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IMPORTANT - BILLING CHANGES AT CATALYST

From 1 January 2017 we will be sending out invoices and statements via email. Please send your preferred accounts email address to Sarah at sarah.lissaman@catalyst-uk.com

NEW ORDERING REGIME

Yes I know that we all hate change! Sadly sometimes the reasons become just overwhelming. Stock reordering is one such example. It's a key area, stock is expensive to hold and inconvenient to run out of so improvements here really matter. Our brand new ordering option was launched earlier this month and Initial feedback has been very positive.

The stock reordering option has undergone a complete overhaul both in appearance and functionality. Obviously this will be a big change for many users but alas the old option was rather showing it's age. Hopefully the many new features, ease of use and many new ideas will make the transition worth a little short term unfamiliarity. It's now completely up to date with latest windows standards, far more flexible and easy to use. It's become much simplified to change reorder levels and rules whilst actually calculating an order and a completely new process even allows orders to be placed onto suppliers in an intuitive and interactive way.

For the really brave it's now incredibly simple to let the computer work out reorder and maximum automatically based on previous sales and system settings. Fear not the system recommendations can still be over-ridden by hand and the system settings tweaked to suite individual businesses. This new ordering style is scheduled to replace the option currently available via purchase order processing when a direct order calculation formula is added so even if you do not currently use the stock reordering program please have a good look around it as the purchase ordering alternative is shortly due for retirement.

Windows XP Upgrade Offer

Reminder! Catalyst is ending support on Windows XP operating systems at the end of 2016. We have no choice. Microsoft themselves axed their support in April 2014 and we have continued to support it for as long as we could. It is now essential for us to take advantage of later standards to take benefit of new features avaliable. After December 31st users upgrading their version of Platinum Software may encounter difficulties if the product is run under Windows XP or earlier.

Upgrade now to Windows 10 and get up 1 Hour free remote installation support per PC.

Call: sales on 0116 230 1500 or Email: sales@catalyst-uk.com for more information.

A WORD OR TWO FROM CHARLES

As the year draws to a close, I hope you've all had a good year and are looking forward to the new year and the challenges and opportunities that the future will bring. I hope we have provided you with the support and assistance that you needed over the year and we will continue to strive to improve our service to you. We are continuing to invest into the online knowledge base and have started to include video tutorials within the articles to demonstrate the processes and procedures that support best practice. Being able to see the screens and how to navigate them helps to clarify the methods described in the text and we will continue to add more videos over the coming months. These videos are also available on our You Tube channel which is available from the Help drop down at the top of the screen when you are in Platinum. We want to demonstrate the best way to carry out the tasks demanded by your job, taking into account the effect what you are doing has on the rest of the system. Because Platinum is an integrated system, entering information in one area sends ripples out into other areas of the system and affects your colleagues areas of responsibility. If you can follow the procedures that we recommend, or adapt them to suit your working practices without losing the benefits to the business as a whole, you can operate more efficiently and with less stress and help the business to run more smoothly. For instance, taking just a couple of seconds to make sure that you post money that you take from a customer by the right method can save a lot of time and aggravation for everyone. Your till will balance more easily and banking becomes much easier for the accounts department. Carrying out regular small stock takes of ten to fifteen items using Platinum Online will help improve the accuracy of your stock. Taking a little extra care and time to do the job correctly the first time has major benefits to you and your business. We can help with training and support with the variety of methods that we offer. Remote training on a one-to-one basis, the training courses that we offer here at Granite House or on-site training can pay for themselves many times over in efficiency gained or adopting a new technique. The training course schedule is on the back of this newsletter and is on the website. Contact your account manager to organise the training that you would like and let us help you get the best from your Platinum Software.

As ever, Your success is our priority.

Ransomware - beware

What is it?

Historically it was simple, common file types such as your MS Office documents that were attacked. However, new attacks are emerging that make more of your data inaccessible. Ransomware will also attack files that will affect the PC operation itself. In some cases it can even attack files that have been backed-up to local drives and shared storage on servers.

