



“Bits & Bytes”

July 21, 2006

www.ratex.com

www.visualratex.com

Welcome!

Can you believe we're in mid-July already? Why is it that summer goes by so quickly? I hope you have been able to vacation and spend time with your families and friends. Here is our next release of Bits & Bytes. I hope you find the newsletter informative. If you have a topic you would like included in a future newsletter, please let us know.

I look forward to catching up with those of you attending RUG this year in Jackson Hole.

Jere Warner, President, RBS

Bits & Bytes Table of Contents

Development/Support

- ISBN-13 “Live”
- EDI Document News
- E-Book Integration
- OTB/Planning Tool

VisualRATEX Updates

Sales – Updates from the Road

Development/Support

ISBN-13 – Release 8.01 “LIVE”

The ISBN-13 release is **LIVE** at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) Bookstore!! UIC put the ISBN-13, 8.01 release of RATEX into production on July 12, 2006. RBS would like to thank UIC for volunteering and leading the way into the new ISBN-13 world.

VisualRATEX ISBN-13 – The ISBN 13-VR version is currently being tested by RBS. The software will be ready for release in mid August.

There will be a session at the RATEX Users' Group meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming on the ISBN-13 conversion and release on Tuesday, July 25, 2006.

RBS understands that fall rush is approaching and the last thing you want to think about is upgrading your software. Unfortunately this is not an upgrade that you can pass on. Many of you have already experienced books coming in with the new 979 prefix. Please don't wait too long to get on the ISBN-13 upgrade schedule. The deadline is January 1, 2007. Several clients have already contacted RBS and have set a date for their upgrade. If you are coming to RUG this year, the upgrade calendar will be available for you to review the dates that are open for upgrades. Please see Jeff Zayicek to get scheduled. Those of you not attending RUG, please contact Jeff at jmzayicek@ratex.com.

Reminder This release will require a change to custom Text and Trade forms (PO's, CB's and Shelf Tags) and book price tags. Also any custom program interfaces that send or receive an ISBN to/from a web site will need to be reviewed.

Technical Notice This upgrade will require a data conversion for all of the existing book records in Text and Trade from the ISBN-10 format to the new ISBN-13 format. The server will need to have enough disk space to allow the new 8.01 software and live accounts to co-exist with the current accounts for the data conversion. The software libraries are about 375,000K.

To find out the size of your live data directory, please do the following:

1. At TCL, type sh to shell out to unix.
2. Move to the /ratex/prodlive directory and type the command:

```
$ du -s -k 7.61 (replace 7.61 with 7.01 or 7.02 or 7.60 or 7.70)
```

3. The number displayed next to the release level is the size of the live data file system (i.e. NNNNNN 7.61)
4. NNNNNN is the number of 1K blocks taken up by the file system. To that number, add 375000 (the size of the software directory). The resulting number is the number of 1K blocks needed.
5. You can see how many blocks are available by typing df -k and looking in the 'Free' column for the /ratex file system. Example:

```
$ df -k
```

```
Filesystem    1024-blocks    Free %Used    lused %lused Mounted on
/dev/hd_s_vlv 19660800    9075160 54%  146474    3%    /ratex
```

6. If the amount of free space is less than the amount of calculated disk space needed from steps 1-5, then you need to allocate more disk space to the /ratex directory prior to the upgrade.

EDI Document News (Electronic Data Interchange)

In June's Bits & Bytes Newsletter we informed you on 3 new EDI development projects; Canadian Pubnet, MBS, and Baker & Taylor. Here's an update;

- 1) Canadian Pubnet – Modifications will be ready for testing at UBC in the next couple of weeks. After the EDI documents are confirmed on both ends, the software will be available for the rest of our Canadian clients.

- 2) MBS - RATEX now supports EDI handling of want lists with Missouri Books (MBS) , including processing the responses to update the pending/purchase order with actual quantities.
- 3) Baker & Tylor – RBS is still working to get the full cycle EDI interface with Baker & Taylor/Majors working at the beta site and once that is tested it will be available for release.

All EDI interfaces are being tested for ISBN-13 compliance. There should be no interruption of EDI when migrating to the new ISBN-13 8 .01 release of RATEX or VR.

For more information about EDI, please contact Mark at [mcbauannerb@ratex.com](mailto:mcbaumannerb@ratex.com).

E-Book Integration

The Follett E-Book modifications will be ready for legacy users to accept after RUG (VR users should be able to accept the modifications in early August.) In order to use the E-Book interface, you must be on Universe 10.1 or later. Please contact Jeff Zayicek to schedule your patch.

For more technical information, please contact Mark at mcbauannerb@ratex.com.

OTB/Planning Tool

RBS is in the early stages of a new OTB/Planning software solution. A team, consisting of clients and RBS staff, recently had a virtual meeting to analyze the requirements for the software. This new product offering will only be available in VisualRATEX. Look for more information in future newsletters.

For more information, please contact Kevin at kmayhew@ratex.com .

VisualRATEX (VR) Updates

On June 21st, the University of British Columbia (UBC) became our latest client to go live on VisualRATEX (VR). They were also the first to pioneer the new serialized inventory software in VR. Anna Li and Ken Wong, the UBC project leads, did a great job managing the conversion process to VR. The next set of schools on the migration path to VR include; UCSD, BYU, Mount Royal, McMaster, New Mexico, Auraria, Arkansas and Ryerson.

If you are interested in learning more about VisualRATEX, check out our VR web site at <http://www.ratex.com/visualratex/> or contact sales at sales@ratex.com.

Sales – Updates from the Road

RBS starts the new fiscal year with a new client. We are happy to announce and welcome the University of Arkansas Men's Athletics as the most recent addition to the RATEX family. The Men's Athletics' department will utilize the VisualRATEX product to operate several GM Apparel stores across the campus and within several of their sporting venues.

The VisualRATEX road show has been busy presenting the product to a growing prospect queue as well as existing clients looking for a crash course on the product and what it offers for their stores.

For more information about sales, please contact Mario at madimascia@ratex.com

. . .

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please send them to Jessica at ksobonya@ratex.com.