

The GPMATE Gazette

Ankeny, Iowa Training Schedule

September .. 15-17 ... (3 days)..... **GP MATE**
 September .. 18-19 ... (2 days)..... Crystal Reports

October 13-15 ... (3 days)..... **GP MATE**
 October 16-17 ... (2 days)..... Crystal Reports

November ... 10-12 ... (3 days)..... **GP MATE**
 November ... 13-14 ... (2 days)..... Crystal Reports

December ... 8-10 (3 days)..... **GP MATE**
 December ... 11-12 ... (2 days)..... Crystal Reports

Pricing:

GP MATE User Training..... \$1,495.00 (3 days)
 Crystal Reports Training \$ 795.00 (2 days)
 Combined (above) \$2,290.00 (5 days)

Two attendees from the same company:
 15% discount.
 Three or more from same company:
 25% discount.

A minimum of three students is required to hold a training class. We can accommodate a maximum of 6 students without sharing PCs. Classes fill up quickly! For registration forms, hotel information, and directions to the Ankeny office, contact:

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 jdlane@gpmate.net

Or go to www.gpmate.net and sign up on-line.

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...From the Prez...

Welcome to our Fall Gazette for **GP MATE** Users. I hope you will find this edition useful. As you will see in reading this, we have been very busy adding new features and functions to the system while constantly insuring that we can support current and evolving technologies. As always, we need to hear back from all of you on issues relating to what we can do to make your use of **GP MATE** easier and more beneficial.

We have decided to add a couple sections about development work in progress, so that you can get an idea of what's on the horizon. Along that line I would like to mention that GP Solutions is now a Microsoft Certified Business Partner. What this means is that we will soon be able to offer

seamless, real-time integration to several accounting and ERP packages using XML based messaging. Even though the initial products that will be integrated are Microsoft's (e.g. Great Plains accounting), this technology is easily adapted to other systems such as SAP, PeopleSoft, Oracle and others.

Finally, as part of a new project in Vietnam, we will be adding enhanced Lock-Out / Tag-Out capabilities to the Procedures system as well as an interface to the SureTrack / P3 Project Management System.

2004 User's Conference

The city of Chicago has officially been set for the **GP MATE** 2004 User's Conference. The Hotel will be located in the downtown area and the dates have been narrowed down to either late May or early June (June 8-11 is favored so far)

We want to hear from you. Please visit our web site www.gpmate.net or e-mail us at support@gpmate.net and offer any suggestions to what you would like to see and learn about at this conference.

- Break out sessions
- Training
- Demonstrations
- Food
- Special activities/events

Remember, this is **YOUR USER'S** Conference and we want to know what you want.

Please look for a special mailing to be coming soon with more details of fees, hotel costs, and a tentative agenda.

Alert to GP MATE Version 4 users.

There are so many new features and enhancements in **GP MATE** 5 that we felt it necessary to tell you about them again. You could be missing out on some important modifications.

New Features include...

- **Ad-Hoc Reporting**

Features quick and easy report writing for all users, no more third party software required. It has the capability to mix and match filter definitions and allows exporting capabilities to many popular file formats.

- **Seek & Retrieve**

This add on module can greatly improve reporting performance, a report that takes 10 minutes to run could now only take 20 seconds. We also recommend this module for anyone using large databases to speed up index searches.

- **Multi Plant Support**

A new optional module has been added to **GP MATE** to support sites that employ a shared server for multiple plants. This new module allows the system administrator to control inventory using a Master Inventory table. Sites can request that new items be added to the Master Inventory table. Upon approval, the new item can then be added to each site

- **New Toolbar and Menu Functions**

User-modifiable toolbars have been added to **GP MATE**. These Microsoft Office 2000 style toolbars will default to the toolbars you are used to, but can also be modified to reflect each user's individual preference. In addition, the user may define any number of new toolbars. Because the menu system is now part on the new toolbars, the user may define new sub-menus.

