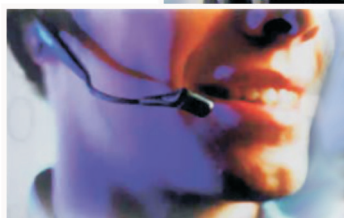


Direct from AIMS

Spring/Summer 2009

A Look Inside:

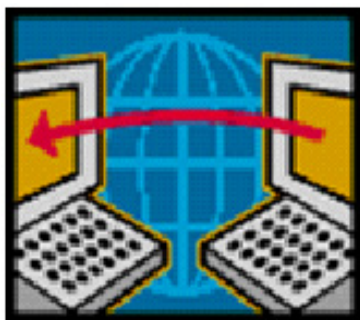
- Meet Our Team! Spotlight on Jo Ann Lewis
- Protect Your Business with MX Logic
- AIMS Achieves Microsoft Gold Partner Status



Let Electronic Tax Filing Directly from COMPAS Commander Make Your Tax Filing Easier!

Most states either allow or require petroleum marketers to send monthly fuel tax information to their departments of revenue in electronic form. A handful of states allowed or required such filing as far back as fifteen years ago. Because of the efficiency of electronic filing and the lower incidence of errors with e-filing, it is not surprising that e-filing is nearly universal now.

There are basically two forms that e-filing of fuel tax data takes: EDI (electronic data interchange) format or “flat file” comma-delimited format.



“EDI” means a standard format for exchanging business data. The standard is ANSI X12 and it was developed by the Data Interchange Standards Association. ANSI X12 is either closely coordinated with or is being merged with an international standard, EDIFACT.

An EDI message contains a string of *data elements*, each of which represents a singular fact, such as a price, product model number, and so forth, separated by *delimiter*. The entire string is called a *data segment*. One or more data segments framed by a header and trailer form a *transaction set*, which is the EDI unit of transmission

(equivalent to a *message*). A transaction set often consists of what would usually be contained in a typical business document or form. The parties who exchange EDI transmissions are referred to as *trading partners*.

ZyTax (www.zytax.com) and Husker Oil.com (www.huskeroil.com) are the two EDI providers with whom AIMS has teamed to give our customers EDI-type fuel tax filing in those states that require EDI format.

The following table illustrates the electronic filing options for both COMPAS 8 and COMPAS Commander.

(cont. on page 4)

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is the computer-to-computer exchange of structured information, by agreed message standards, from one computer application to another by electronic means and with a minimum of human intervention.



Meet Our Team!

Jo Ann Lewis

We'd like you to meet another one of our staff members, Jo Ann Lewis. The more complex product a company sells, the more important the quality of its personnel becomes. This is absolutely true in the software business. AIMS' personnel translate the potential benefits of AIMS' software into actual benefits for our customers.

Jo Ann is AIMS' second most senior staff member. There are not many people who can equal, let alone surpass, Jo Ann when it comes to possessing the depth and breadth of knowledge of how software needs to work inside a petroleum marketing company.

Jo Ann started working at AIMS in November of 1981. She was recruited by AIMS' founder, Dr. Bob Canterbury, who knew Jo Ann through a mutual church membership. Jo Ann retired from AIMS in March of 1998 and then spent the next four years working for FEMA disaster relief services. With the beginning of the COMPAS Commander project, Jo Ann rejoined AIMS. So much for "retirement."

Jo Ann is one of the hardest-working people you will ever meet. She learned how COMPAS worked by writing its first User's Manual. She was given the COMPAS software and a primitive

text editor (remember, this was in 1981) and was told to "figure it out" and "write it down." It was also difficult in those days to do support work over the phone because remote-access software did not



Jo Ann also enjoys traveling. This is a photo taken from a trip she made to Europe in 2006.

exist, and she had to rely on her knowledge of COMPAS, her patience, her good manners and often times her intuition to understand what the customer needed to fix their problem. As AIMS' sole trainer in those early years, Jo Ann also became a road warrior, doing on-site training all over the country.

Jo Ann's most satisfying AIMS' work project was the part she played in helping design COMPAS 7.0, particularly the Tax Tables and General Ledger report control—two concepts that have been retained,

updated and improved in subsequent versions of COMPAS. She sees her skill at producing documentation as her area of greatest expertise.

