 at 10:00 am

Course 2: Livestock/Market Entries - Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005 at 10:00 am

Courses will be offered in October for Premiums and Market Auction. Please let us know if you are interested.

For more information on training, contact Jennifer at 715-845-2794 or email jenl@martechsys.com.

Keep Your Windows Fair Management Program Current!

If you have version 2.6 installed on your computer and have not installed the July 22nd incremental update, do it now. It is important that you keep your program current. Go to **Help>About**. Scroll through the drop-down file listings. If **Special.dll** is dated prior to July 22, 2005, you need the July 22nd update.

The current update to the Blue Ribbon Fair Management program is now available on our website. Please install as soon as possible. This is especially important for the upcoming fall and winter fairs. The update will not affect any data you already have entered into the software.

Full instructions for downloading the incremental update can be found on the website. If you have any questions or need assistance, please give our Help Desk a call. Either of the links below will take you to the website. The update will not affect any data you already have entered into the software.

<http://www.martechsys.com/support/update.shtml>

http://martechsys.zftp.com/fair/Update_Fair_Management_2.60.0412_to_2.60.0722.exe

Note: The full 2005 upgrade (April CD) must be installed on your computer before this incremental update can be added. Placing this incremental update over the 2004, version 2.5 program, will make your program unusable.

Equipment Plans for 2006:

Now is the time to start thinking of your computer needs for 2006. Windows 98 is quickly reaching the end of its capabilities to run Window Fair Management. Memory and speed limitations result in Access Violation errors. If you are still using computers with Windows 98 on them, we highly recommend you upgrade to newer PCs with Windows XP. If you are planning to network computers together, you really need a computer with Windows 2000 or XP. Now is the time to develop your plan to upgrade equipment. If you have questions, please feel free to call the Help Desk for advice.

Do you have High Speed Internet Access Available to you?

Internet access allows you to receive our email newsletters promptly and keep informed when incremental updates are released. You do not have to have high speed internet access connected to your fair computer. If you have it available at home or at some other office, you can download the updates, write them to a CD or memory stick, and take them to install on the fair computer.

If you only have access to dial-up internet service, we are strongly encouraging you to purchase our 'Updates by Mail' service in addition to your regular support for the coming year. It can take two or three

Blue Ribbon Support Bulletin Archive: www.martechsys.com/support/news

hours to download the large incremental updates via dial-up; even longer if you have a bad telephone connection. The Updates by Mail service assures you that you will receive the incremental updates on CD in a timely manner.

Remember, you don't need high speed internet at the fair; if you have broadband access at home or at work, you can download the update put it on a CD or memory device and take it to the fair. Also, if you wish to receive update and other support notices from Martech Systems, Inc. please send us your email address. We will add it to your customer record and will send you a message when an update is ready for download. You can add your address by from this form: <http://www.martechsys.com/support/contact.php>

We only send out CDs for incremental updates to fairs subscribing to 'Updates by Mail'. Other fairs may download it from the website. The 'Updates by Mail' charge covers the additional postage and handling costs. You will receive further information on this option when you receive your 2006 support and update notice. Watch for it this coming December.

Extra Workstations for your Fair:

Your current user license allows you to network four computers for use at your fair. If you need extra computers during the fair, we now have a lease option available. Each additional computer license is \$75.00 per month/per license. You pay no additional support fees for these temporary licenses. We will issue you new Access Codes for the amount of time and number of users you have purchased. When the time limit expires, you simply enter your old Access Codes for 4 user licenses. If you need more information or wish to purchase additional temporary licenses, please call our office at 715-845-2794 and ask for Jennifer or email her at jenl@martechsys.com.

Check Orders:

If you have not ordered your checks yet, please remember that they do take 10-14 days to get printed and shipped. Also, check orders do require pre-payment. Please call our office to get a price quote based on the quantity that you need and get your orders in early.

Summer Support Office Hours through the End of September:

Weekdays: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Central Time
Saturdays: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Central Time

After hours and Sundays an urgent support callback line is available for urgent support issues until 10:00 pm Central Time. Call our normal office phone number at (715-845-2794). When prompted for an extension number, press 1 for Urgent Support. Leave your name, fair name, telephone number where you can be reached and the problem you are experiencing. Speak clearly and repeat your telephone number slowly. This will aid our support staff in returning your call.

After October 1st, the office will not be staffed during the weekend, but an on call support technician will still monitor the Urgent Support callback line on the evenings and weekends.

BACKUP YOUR DATA!!!

We still have too many fairs that do not make regular backups of their current Fair Management data. This is playing a dangerous game of chance. You get up in the morning and your toaster may not work. Things are just not made the way they used to be. You go to the fair office and your computer will not turn on. Things are just not made the way they used to be, except you had just finished putting in all your fair entries. Do you have a backup?

There was a meeting in the fair office last night. Someone was on the computer. Now your fair data is gone. We have heard this story. Do you have a backup?

Backups can only be made by you! This is your insurance against possible, unintentional loss of data. There is no good reason why you don't have a backup. Lost data is gone forever. If you do not have a backup that can be restored, you start the data entry process all over again.

How to make a backup:

1. If your computer has a writable CD drive, learn to use it. Write your data continuously to CDs. CDs are cheap.
2. Jump drives (small, external storage drives) that plug into the USB port are easy to use. Simply copy the data to the jump drive the same way you would copy data to a diskette. The great advantage is that they hold much more data. Best Buy had 128 mg. drives on sale this week for \$9.95. 1 gigabyte drives were only \$49.95.
3. Learn to use Winzip. This will compress your data so it fits on a diskette. If you do not have Winzip installed on your computer, it can be installed from the Tools folder found on your hard drive – C:\Program Files\Windows Fair Management\Tools. Instructions for using Winzip can be found on our website.
4. Do not attempt to use the Microsoft backups found on Windows 2000 or Windows XP. They are difficult to use and even more difficult to restore.
5. If you have questions, call our Help Desk for advice.