



Q2

A newsletter of developments at QuasarSystems

Issue 56 -September 2008

This forum is used to inform you of changes and enhancements we've made to our Reinsurance Administration System as we continue to improve the processing of R² - *The Reinsurance Resolution*.

We're Moving Forward

Do you remember the DOS system days? All the R² programs were originally DOS programs, with DOS menus (because a mouse was unheard of). When Windows came on the technological scene, we designed Windows versions of each of the programs in the R² system, including new versions of the menus. While the R² Windows version was up and running in 1997, it took some companies up to eight years to implement it. It seems some people just don't like change. This led us to use a different approach for implementing the expanded system.

A few years ago we developed an expanded version of R². The "expansion" came in multiple forms. The primary changes were to 'expand' allowable policy numbers from 10 to 15 characters, policy sequences from one to two characters, and face amount fields to more than 8 characters (to go with multiple currencies). Inforce files were redesigned to contain these larger fields as well as adding information not previously stored. Trailer files were expanded to accommodate the larger fields, as well as adding user date/time stamps on each record.

Initially, there were two **different** versions of each program for use with the original and expanded systems. However, our programmers have been working hard to

enhance these programs for "dual-use."

Dual-use means that a **single** version of each program can be used with both expanded and non-expanded inforce files and input files (extracts, trailers, etc.). While a few programs will continue to remain separate (qsre17p and cvpo19p) all but two of the more than 100 programs are now converted. The remaining two are the primary transaction programs qsre01p and qsre02p. These are the core of the R² system, and the most complex of all of our programs. We are currently working on these programs to make them dual-use as well.

Several companies are already using the expanded system, and the rest are using some dual-use programs. So each client is starting to use some expanded programs without yet having to change the input or output layouts. Some programs, such as the newer valuation programs can even be set to read non-expanded inforce and write expanded output.

What is the advantage in this? For the programmers, it means maintaining only one set of programs. For the users, it means that when you do decide to move to expanded inforce and if you decide to move to expanded input, you know the auxiliary programs already work and your testing will be that much easier. ☺

We would be delighted to answer any questions you might have. If you would like a back issue of Q² please send an email to us at Q2@qsi-r2.com. The main topics of past issues were:

Issue 1 - Multiple Life Processing	Issue 21 - Standards for Backup Procedures	Issue 38 - Dates in R ²
Issue 2 - Retention Management	Issue 22 - Warnings and Errors	Issue 39 - Cleaning up System Directories; tracing through TX database
Issue 3 - Trailers, Help Screens Producer	Issue 23 - Manual Overrides and Conversions	Issue 40 - Sequences; Status 19
Issue 4 - Report Generator and Retention Schedules	Issue 24 - CF Flags and Resorting	Issue 41 - Expanded System
Issue 5 - Transaction Processing and Reinsurance Overrides	Issue 25 - Parsing	Issue 42 - Technical Considerations
Issue 6 - Input Extracts	Issue 26 - Manual Override O, Qsxt19p	Issue 43 - Allocate Error
Issue 7 - Schedule S	Issue 27 - Priors and Allocation	Issue 44 - Automating routine processing; Testing
Issue 8 - Report Generator	Issue 28 - Premium & Allowance Information	Issue 45 - RM Duplicate Report
Issue 9 - Year 2000	Issue 29 - Command Line Ad-hoc, qsre10p.exe	Issue 46 - Printing Rate Tables
Issue 10 - Backups	Issue 30 - Schedule S, Financial Adjustments	Issue 47 - Valuation Reserve Options
Issue 11 - Viewing Inforce Files	Issue 31 - Hot Keys, Printing Files, Electronic Files	Issue 48 - Coding Valuation Reserves
Issue 12 - Extracting Test Data, Status Codes, Transaction Codes	Issue 32 - Event Extracts, How to Rerun a Previous Cycle	Issue 49 - Side Files
Issue 13 - Trailers	Issue 33 - Electronic Output Viewing Package, Manual Override T	Issue 50 - Going Paperless
Issue 14 - R ² Windows	Issue 34 - End of Year Processing	Issue 51 - Manual Override F
Issue 15 - What's in a footer?	Issue 35 - Initializing New Company Area	Issue 52 - Anatomy of an Error Message
Issue 16 - Expanded Files	Issue 36 - Programs in Review	Issue 53 - Transaction Codes
Issue 17 - Retention Management, Reserves Q&A	Issue 37 - Waivers: Past and Present	Issue 54 - Gross Premium and Allowances
Issue 18 - T\$POSrt.Idx, Trailers Q&A		Issue 55 - Suppressed Errors Report and Qsrf01p
Issue 19 - Sorting Files		Issue 56 - Dual Use Programs
Issue 20 - Testing Billing/Valuation Samples		

The current version of the Electronic Output Viewing Package is 02c.



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