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Welcome

By Meg McLaughlin, CEO

As Chief Executive Officer of Accenture eDemocracy Services, I want to let you know how excited we are to have acquired the public sector side of election.com. As most of you know, we had a very strategic alliance with election.com and have taken it to the next level. You'll see many changes over the next several months, including the reinvigoration of this newsletter, to keep you better informed of our activities and progress. As you read through this quick update, please let us know what else you'd like to see. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you as we move forward.

On some customer news, Marion County, Oregon goes live!! Congratulations to Al Davidson and his team for successfully implementing ESM. They are currently using ESM for their September 16th election.

And Johnson County, Kansas has upgraded to release 9. Thanks to Kris Headrick and team for successfully implementing the new release.

Following are columns on support and productivity to help you with your daily activities.

We appreciate your support in working with us during this transitional period as Accenture applies our methodologies, practices and procedures to the Fayetteville operation that supports your software implementation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Meg McLaughlin

The Support Corner

Election Precincts – They really are our friends

Almost everyone understands the concept of a precinct. But why does ESM have this abstract thing called an "Election Precinct"? To save space, we'll lessen the shock and just refer to it as the dreaded "EP".

Simply put, a precinct is a geographic grouping of voters who probably don't know each other, but are willing to find Uncle George's basement garage on Election Day to perform their constitutional right of casting a secret ballot. So why do we need EPs?

Now, if none of the following ever applies to your state/county, please turn around to the next article because, for you, precinct and EP are the same animal:

- For an election, you sometimes combine two or more precincts together and just print one poll book (roster, voter register, etc.).
- You assign a poll worker to different polling locations (poll sites) on occasion and/or allow them to perform different roles and want to keep track of who "did what and when".
- For a special low-turnout election, you want voters in several precincts to vote at the same location that is not their "normal" polling place (combining poll books is optional).

When you use the Election Wizard to set up your first election, ESM automatically sets up a one-to-one correspondence between precinct and EP. For instance, precinct "143" becomes EP "EP143". The "normal" polling place that

you assigned to the precinct over there on the System Functions => Districts => Precincts tab is automatically listed as the physical polling location for the EP. Since ESM is not all-powerful, however, you still have the task of assigning the poll workers to each of the poll sites.

Since EPs are election specific (they are recreated automatically by ESM for each new election), you essentially have a nice display for each election (the Poll Sites tab) that allows for the tracking of your physical polling locations and the poll workers you want working at each one. This tracks a poll worker who works Uncle George's garage as a judge for one election and the VFW post as a clerk for another election. You can even use the EP to assign backup/alternate workers. The really good news: ESM keeps track of all this history for you at no extra charge. EPs also give you the ability to temporarily change the polling location for a precinct of voters to another location (for this election only) and not mess up your "normal" polling places. In addition, ESM allows you to keep track of alternate polling places for an EP (Uncle George might be cleaning his garage on Election Day so you need to recruit a backup site just in case). A week before the election, you receive that dreaded phone call, but simply make the backup location the "active" polling location and send out reminder cards to all the affected voters and poll workers.

For that case where you want two or more precincts to vote at the same location and print only one combined set of poll books (CONSOLIDATION), follow the instructions in your manual on how to use the Consolidation tab in the elections module. With a few clicks on this tab, you reassign precincts to the same EP. HINT: you can even rename that EP if you want to reflect the combination for easy tracking.

For that case where you want two or more precincts to vote at the same location and still print separate sets of poll books for each precinct (SHARING), just assign the same temporary polling place to each of affected EPs. The reminder cards you send to the poll workers will all show the same polling place, but when you run the Poll Book Wizard, ESM will still set up the separate poll books.

Simply put, Election Precincts offer more flexibility by allowing the sharing or combination of polling locations for an election.

An Important Announcement

We are in the process of upgrading our last few customers to version 9.x of ESM. If you have not scheduled your upgrade, please do so with our Customer Service Desk as soon as possible as earlier versions of ESM will no longer be supported after 12/31/2003.

Virus Protection

There has been a recent flood of internet viruses. We strongly recommend you subscribe to, and frequently apply, virus updates from the major virus protection software vendors protecting your organization from potential disruptions.

Productivity Tips

Simultaneously Viewing Multiple Voter Screens

In your daily usage of the Voter System, there are often occasions when you find yourself needing to view more than one screen at a time. One such instance would be when you are generating a report for voters within a certain District, but you are not quite certain which District you should select as criteria for the report. Nevertheless, you do recall the name of a Voter that is in the District for which you want the report to cover. If you could just pull that Voter's record up, then you could quickly identify the District in question. The problem is that the report is mostly set up now, and you don't want to close the report screen and lose the setup to return to the Voter Information screen and pull up the necessary record.

But, wait, there is a way: from almost every area throughout the Voter System, the Voter Main Menu can be accessed by simply pressing the [F5] function key. When pressed, the Main Menu will pop up to the front allowing full access to all areas of the system while the previous window is still visible and available on the screen in the background. This allows for easy viewing and comparing of related data in different areas of the system.

Scanning Multi-color Documents

Scanning documents with text that is of different color (e.g., red or blue) often results in errors. You can eliminate these errors by highlighting the text with a "yellow non-reflective" highlighter (yes, the color is important). Once you highlight the text, the document will scan just fine. Thanks to Sharon Ricks of Marion County Oregon for this time saving suggestion.

Team Member Spotlight

The Accenture eDemocracy Services team appreciates the unique demands of election administration because in many cases, they have faced those demands themselves. We are proud to have a team with extensive experience in elections administration and election reform. In the next couple of newsletters, we'll showcase some of those team members so you can get to know them better. Here we present to you Emmett Fremaux, our Managing Director of Business Development.

Emmett brings more than 22 years of elections experience to Accenture eDemocracy Services. From 1983-1996, he served as the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics, and from 1974 – 1983, he served as the Chief Deputy Elections Officer for New Orleans (Orleans Parish), Louisiana.

Emmett has also worked directly with the cutting edge issues in election reform for many years. He was a Founding Member of the National Association of State Election Directors, a 10-year Member of the Federal Election Commission's

Advisory Panel, and a technical assessment consultant for the International Foundation for Election Systems. His long association with the Election Center dates back more than 20 years.

When the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics conducted a nationwide search of election administrators to help rebuild a collapsing electoral system in the Nation's Capital, Emmett was selected. The result was a model election program in D.C. that soon went on to incorporate the major election reforms of the period—"motor voter" registration, outreach-oriented mail-in and agency-based registration, systematic voter roll maintenance, and fail-safe voter protections. These reforms were implemented well in advance of their enactment in the landmark National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). While pioneering these reforms in the District of Columbia, Emmett played an active role in the legislative process leading to passage of the NVRA and worked with election officials nationwide on its implementation.

Today, Emmett is helping to lead the effort at Accenture eDemocracy Services to assist state and county election officials meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act. Emmett can be reached at 703-947-2774 and at emmett.h.fremaux@accenture.com.

Let us Hear from You

Contact your Customer Service Desk representative (1-888-262-2647) with your ideas and feedback. This is your newsletter and we want to keep improving.