How to get caught out?

Particularly files to look out for are xlsm and pdm files & often in the form of a fake invoice with an attached .zip file. Fake program updates are another method of attack, the most recent that we have observed claims to be an update for Adobe Flash. Just open the attachment to an unexpected email and watch your files encrypt before your eyes. That's right, just one innocent mouse click could permanently deprive you of years of valuable information. The effect can be devastating. The long and the short of it is that Ransomware is a nasty threat that is on the rise, it relies on individual employees' lack of cyber security knowledge to infiltrate businesses and extort money from them. So be vigilant and warn your staff.

EMAIL: sales@catalyst-uk.com

STAY IN THE KNOW

Keep up to date with Catalyst news 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 inbox. You can subscribe to various RSS Feeds for:

• Catalyst News.
• Platinum News.
• Parts and Prices News.
• Developer News.

Simply visit our Catalyst website using the link below to find all the information you need on how to subscribe. You can also like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter and Youtube.

VISIT: www.catalyst-uk.com

Social Media

Facebook or Twitter?

Which ever you prefer, we are on there!

Please like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter to see our latest enhancements and news. Also, take a look at our Youtube channel for tutorial videos on various areas of the system which have recently been updated!

www.twitter.com/CatalystDMS

www.youtube.com/CatalystDMS

www.facebook.com/DealerManagement

Come visit us at expo 2017!

The season has finally upon us again and that can only mean one thing! Yes, the Motorcycle Trade Expo 2017! Catalyst is pleased to let you all know that we willl be attending this year as usual on stand B28. This will be our 22nd year exhibiting at Expo!

Traditionaly the Expo has been a highlight of the year for all of us from Catalyst and we are very much looking forward to seeing you all. Please feel free to come and chat with us either about all of our new exciting features that you might be missing out on or just come over for a catch up and a drink. We look forward to seeing you!

The Motorcycle Trade Expo is held at Stonleigh Park Exhibition Centre, Coventry, Warwickshire from the 15th - 17th January, 9:30am - 5:00pm.
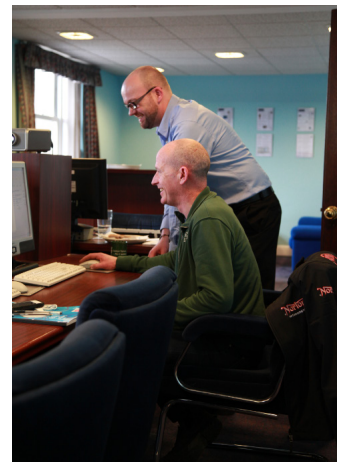
EMAIL: sales@catalyst-uk.com

Training Courses

Platinum Masterclass training events are the perfect opportunity for new starters and existing staff to get up to speed with the key features and benefits of specific Platinum modules.

All of our in-house training courses take place at our Catalyst Offices in Mountsorrel, Leicestershire. LE12 7AT

• Courses typically run from 10am - 4pm.
• Full day courses are £140 per person
• Demand for the courses is high so early booking is advisable.

The aim of our training is to help you use the system to its full potential, so you can get the best from your Platinum software and all of its features.

January 2017
• Wednesday 11th - A Guide to Workshop Control
• Tuesday 17th - Report Generator - So Simple
• Tuesday 31st - Vehicle Sales in a Day

February 2017
• Tuesday 7th - Stock Control in a Day
• Tuesday 14th - The Joy of Accounts
• Tuesday 21st - The Customer Retention Centre

March 2017
• Tuesday 7th - Logistics in a Day
• Tuesday 14th - A Guide to Workshop Control
• Tuesday 28th - Vehicle Sales in a Day

Custom courses are available on request!

SEE: www.catalyst-uk.com/training

Merry Christmas from all at Catalyst!

CATALYST

"Your Success Is Our Priority"

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