M I N I S I S   N E W S L E T T E R

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Friendship - Przyjazn - Reut - Freundschaft
Amistad - Amitie - Vriendschap - Amicizia
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Dedication, deligence and delivery are the three *d's* I ideally like
to prescribe to. Unfortunately, stress, success and being stretched
have overcome me. Basically, this is my way to apologize to all
MINISIS users and subscribers for the delay in writing this
newsletter. Our success as of late, 43 percent increase in sales over
fiscal 1997-98, has translated into a very busy and often stretched
MINISIS Systems Group. However, I think we all agree, it is a most
beneficial sign for MINISIS, the MINISIS Systems Group/IDRC and our
international user community.

WOO HOO! FIRST INTERNATIONAL MINISIS USER MEETING (MUM'98) IS ALL SET

The MUM'98 has evolved as a result of client feedback and a dramatic
increase in sales of MINISIS and related products. The MUM will
consist of a two day conference to provide the latest information and
developments with the MINISIS software. In addition, the MUM will
provide an excellent networking opportunity to meet fellow MINISIS
users and help determine future MINISIS features and capabilities.

The MUM'98 will consist of a full two day agenda with a social event
on each evening to enable our clients to discover Ottawa, the capital
of Canada. The MUM has been purposely designed to provide
fundamental information on the software, new features and provide
details on how to implement these new features. Through indepth
forum sessions, MINISIS Systems Group personnel will help demystify
MINISIS and our very promising future. The MUM will provide clients
with the opportunity to meet MINISIS Systems Personnel and explore
partnerships, liaisons and experience the next wave of the MINISIS
suite of software.

The MUM'98 will provide a chance to see the new software and meet new
faces or reacquaint yourself with past friends and colleagues.

In addition, the MUM'98 will be followed by specialized training
session for three days. The training period will consist of one
two-day (2) training in the installation and implementation of the
MINISIS Web Interface (MWI) and one-day (1) of advanced Q and A SMA
(v8.03) training. The training sessions will have only 8 seats
available. The eight seats will provide an excellent opportunity to
learn in a cost effective and intimate environment with your peers.

Who should attend? The MUM'98 is for IM/IT managers, programmers to sophisticated end users. Anyone who is currently involved with the design, development or maintenance of MINISIS databases and applications would benefit from this meeting. The MUM'98 is rapidly approaching but if you want to attend, don't delay and contact us at 1-613-236-6163 ext. 2335 or ext. 2247 to register. The cost is USD300 for the conference and includes three breakfasts, two lunches and evening dinner and champagne tour on a heritage trolly around the National Capital Region of Canada. In addition, there will be a wine and cheese reception on Parliament Hill.

WELCOME ABOARD!: NEW CLIENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MINISIS COMMUNITY.

In addition to many old HP3000 users switching to Version 8.X we welcome some new clients including:

ASTIS (Arctic Institute of North America)
Public Museum of Grand Rapids
Ministry of Culture, Citizenship and Recreation Archives of Ontario
L'ambassade de Burkina Faso a Ottawa
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

PROFILE: M2A - MINISIS Management for Archives

If you are looking for an economical, integrated, multi-functional archival management application, then the MINISIS Systems Group has the solution. M2A (MINISIS Management for Archives) a valued addition to the already comprehensive MINIS IS suite of products. This tailored application for Archival Management created via the SMA (Standard MINISIS Application) enables members of the state, private, or NGO/educational information community to manage their mission critical tasks, at the same time permitting further customization to meet the changing demands of this ever-evolving industry.

The application is designed and built to meet the general requirements of small and medium archival institutions, the design being based on information received from the Archives of the University of Ottawa during both the conception and development processes. With over 350 pre-defined fields dealing with the aspects of fonds and collections description at different levels, M2A also allows the management of these fonds and collections. Only a slight customization of the system is required to fulfil the particular needs, both present and future, of any institution. Also, due to the simplicity of the system, any later customization can be carried out (after initial training) by the client thus avoiding both the initial premium attached to a fully tailored system and the posterior consultancy costs of outside technical staff.

General Information

Fully Bilingual, RAD compliant
350 plus pre-defined data elements
10 pre-defined report formats
5 pre-defined query formats
template for the WWW Interface
SMA - Standard MINISIS Application - for easy customization
Fully multi-media compliant
User-friendly with context-sensitive help

M2A System Functions

Acquisitions
Treatment
Finding Aids
Loans Management
Location Management
Risk Management
Executive module
Reproduction
Copyright
Artifact Conservation

The M2A application, as with all MINISIS applications was created to
take full advantage of Windows based technologies. As a result,
(despite MINISIS's multi-platform capabilities) M2A is best suited
for archives using Windows 95 or Windows NT operating environment.
M2A can also be integrated to other existing applications such as the
MINISIS built library (M2A) and cultural assets/museums (M3)
applications.

With the MNISIS support plan, M2A users enjoy automatic receipt of
updates and software enhancements; newsletters and user meetings
according to geographic location; unlimited access to technical
assistance - a 24 hour 1-800 number for direct intervention, fax for
sending documents, E-mail for transfer of upgrades and fixes, plus a
72 hour turn-around reply guarantee anywhere in the world.

The MINISIS Systems Group, under the auspices of the International
Development Research Centre, has been supporting its more than 500
clients from over 60 countries for more than 20 years. At MINISIS,
we can maximize resources and reduce costs while offering a fully
functional, flexible archival management application and development
tools that can grow with your institutions requirements. Supported
by one of the most respected not-for-profit organizations in Canada,
we believe this to be an indicator of the quality of the products and
services that MINISIS has to offer your institution.

Currently, the MINISIS Systems Group has commenced on another
alliance to create a full-scale archival tool to be called *ARCHIS*.
ARCHIS is being designed for large scaled archives. This
application is RAD compliant and will support archival descriptive
processes from fonds, collections level down to the item level.
ARCHIS along with the M2A product will guarantee our clients that
MINISIS is the archival IM/IT leader in the world.

MINISIS TIDBITS = *MINBITS*:

*Next Newsletter to be focused around the MUM'98 conference. It
will include: highlights, what you missed and MUM'99

*MINISIS personnel will be traveling to Santa Monica for the Museum
Computer Network Conference (Sept. 24,25,26/98)

*We would officially like to announce the arrival of Emily to Bill and
Margaret Swift. Her arrival has been a long time coming and we are
certain Emily's long travels have found her a wonderful home.
Congratulations, Bill and Margaret!

*Next release schedule for October'98 (SMA Version 8.04)
contains new GUI features, update to the Worksheet Designer, rich
edit text fields and much more!

* Are you contemplating updating your web site or are just creating it?
Want some help? Contact the MINISIS Systems Group for quotes.

WANT MORE INFORMATION? Do not hesitate to contact Christopher
Burcsik, cburcsik@idrc.ca, (613-236-6163 ext2335) or Stephen
McCullough, marketing@idrc.ca, (613-236-6163 ext2247). We are
committed to ensuring our clients receive first rate and personable
service. We welcome your comments and feedback so that we can better
serve you and your software requirements.

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To subscribe to our electronic format newsletter, or for further
information on the MINISIS Suite of Products, get in touch with
the newly formed MINISIS Marketing Team by:

    Visit the Minisis web site:
        http://minisis.idrc.ca/minisis/newsltr.htm

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