



March 2004

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February Minutes

Minutes of the February meeting held at Finelite, Inc.

I want to thank Diane Thornbrugh and Attila Bardos for hosting the February meeting. Not only that, they have graciously offered us the use of their facility on a permanent basis!!! They have a beautiful and spacious conference room and their facility is centrally located for the majority of our members. Thanks a million!!!

I will suggest that we continue with our practice of taking turns hosting the lunch portion of the meeting.

Diane also made a presentation of how Finelite uses Microsoft Access to augment Macola's order entry, inventory control and MRP modules. They have made extensive use of access to customize Macola's functionality to their unique needs.

Exact Software presentation of Screen Designer

Nadine Lai from Exact Software made a presentation of the Screen Designer product and its functionality. Nadine did a great job of showing us how easy Screen Designer is to use and demonstrate some very practical applications of how it can be used. A couple of the common uses would be to increase security of the system by blocking out fields from users or using it to set defaults on reports that you commonly run. Probably the most important advantage of using Screen Designer is to take advantage of the user defined fields that are available in each of the Macola tables. Taking advantage of these user defined fields will allow you to better customize the module to your particular business needs.

Exact Software User Survey's

I want to thank those of you who provided me a copy of your survey. I found the feedback interesting and was not surprised at the common issues raised by each of you. I received six surveys in addition to mine. I summarized the results in an Excel spreadsheet and wrote a cover letter to accompany them. I am attaching the summary and cover letter for your reference. This was a good example of how we can work together as a group to improve the quality of the service being provided by Exact.



Survey results



Cover letter

Exact National Users Conference Planned for 2004

Exact is currently in the process of organizing a national user conference for 2004. The tentative dates are October 3-6 in Chicago. The user conference would include round table discussions for each of the modules, hands on training opportunities and presentations by VAR's and third party products for Macola.

April Meeting Topic

The April meeting date has been changed to April 22. Don Farber of Exact Software will do an online presentation of Event Manger. Event Manager is Exact's solution to automate processes based on conditions

that have been predefined by the user. Examples might be: sending email order acknowledgments to your customers or dunning letters for past due balances.

After the presentation, we will have closed session for members only to discuss group business. One item to discuss is extending invitations to other VAR's and third party vendors to attend our meetings.(Some of the other user groups invite other VAR's to each meeting for the open part of the meeting.)

We will end the meeting promptly at 2:30.

Next meeting:

Thursday, April 22 at 12:00 pm
Hosted by: Hosted by: Finelite, Inc.
located at 30300 Whipple Rd. in Union City.

Future meeting dates and topics:

June 10: Advanced Crystal Reports
August 12: Bar coding solutions
October 21: BOM and POP modules
December 9: Integrated shipping solutions (StarShip and other vendors)