

# IceNet



*A Software Newsletter for the Packaged Ice Industry*

## RouteMan Release 3.0 Available in February 2006

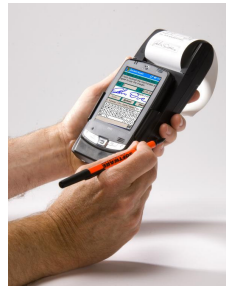
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Software Advantage, Inc. is pleased to announce Release 3.0 of the RouteMan — Route Management System. This is a major release and contains many new features that have been requested by our customers.

All existing RouteMan — RMS customers with a current Support Plan will receive the new software at no additional charge. A representative of Software Advantage, Inc. will be contacting you soon to schedule training and the actual upgrade.

The new software release is both a host and a handheld upgrade and contains many new features. Some will be outlined below. Several of the major enhancements are outlined in separate articles in this newsletter.

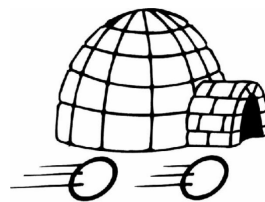
- Added Product Inventory and Lot Control. See additional info in IceNet.
- Added Call Log. See additional info in IceNet.
- Added Message Alert. See additional info in IceNet.
- Added support for Distributors. See additional info in IceNet.
- Added function so that each handheld device can independently set the invoice width (2 1/4, 4 and 8 1/2 X 11 inch invoices).
- The host color scheme is now user selectable.
- Enhanced the security options for each user.
- Restructured the reports menu for easier use.
- Added the option to post payments at either the account level or the invoice level.
- Changed the pricing scheme to a “true” hierarchy.
- Added an alternate tax rate for dock versus route sales
- Added a “credit” button for returns or replacements.
- Other minor changes were made to improve operations.



## Ice House Distributing Chooses RouteMan

Our featured customer for this issue is Ice House Distributing in Shreveport, Louisiana. Clyde Tew is the President of Ice House Distributing and had been looking for a route management system for some time. RouteMan was not the first system he looked at, but it was the system he decided

to purchase. Clyde has found that the system has really saved his company a lot of time. Ice House Distributing converted to RouteMan in April 2005. Read more about RouteMan RMS at Ice House Distributing in the enclosed profile.



### Special points of interest:

- *Release 3.0 Announcement*
- *Product Inventory and Lot Control*
- *Call Log*
- *Message Alert*
- *Distributor Support*
- *Ice House Distributing Is Featured Customer*

IceNet is brought to you by Software Advantage Inc. offering the latest in route management technology with its RouteMan — Route Management System. RouteMan — RMS is specifically designed to support handheld computers and printers.

Learn more about RouteMan — RMS by visiting us on our website at:

[www.SoftwareAd.com](http://www.SoftwareAd.com)

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## RouteMan Adds Product Inventory and Lot Control

### Product Inventory

Managing product inventory is a critical and time consuming task in the distribution business. "How much product do I have to sell and where is it," is an often asked question. RouteMan — RMS release 3.0 contains a new inventory control function to aid in this process. This release allows a company to keep up with quantities of product in the warehouse as well as product loaded on each truck. As product is manufactured or purchased from a supplier, it can be added to the warehouse. As product is loaded on a truck, it can be transferred to the truck inventory. As product is sold from the truck, the inventory is reduced.

Using the "On Board Inventory" feature, a driver can determine, on the handheld, the quantity remaining for each product

at any point in time. The new "Driver Sales Summary" report will now also list the quantity of each product returned on the truck. The driver has the option of returning the remaining product to the warehouse each day or having it remain on the truck for the next days route.

### Lot Control

In some cases where food products are involved, the product will have a lot number stamped on each item. It is important for potential recall purposes to know which lot numbers were sold to which customers. RouteMan—RMS release 3.0 has the ability to track sales by lot number in conjunction with the Inventory Control feature.

Both the Product Inventory and Lot Control features are optional and can be selected on a product by product basis.

## RouteMan Adds Call Log

The new Call Log Function provides a way to record phone calls, notes and other contacts from your customers. In this way, you can refer back to previous notes for details. The function records the date, time, title, and text of the message. If the message requires some action, it can be assigned to any valid RouteMan user and given a due date. A report is available to print out a list of outstanding messages.

This report can then be given to the appropriate person as a reminder of the task. Using the Call Log, can eliminate the need for notepads and sticky notes that often are lost.



## RouteMan Adds Message Alert To Handhelds

With the current release of RouteMan — RMS, notes can be recorded by customer on the host. Each time a handheld is sync'ed, these notes are downloaded to the handheld for viewing by the driver. However, up until now, the driver had no way to be alerted to an urgent or new message versus an information only message.

New to release 3.0 is the "URGENT" check box on the notes tab. When this check box is checked, the driver and host users are reminded of the message each time that the customer record is accessed. This message must be acknowledged before any other operation can be performed. Using this feature, the office can communicate important customer information to the driver and be assured that the driver sees the message.

## How Many Handhelds Do I Need?

This is a question we are frequently asked. You will need one for each route truck you have and at least one spare per location. You may also want to consider extras for use by drivers making non-scheduled deliveries and one for dock sales. Handhelds are particularly useful for these drivers because they are often not familiar with addresses, prices or taxes. Software Advantage will be happy to consult with you in making this decision.

## RouteMan Adds Distributor Support

It is not unusual for one company to deliver product to accounts on behalf of other companies. This is particularly true for chain stores where one company may have the contract for all stores but arrange with other companies to deliver to some of the stores in outlying areas.

With RouteMan — RMS release 3.0, accounts can be marked for billing by another company. Invoices for these accounts will print with the name, address, phone and logo of the billing company rather than the delivering company.

If both the delivering and billing companies use RouteMan — RMS, then the invoices can also be electronically copied from one RouteMan — RMS system to another. No need to re-key the data!!



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