- **Test Equipment Maintenance**

A new system has been incorporated to allow preventive maintenance procedures to be defined on test equipment. This allows users to calibrate and document re-calibration of test equipment at regular intervals.

- **PM Revision Tracking**

You now have the ability to track PM revisions. This option allows revision tracking by work order type.

- **Closed Work Order Charges**

A new feature has been added to the **GP MATE** configuration window to control charges against closed work orders. The system administrator may now specify the number of days past the work order completion date that charges will be allowed to be posted to a completed work order. This includes both material issues and timecards. In addition, charges against time/material collectors will now be denied if the time/material collector has been closed.

- **Direct Returns**

A new Direct Returns window has been added to **GP MATE**. This window allows the user to specify the work order, item and quantity to return. The system will then locate the correct pick ticket and issue to return the item against enabling the user to quickly return parts.

- **Automatic Reorder**

Items created by the automatic reorder process may now be grouped onto purchase requisitions by supplier.

- **Purchase Requisition to PO Conversion**

A new menu item has been added to the purchase order menu to allow batch conversion of PRs to POs. The user simply enters the selection criteria and the system will display a summary window which will allow the user to view a report of the items to be converted or to convert all items selected to purchase orders. Once the POs have been created, a summary window is displayed to allow the user to review, cancel, approve or print the purchase orders created. This function was

designed to help streamline the processing of items created by the auto-reorder process.

- **Automatic ODBC configuration**

GP MATE will now configure ODBC drivers for the user automatically. The data source has been removed from the server configuration window to prevent incorrect data source associations. This means the user will not have as many problems with database dll errors when running reports.

- **European Common Currency**

GP MATE has supported foreign currencies for quite sometime now, but enhancements have been made to better support the EURO currency situation in Europe. Through this enhancement, the definition and handling of base currencies is no longer connected to the localization of the workstations.

New Enhancements include...

- Print Request button has been added to Work Request Window.
- Print options now configurable on a user-by-user basis.
- The printed work order schedule has been enhanced to allow the user to print only the schedule for the selected employee.
- Work orders, tasks, pick tickets, purchase orders, purchase requisitions and repair tickets that have been cancelled may now be reinstated by pressing the Cancel/Reinstate button on the associated data entry window.
- Changes to work order equipment items and accounts will now be allowed regardless of the status of the work order. Any change to the work order may be made at any time, even if charges have been posted.
- Work orders may now be completed with open purchase requests and orders. The user will be warned that these items exist and will be allowed to continue with the close.

- The system has been enhanced to allow the task craft to be changed at any time, even after scheduling. The user will be warned if any planning or scheduling information is about to be altered.
- A new dictionary item has been added to the PM table, PM_TRGT. This is the target due date which displays the date the PM should have been done.
- A new button has been added to the purchasing and work order entry windows that will allow the user to approve and print the item with one click of a button. Default printers can be defined for work orders, purchase requisitions and purchase orders which enables this function to send the item to the default printer without user intervention.
- Overtime and Inspection approval boxes have been added to the PM definition window. These items will now transfer to work orders generated by these definitions.
- The craft code database has been enhanced to include craft overtime and double-time rates. These rates will then be used to calculate equipment work order costs.
- A switch to exclude an item from the automatic reorder process has been added to the Inventory data entry window.
- A Utility to rebuild the lifetime usage information has been added.
- Users may now be required to give a reason for manually changing inventory quantities or price. This is configurable on the **GP MATE** configuration window. In addition, a "Print Barcode Labels" button has been added to the inventory data entry window.
- A new utility item has been added to the Inventory Administration menu to allow reservation data to be rebuilt.
- All reports in the system have been reviewed and updated to the latest Crystal Reports version 9 formats. Selection criterion have been removed from the report definitions and added to the standard **GP**

MATE filters table. This will allow users to change selection criteria for any report without the need to purchase Crystal Reports.

- The auto-generating key counter system now supports date formats in the prefix with auto-counter reset at the beginning of the next period.
- Record fields may now be used as the recipient for an alert. For example, you can now enter an alert to be sent to the purchase order buyer by designating the field {PO_BUYR} as the alert recipient or the work order reported by using {WI_RPBY}.