Naturally a conscientious person, Jo Ann gets her daily motivation to test and document from a desire to see things work right and help make COMPAS Commander the standard of the jobber software business. She uses an HTML text editor, Microsoft Paint

(for screen captures) and Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio to examine data base files.

Jo Ann has two surviving children and four grandchildren. She currently lives in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area. Outside of work, Jo Ann volunteers through her church to teach English to immigrants. She has also developed a talent for painting in oils.



Protect Your Business From E-Mail-Borne Threats with *MX Logic Email Defense Service*

Greeting cards, sound files, movie files, attachments and content of all sorts flow towards your office each day via email. If you ever receive any spam in your Inbox, AIMS highly recommends the product and company that we ourselves use: MX Logic Email Defense Service by MX Logic, Inc.

MX Logic Email Defense Service utilizes the Stacked Classification Framework, which consists of multiple layers of spam-fighting techniques, to aggregate and analyze spam-likelihood scores. Reputation filtering is the first line of defense. MX Logic looks at the message's SPF/Sender ID record, uses blacklists, whitelists and URL filtering, examines HTML tags and JavaScript, scans for worms and viruses, uses a multi-language filter to identify phishing messages regardless of language, and performs deep content analysis to block attachment-based spam, including PDF files and image-based spam. MX Logic also utilizes a statistical Bayesian algorithm to determine the probability that a message is spam, based on how often elements have appeared in other spam e-mails. Finally, MX Logic applies its own proprietary rules based on the company's analysis of global spam. Messages that may or may not be spam are stored in user-specific quarantines accessible online.

The MX Logic Email Defense Service is a type of product known as "software as a service" (SaaS), *which means nothing is installed on your computer*. If you subscribe to this service (as AIMS does), your incoming email is actually first routed to MX Logic's servers, so mail first is filtered through Email Defense. Spam messages are quarantined and legitimate mail is directed to you. As such, deployment is straightforward. An account is created with your billing address, domain name and e-mail addresses. Your system administrator gets instructions on how to change the mail server's MX records. The team at MX Logic will walk your system administrator through the procedures.

AIMS' President, Robert Canterbury said, "We have been using MX Logic for over 4 years, and I am extremely happy with the service. We tried a spam filtering software product prior to moving to MX Logic, and it was not nearly as effective as MX Logic. During our 4+ year history with MX Logic, we have not had one virus infection in our entire company."

If you are interested in this service, contact the MX Logic Southeast Sales Team at 303-865-8712, ***and be sure to identify yourself as an AIMS customer.***



AIMS Renews Microsoft Gold Partner Status

Once again, AIMS has achieved Microsoft Gold Partner status!

Gold Certified Partners represent the highest level of competence and expertise with Microsoft technologies, and have the closest working relationship with Microsoft.

At this level, AIMS has access to the resources and support we need to stand out in the marketplace, including a technical services coordinator, access to the Partner Knowledge Base, priority listing in Microsoft directories, and other top-level benefits not offered to lesser partnerships.

AIMS had to achieve several competencies to obtain the Gold level, and it is the only software company with the Gold Partner rating that develops software exclusively for wholesale distributors of fuels and lubricants.

All this results in better products for our customers because AIMS has access to and can deploy the latest Microsoft technology.



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Electronic Filing, continued from p. 1

For those states that accept flat file comma-delimited data, COMPAS Commander can meet their requirements without the need for either Husker Oil.com or Zytax. COMPAS 8.0 does **not** have flat file export capabilities.

COMPAS 8.0	ZyTax (EDI)	COMPAS Commander	ZyTax (EDI)
	Husker Oil.com (EDI)		Husker Oil.com (EDI)
			Flat file comma-delimited

With the proper information from a state’s revenue department, AIMS can engineer Commander to export tax data directly to the revenue department of any state that will accept flat file comma-delimited data.

To send fuel tax data electronically, using either Commander or COMPAS 8.0, the first step is to build the tax tables using the “build” options in the tax reporting program group. From the resultant tax tables, the various state taxing schedules are generated. After the user determines that the tax schedules are correct, another program builds the tax export table. The final step is to run a third program that actually sends the data either to a state revenue office or to ZyTax or Husker Oil.com.

Handling tax reporting is not a profitable activity. Minimize the time your staff spends dealing with fuel taxes by implementing electronic export!

Office Holiday Schedule

Our offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Labor Day - Monday, September 7, 2009
- Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2009
- Christmas Day - Friday, December 25, 2009
- New Year’s Day - Friday, January 1, 2010