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Chairman's Update

The Autumn Focus Day was well-received, with a good number of members doing battle with the M6 traffic jams. Our thanks go to Mark Turner and Hadley Industries for their excellent hospitality and the interesting tour. We are also grateful to Andy Donn for his efforts in arranging the programme.

Progress continues to be made on the Infor Enhancement process, and our efforts are now directed towards getting further improvements, in particular the feedback of the outcome of Enhancement Requests. The User Group block vote for Enhancement Requests was used for the first time at the last Focus Day, and we shall see what effect this has had in due course.

The User Group was represented at the recent Inforum in London, where our 10th anniversary was celebrated with cakes and champagne. Of particular interest were the new contacts made among users of ERP LN. Thanks to all members who attended the event.

We welcome to the committee Neal Matthews from Beamlight Automotive, further details later in this Newsletter.

Baan Users 10th anniversary celebrations at Inforum 08 in London

It is once again approaching the time of year for subscription renewals. The Committee has decided the financial position of the User Group is such that we shall be able to avoid any increase in rates this year. The User Group will continue to provide value to users by putting on events at no additional cost to members.

We are working at increasing membership from among the small but growing band of ERP LN users. I hope very much that existing members will continue to support us.

Feedback, comments and suggestions from members are always welcome. Committee Member contact details are at the bottom of the page.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Focus Days

On 8th December Gordon Brown announced that investment in IT is critical in these difficult times, comparing IT to the road and rail infrastructure as key to investing out of the downturn. What better way to invest than to build on your existing investment?

After a successful visit to the UK leg of the Inforum European Roadshow at the beginning of November, plans for the next Focus Day are well underway. A couple of new items have come up as a result of the conference on which Infor will be able to expand on for us.

The main topic of interest - MyDay – the new ERP LN homepage function that will be made available for Baan users. Built on the 'DEM version2', we hope to find out how much of the functionality we should expect for Baan and when it will be available.

Remember BIRT? We spoke with an independent BIRT specialist at Inforum and hope to get some of the inside story of BIRT and find out how we can get it working with Baan.

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MORE NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Another new product for Baan (supplied by a company well-established in Holland) - Form Designer is an output management solution for Baan that is fully integrated and managed from within Baan itself. Available for Baan IV, Baan5 and LN, we hope to have a UK ERP LN user talk about their implementation of Form Designer.

Another result from Inforum, we are also amassing a decent list of UK ERP LN users who are keen to share their experiences.

We shall be following-up the voting submitted from our last meeting at Hadley's in October. We look forward to hearing the results and subsequent improvements to the 2009 Baan enhancement process.

In summary there should be plenty of content whether you're looking to move to LN or sticking with Baan for the foreseeable future. The date is set for **5th March 2009** and the venue shall be the Infor offices at **Blythe Valley Park, Solihull**. As ever, if you have any topics you would like to see covered contact us at the office.

Committee News
Welcome to Neal Matthews from Beamlight Automotive Seating Ltd who has recently joined the committee.

Neal has worked at Beamlight, a provider of Automotive and Rail Seating Solutions (and their previous incarnations Melfin, Tricom, Magna, Intier and ATY) since the early 1990s, initially as a developer before being involved in the Baan implementation in 1999.

Since going live on a new server in 2005 running 4c4 ags0 the main thrust of his work has been in bespoke

reports, EDI and barcode scanning solutions bringing the software closer to the shop floor.

Enhancement process
2008 saw a renewed impetus from Infor towards the Baan enhancement process. This is extremely exciting as it represents a prime opportunity for users to shape the future of the product(s) and how it satisfies their operation's requirements and ongoing challenges.

To maximise this renewed energy, the Baan User Group arranged its 2008 Focus Days around the enhancement schedule. This allowed us the opportunity to gather our members' requests and ideas and submit them on their behalf, distribute the worldwide consolidated ballots and collate the received votes. This year we have tried to identify key enhancements and place our collective strength/votes behind these focused selections. However, members were equally as welcome to vote on their own individual requests. We have received a fantastic response from our membership in 2008 which we hope will go from strength-to-strength.

A welcome highlight of this year's enhancement process has been the regular communication between Infor and the Baan User Group. One consistent complaint levelled at the process over the years (and not specific to Infor) has been the lack of visibility once a request has been submitted. Submitted enhancements can be omitted from the final voting lists for a number of reasons. Possible reasons are:

a) request has been automatically accepted without the requirement for voting,
b) request is out of scope for product/too large a change to be introduced to older releases, or
c) enhancements included in Baan IV and 5.0 voting lists are automatically included in the ERP LN release (once accepted) and will not appear in the ERP LN voting list. However, the requester does not receive notification of these decisions.

Two of the enhancements that we submitted were found to be omitted from this year's voting lists. Through our contacts with Infor we have been able to resolve their status:-

- **SM-00000-05493** - enhancements to enable user-defined field validation within any data entry session. **Status** : automatically accepted, release/date to be delivered unconfirmed. This feature has potentially enormous benefits to all users of Baan/LN software.
- **SM-00000-06384** - cycle counting phantoms - BaanIVc4. **Status** : Rejected due to being out of scope and too large to introduce to the older releases.

We have highlighted the importance of developing this area to Infor who have promised to improve the request status traceability in 2009. In the meantime, if you would like us to keep tabs on a submitted request(s) please let us know.

The success of this year's process has interested another of Infor's UK User Groups. The SyteLine User Group heard of our success and is now looking to determine an Enhancement Process for its own product. We will be working closely with them in defining a common process which will hopefully deliver benefits for both User Groups and their respective members.

Thanks again for a terrific response in 2008!!!

Infor News

New Enterprise Application Review
Over time and in response to economic or customer pressures, business requirements will change and organisations may find gaps between the original goals and today's business objectives. This will impact on the ability of your existing ERP system to meet these new objectives and changing processes.
The Enterprise application review is a new approach to help drive more value from your ERP, remedy

potential functionality gaps and increase user skills in order to realign your enterprise systems with your new ways of doing business.   Click here to find out more.

EEF and Infor to help companies reap productivity rewards of investment in IT and lean
UK manufacturers are being offered advice on how to manage their businesses through the current downturn by raising innovation performance and increasing productivity by targeted investment in IT and lean solutions.

The advice is available through a series of seminars in the new year presented by EEF, the manufacturers' organisation and INFOR on the back of a new research report from the two organisations *'Manufacturing IT – Boosting productivity by managing performance'*

The seminars will be held on:

Wednesday 21st January 09 - EEF, St. James's House, Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1JJ
Thursday 22nd January 09 - EEF, Station Road, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9TL
Tuesday 27th January 09 - EEF, Mount Pleasant, Glazebrook Lane, Glazebrook, Warrington, Cheshire.WA3 5BN
Wednesday 28th January 09 - EEF, Derwent House, Town Centre, District 1, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 7SR

To find out more about this new report and for further details on the seminars visit http://www.eef.org.uk/manufacturingIT/

Recent Press Releases
BAE Systems Company Selects Infor for Integrated ERP and Product Lifecycle Management

Infor Enhances Infor ERP LN for Discrete Manufacturers

Infor MyDay Helps Users Conquer Their Working Day

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