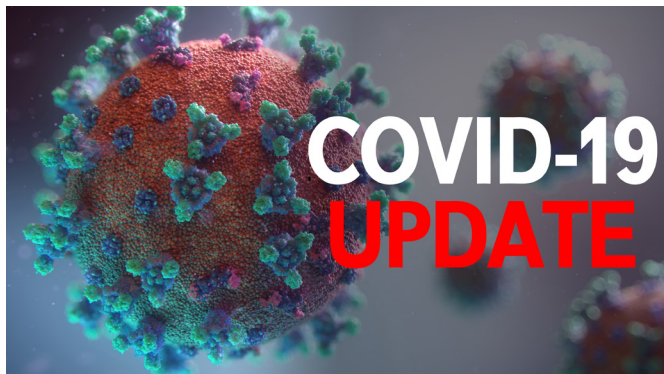# COVID-19 - CATALYST UPDATE

Given the current circumstances in regard to the coronavirus situation, we have decided to take the following steps, in accordance with government advice, to protect our employees and customers. We aim to minimise the impact on our service whilst minimising direct face to face contact.

- Our sales and software support teams will be working from home for the time being but will continue to be able to provide email, telephone and remote support.

- Given that the government advice is to stay at home unless absolutely necessary, we will not be carrying out any scheduled on-site visits unless deemed an emergency and therefore essential. Where possible, we will do our best to carry out the work remotely but it may well be necessary to postpone the work until restrictions are lifted.

We would ask that as much contact as possible is conducted via the usual email addresses or our support form on our website rather than telephone to allow us to continue to provide the support required to you all.

If you need emergency access to Platinum, please see the General News section of our website for tips on how this can be done using Google Remote Desktop.

In these unprecedented circumstances, we regret the necessity to take these steps but consider them to be an appropriate response at this time. We genuinely wish all our clients and staff well in these trying times and hope that the virus and surrounding issues do not affect you adversely. Hopefully we can all stay healthy, both physically and financially, to flourish into the future.

As always, "Your success is our priority".

A Word From Les

I'd like to open this months 'A word from ...' with a few words about the recent outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). My thoughts go out to those who have been affected by this virus and I appreciate as I'm sure we all do the work from various groups around the world to find a solution and to care for those in need of it. Here at Catalyst, the health and wellbeing of our colleagues, customers and their families is important so we have made some changes. See our general news section on our website. There are tools (Google Remote Desktop, VNC or TeamViewer etc) to help with working from home and again our website news has further details. You will have links to these articles on your Platinum login screen. The development team here are all working from home, keeping team spirit going with team chat tools (We are using Slack but there are numerous others) and email. Our department has been paperless for years so working digitally from home is very possible.

As always we have been busy getting software out to help you with your business, both in Desktop Platinum and Platinum Online.

Some key projects we have recently released include :

Desktop Platinum
- An overhaul of our Bulk Payments in the Purchase Ledger including a payment review along with payment authorisation.
- Long term hire has been implemented in our new Booking and Hire module to deal with those regular invoices that occur every defined period for equipment you have out on long term hire.
- Asset register features have been added to our Nominal Ledger regular postings.
- We have released the changes required for the 2019/20 payroll year end.
- We have released the changes required for the 2020/21 payroll year start.
- Stock Control compressed invoices can now execute a configurable report with details of the items on the invoice for more detailed analysis.

Platinum Online
- Our Sales Prospecting module now has a section in Platinum Online, allowing entry of new prospects, details of any contacts (meetings, email, phone etc). Very useful for sales people that out on the road or when attending a trade show.
- Barcode entry has been added to the online reports allowing you to scan a stock item or unit and report on it. Interesting side note here, we can supply weather resistant labels to label large equipment outside. Scan the equipment and the resulting report can be configured to give you details of the equipment. Price, purchase date or any information available from our wide ranging report generators all while you are next to your equipment outside.
- Adding images has been added to Customers and Suppliers.

We have some exciting projects in the pipeline as well.
- Written and in quality control/testing is a modification to the Purchase Ledger Postings that allows you to review and assign any media against a supplier to the document you are posting. This complements the adding images we recently released in Platinum Online allowing staff to add any receipts in real time to a supplier and then have the accounts department post those images directly against the purchase ledger postings speeding the whole process up.
- We will be tackling the issue of media archiving this month as well. Do you really need images of units you sold all those years ago? Some clients have expressed a desire to be able to purge or archive media automatically reducing the size of backups and the dataset freeing up storage space.

I'd like to finish off by saying that we are monitoring advice given by the government and public health departments in regards to COVID-19, should anything change here at Catalyst details will be posted on our website, your login screen and social media feeds.

Parts & Price Files Update

Our parts & price file service ensures any stock bought and sold through your business remains profitable for you.

It works by placing an automatically updated, manufacturer supplied price file in your system that ensures stock items bought and sold through your business are kept up-to-date with the most recent pricing, so you can be confident they remain profitable for you.

We have a huge catalogue of price files available to our customers, which has recently been expanded to include files from; **Husqvarna (Groundscare), Ransomes Jacobsen, Vaderstad, Briggs & Stratton and Kuhn.**

For a full list of our available parts & price files please scan the QR code below. For more information on this service, please contact our sales team.

wwww.twitter.com/CatalystDMS

www.facebook.com/dealermanagement

www.youtube.com/CatalystDMS

Stay in the Know

Ensure you remain completely up to date with all of the latest Catalyst and Platinum updates by subscribing to our RSS Feeds. You can use your Outlook email as an RSS Reader and get instant updates to your email inbox. You can subscribe to various RSS Feeds, including;

• Catalyst News
• Platinum News
• Parts & Prices Updates
• Developer News

Simply visit our website (www.catalyst-uk.com) to find all the information you need on how to subscribe.

Hardware for Remote Working

Since the recent government lockdown, it has now become essential for people to work from home in order to keep their businesses running through this difficult time.

At Catalyst we stock and build a wide range of hardware enabling you to successfully work remotely including; laptops, desktop PC's, tablets and more. We offer no obligation consultations on your hardware needs, so you can ensure you're getting the hardware best suited to you.

All hardware can be delivered directly to your door, ensuring you don't even have to leave the house!

If you're interested in discussing your hardware requirements in order to work successfully from home, please contact our sales team via email at sales@catalyst-uk.com.

March Platinum Updates

The past month has seen multiple developments within Platinum, as always all updates can be viewed on the 'Platinum Updates' page of the Catalyst website. Here are just a few of the handy new features released to Platinum users over the past month...

• **Asset Register** - Asset register features have been added to the regular postings option of the nominal ledger. It is now possible to depreciate assets by a percentage of either start or current value.

• **Workshop Diary Manufacturer Column** - A column for unit manufacturer has been added to the Workshop Diary tool, allowing jobs to be sorted and searched

• **Stock Compressed Invoices** - When printing stock invoices containing compressed details of workshop jobs it is now possible to print a configurable report to provide extra details for each job listed on the invoice.

• **Payment Review in Local Currency** - The payments review option can now optionally run in local currency automatically creating currency fluctuation adjustments as required.

For more information on any of these updates please contact our sales team who will be happy to help. For regular updates on the Platinum software please see the 'Platinum Updates' page which can be found by scanning the QR code below. All recent updates can also be seen on our Twitter or Facebook.