These and many more items are available, don't miss out! Call for your free quote to upgrade today.

GP MATE SQL

GP Solutions' new product, **GP MATE SQL**, is scheduled for beta release late in 2003. The new product has the same functionality and look and feel as **GP MATE** - in fact, a slightly modified version of the standard **GP MATE** client (the program that the user sees) is used with the new version. The difference is that data is stored in *Microsoft SQL Server* rather than *UniData*. An *Oracle* version of the product is scheduled for release in 2004.

The "middle layer" software, the interface between the client and the database where the majority of business rules are implemented, was developed in object-oriented *Java*. This re-write of the server processes in *Java* will enable this version of **GP MATE** to more easily support web services, such as connectivity with eCommerce systems, accounting systems, web based user interfaces and web based reporting and analysis tools.

Use of *SQL* databases (*SQL Server* and *Oracle*) for **GP MATE** makes the product easier to integrate with other standard software packages that use these databases. Development of custom reports also becomes easier because standard query tools like table joins become available. Organizations that

already have SQL expertise will find the normalized structure of **GP MATE** SQL data more closely in line with other software products on site.

Companies interested in beta testing **GP MATE** SQL should contact Jim Brenza at 800-234-3267 or e-mail jbrenza@gpsonline.com. Technical questions about the product can best be answered by Tom Murphy tjmurphy@gpmate.net.

Wireless Storeroom

In a joint development effort with Linden Cogeneration in Linden NJ, GP Solutions is happy to announce support of wireless terminals for **GP MATE**.

Code-named Campoli-unplugged at the Linden plant, they are now able to do inventory lookups and PO receiving right from the floor of the storeroom or from the unloading docks. The implementation was done using Intermec 2400 series wireless terminals and 2100 series wireless access points.

The Intermec 2415 unit, chosen by Linden, acts just like a **GP MATE** client to the server. The user is required to log in just like sitting at their desk. From there you have a set number of **GP MATE** functions you can do. The initial implementation will have 4 functions, Spare Part Lookup, PO Receiving and Parts Issue/Return.

The spare part lookup function allows you to either scan or key in a part number and it returns the SPI record to the terminal to display the information. Information like location, qty on hand by location, description are some of the key fields. Additionally it has a built in filter where you can key in part of a description and it will find matching records and present them to you in a popup. You can select the part from the popup and it will return the record to you.

The receiving function allows you to scan the PO number or key it in and the PO is returned to the terminal and a receiving screen is presented. You can enter qty received or use the quick receipt function to populate all the fields.

Direct Issue>Returns work exactly like the standard **GP MATE** client. You need a part number and a work order number. A configuration selection lets you decide if you want them done real time (default) or put in a batch for review and process at a later date. The latter is great if you have contractors doing their own part picking or weekenders with no supervision and you want a supervisor to review them before letting them go to the system.

We have added it on to **GP MATE** 5.52.622 but full implementation can be expected in **GP MATE** 5.53.623. If you would like to talk about wireless terminals, consider installing them or have a special project please contact Jim Lane at 800-477-4968 in the Iowa office or Jim Brenza at 800-234-3267 in the Baltimore office.

In the Works

Asset and Functional Location Management

GP Solutions, Inc. is currently undertaking a development effort to enhance the management of asset information. All asset information is being moved from the equipment database to a new asset database to better track movement of assets throughout the maintenance environment. The equipment database will become a hierarchy of functional location data which was the original intent of this database. These modifications will also enhance tracking of spare part assets making the repair system much easier to manage. This will also allow for much tighter tracking of asset value for accounting purposes and the ability to track an asset from cradle to grave.

Interface to Microsoft® Great Plains Accounting

As alluded to by the Prez, a development effort is currently underway to implement a *real-time bi-directional* interface to Great Plains accounting. This interface will automatically synchronize inventory, purchasing and receiving information. This is an exciting development and will readily transfer to other accounting packages.