



“Bits & Bytes”

June 8, 2006

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Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of the *RBS Newsletter*, “Bits & Bytes”. RBS received a lot of positive feedback from the 1st newsletter. Thank you to those of you who sent back comments. Our goal is to provide this kind of communication on a regular basis. Please feel free to contact me directly if there is anything else we could provide you in these updates. At the end of each segment there is contact information in case you would like more details or have questions on that topic.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the newsletter. Please share this with your staff.

Sincerely,

Jere Warner, President, RATEX Business Solutions

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Role change at RBS

RBS is happy to announce that Kevin Mayhew has accepted a new full time position as Vice President of Information Systems. Kevin is responsible for all System related aspects at RBS including; new software development, support programming, and application deployment. Kevin has worked with the RATEX product for 10 years and has been a full time contractor for RBS since 1997. Many of you already have first hand experience working with Kevin on various projects.

Please welcome Kevin Mayhew to the RBS Team!

For more information on RBS staffing, please contact Jere at jbwarner@ratex.com.

Development/Support

ISBN-13 – Release 8.01 Update

The ISBN-13 release has gone to beta at the University of Arkansas Bookstore. RBS would like to personally thank Rita Boydston and Chris Sposato for the time and effort which they are putting in testing this release. The plan is for the beta testing to continue until 6/21 and then convert their production accounts to the new ISBN-13 format.

The new release has been designed to allow users the ability to enter existing ISBN-10 numbers anywhere the application prompts for an ISBN, converting them to the proper ISBN-13 format.

This release will also 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.

There will be a session on the ISBN-13 conversion and release on July 22nd – 25th at the RATEX Users' Group meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

The ISBN-13 release of the RATEX code, will soon be ready for release. If you are interested in scheduling the upgrade, please email Jeff at jmzayicek@ratex.com

ISBN-13 – Web Presentation

The legacy release of ISBN-13 is now complete and ready for a beta site. If you would like more information on the ISBN-13 change taking place in the industry and could not attend the RATEX ISBN-13 class at CAMEX, RBS will be offering a web presentation on June 15th at 2 p.m. EDT.

If you would like to attend the web-cast on ISBN-13, please email Jeff at jmzayicek@ratex.com for a password and URL for the web presentation.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Updates

On the EDI front, there have been several recent EDI enhancements to RATEX that will save stores both time and money by reducing operational costs.

- 1) RBS is currently in the final testing stages exchanging EDI documents with MBS Text exchange. We should be ready to beta test at a site by July.
- 2) Full EDI document exchange with Baker & Taylor/Majors Books is complete and in testing. UCSD has agreed to beta test the software and have begun the process. Once that is complete, the software will be ready for general release, hopefully by the end of the month.
- 3) The Pubnet interface with the Canadian Booknet/Pubnet has moved into the final testing phase. The new code should be available for our Canadian clients this summer.

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.

For more information about EDI, please contact Mark at mcbaumannerb@ratex.com.

E-Book Integration

RBS is in the process of finalizing integration between POS*Liberty and Follett to offer E-books this fall. There are some modifications to the textbook maintenance screen (to flag titles as E-books) and in POS*Liberty to authorize the E-book and print the access information for the customer. The coding will be finalized in the next couple of weeks and should be available for testing in early July.

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

VisualRATEX (VR) Updates

The University of Connecticut went live on VR on May 23, 2006. Next up is the University of British Columbia. They are scheduled to go live the week of June 19, 2006.

The serialized inventory software development in VR is almost complete. We have started testing the changes in VR and hope to have the code ready for general release later this summer. The serialized inventory is currently live at UCLA; UC Davis in legacy RATEX.

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

Sales – Updates from the Road

RBS is pleased to inform the RATEX community that the sales activity for the past six months has reflected a significant increase in prospect and client activity for RATEX Business Solutions and the VisualRATEX product, in comparison to recent history. The new activity is primarily attributed to several well attended industry tradeshows which RBS attended. The successful tradeshows coupled with a more complete and robust solution provided RBS the opportunity to present a viable solution to these prospects. In the coming months, we expect to close new business and add additional bookstores to the active roster of VisualRATEX clients.

In addition to pursuing new business opportunities, we have been engaged in presenting the VisualRATEX solution to existing clients via several different forums. These forums have included onsite presentations as well as presentations facilitated via a remote Webinar.

Sales Special for June '06 – Monarch/Paxar 9855 price tag printer with knife and internal Ethernet adapter for \$2,950.00

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

2006 RATEX Users' Group Meeting Update



The RATEX Users' Group Meeting is just around the corner and will be here in seven short weeks!

The meeting is being hosted by BYU-Idaho and being held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming from July 22nd to July 25th. If you have not made your hotel reservations yet, it is strongly advised that you do it as soon as possible to insure your hotel choice, the hotels are almost full. When you make your reservation, tell the hotel that you are with the Ratex User's Group. Information on the conference and room reservations can be found at the RUG website http://www.rug.umn.edu/2006_RUG_MEETING.html

The deadlines for the meeting are as follows:

Hotel Reservation Deadline:	June 22 nd , 2006
RUG Conference Registration Deadline:	June 22 nd , 2006

RUG Conference Payment Deadline: July 7th, 2006

Attending from RBS will be Jere Warner, Mario DiMascia, Mark Baumann-Erb, Kevin Mayhew, and Jeff Zayicek. This year, the agenda contains a user track, tech track, VR track and Legacy track. Information on the conference, registration materials and the agenda have all been mailed out by the RATEX Users' Group.

If you have any questions on the conference or did not receive a registration packet, please feel free to contact jmzayicek@ratex.com or any of the officers found on the RUG website <http://www.rug.umn.edu/OFFICERS.html>

RBS Holiday Schedule

This year at RBS, we will be closed Monday, July 3 in addition to Tuesday, July 4, because of the Independence Day holiday. Our office will close at 5pm on Friday, June 30 and reopen on Wednesday, July 5 at 8am.

For more information about our holiday schedule or hours of operation, please contact Jeff at jmzayicek@ratex.com.



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