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VE-PROMS USERS:

Please remember to send us your latest RO data so that we can test it before your RO Upgrade release!!

Be sure to visit our web site at www.volian.com

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Important Information about the VE-PROMS 2002 Upgrade

- ★ In October, we began the first phase of testing for the 32-Bit RO Editor Upgrade. At the current time, the release is scheduled to go out sometime in January. Prior to receiving the release, each computer will need setup with the .Net Framework and MDAC. Information on these items is on Page 2 of this newsletter.
- ★ In the last newsletter, we reported that each plant would have the choice to select either Microsoft Access or Microsoft SQL Server 2000 as the new database type. As we progressed in the development of the new version, we decided that Microsoft Access would be appropriate for the RO database, thus SQL Server will not be an option.
- ★ When your existing RO data is converted to 32-Bit, the graphics contained in the RO folder will also be converted if they are not a graphics type supported by the .NET framework. The file types supported are: *.bmp, *.emf, *.exif, *.gif, *.jpg, *.png, *.tif, and *.wmf. ROs that use a graphic file type other than these will be converted to *.tif files. However, any graphics from the DOS version of VE-PROMS (those ending with .pix) will NOT be converted. These .pix file types were never available with the Windows version of VE-PROMS.



*"Information Technology -
Solutions That Work"*

WELCOME BACK

Volian welcomes back Indian Point Unit 2 and Indian Point Unit 3, now owned by Entergy Nuclear Northeast, into the VE-PROMS Maintenance and Upgrade Program. They have signed up to receive maintenance and upgrades through the end of 2003.

John Jenko will be traveling to Buchanon, NY, in the near future to provide on-site training on the use of VE-PROMS.

*The Volian offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28th & 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.
The offices will also be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th & 25th for the Christmas holiday.*

How to Prepare Your Computer For the 32-Bit RO Upgrade

The new RO Editor will be using the Microsoft .NET technologies. The Microsoft .NET technologies runs on the following Windows versions:

Windows 98
Windows NT

Windows NT
Windows 2000

Windows XP

The new RO Editor will need to have the MDAC and .Net Framework components installed on each computer that runs VE-PROMS. Whether or not you need to install one or more of these components depends on which Windows version you are running and if any of these components has previously been installed. Microsoft offers a Component Checker that you can run to determine which version of the needed components are currently installed. We will also be providing these component installs (and the Component Checker) on the initial VE-PROMS\32-Bit RO Editor release CD.

- ★ NET Framework Install (dotnetfx.exe) – The .NET Framework is an engine of sorts that runs Common Runtime Language programs (Microsoft's answer to JAVA, for those who know this terminology).
- ★ MDAC (Microsoft Data Access Component) – Microsoft currently has multiple versions on their website available for download, as well as multiple service packs. For the new RO Editor, you will need to install version 2.6 or greater. If you have 2.6 or are going to install 2.6, you will also need to download and install service pack 2. Version 2.7 is touted as being the same version that is provided with Windows XP. Therefore, if you are running Windows XP, you shouldn't need to download or install any MDAC components. The Component Checker will verify this.

The Volian website (www.volian.com) will also have an area called "Preparing For the New RO Editor." This area will contain links to the Microsoft .NET Framework and MDAC download sites.



Important Request for RO Data

During preliminary testing of the 32-bit RO Editor upgrade conversion, we have found several inconsistencies with some plants current RO databases. These findings emphasize how important it is that we receive a copy of each plant's RO database before issuing the new release.

Once we receive your RO data, we will determine whether or not your RO database has any inconsistencies and notify you as to what they are and how to correct them BEFORE you install the new release.

VE-PROMS User Tips and Information:

- ◆ When printing VE-PROMS documents without an HP5 or HP5Si driver, the dpi setting should be 300.
- ◆ Volian strongly recommends running the Data Integrity Checker (DIC). We may recommend running the DIC when procedures are modified in order to check for items that may not have been checked with previous releases of the DIC. This function should be considered part of normal maintenance of your procedures.
- ◆ Over the years and through all the changes made to VE-PROMS, there are files stored in your VE-PROMS data that are superfluous or have become obsolete. Listed below are the files that can be deleted from your VE<PLANT>\<DATA> folders where <DATA> would be PROCS, AOPS.PRC, MASTER.PRC, etc.:

usage.*	usageset.*	*.tmp
password.dat	used.ro	*.zip (old .zip files may be deleted at the user's discretion)
setpoint.*	setpnt.*	
setpnt.*	dump.dat	

Printing VE-PROMS Reports to a File

Did you know that there's a way to print RO reports to a file? By setting up a Generic Text Printer and selecting it as your default printer, the output is printed to a file entitled "text file." This file is placed in the WINNT\System32 folder (or in your Windows\System32 folder). Listed below are the basic steps to setup a Generic Printer:

1. Select Settings|Printers from the Start Button.
2. Select Add Printer.
3. Add Local Printer.
4. Select Generic Printer and Text Only; click Next..
5. Keep existing driver; click Next.
6. Name the Printer "Generic" or as desired.
7. Follow the prompts on the screen.
8. Before printing reports to a file, make sure that the Generic Text Printer is set as the default printer.

VE-PROMS 2003 Maintenance & Upgrades Renewals

In August, the VE-PROMS Maintenance & Upgrade letters were emailed to those user's whose maintenance agreements expire in the next few months. Invoices for 2003 Maintenance & Upgrades have started going out. Keep in mind that once again, we are offering discounts for purchasing two or three-year contracts.

VE-PROMS 2003 Upgrade Plan

Last November, Volian sent a letter to each plant describing our plan to extend the useful life of VE-PROMS (see Volian letter VLN-USERS-M02-103-01). This letter described why we feel moving to a 32-bit environment for VE-PROMS is necessary. As you know, the first part of the conversion to 32-bit is being completed this year with the conversion of the RO editor. During this process, the software department at Volian has learned a lot about what it takes to convert to the new Microsoft .Net 32-bit environment. We will use this experience to help us in the next phase of converting VE-PROMS to 32-Bit.

The next step in the overall conversion is the detailed planning phase. Beginning in January 2003 and continuing through February, Volian will be developing a detailed plan for the conversion project. When the plan is complete, we will let you know the scope and schedule for the project.

The upgrade of the main VE-PROMS program to 32-bit will be a multi-year upgrade. Upon completion, the useful life of VE-PROMS will be extended for an appreciable amount of time. This will protect each customer's investment and commitment to VE-PROMS. Of course, we'll need your continued support to accomplish such an ambitious plan.

VE-PROMS Training

John Reuter of the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant visited Volian for a two-day VE-PROMS Usage training session in September. If anyone is interested in on-site or off-site training, please contact us.

Our Email Addresses Have Changed...



Send email to:

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