

newsletter



PGCG

Pretty Good Consulting Group

Got a problem? We create solutions.

**EOM News and Views
Issue 8, January 2009**

Happy New Year!!!

2009 will be a big year for Enterprise Output Manager.

Whew! Now that most of the holiday celebrations are winding down we can get back to work... "Ha!" You say, knowing full well that you worked full-tilt through December and now have year-end wrap-up to worry about. Well, after all of that it would be good to get a handle on what is coming for Enterprise Output Manager in the year ahead. Clearly the big news is that EOM 8.0 will be released in the first quarter of 2009. The highlights of this release include:

- The new Transform Job gives you the ability to manipulate the incoming data stream, typically changing the input format to something else (one example is taking in XML and creating PDF output from that XML).
- A much simpler, most robust SMTP interface, including the option for an alternate SMTP server.
- EOM client will be able to display other client

identification connected to the Output Manager service. Even better, with the proper security settings, you will be able to terminate client connections.

- IPv6 will be fully supported, continuing support for IPv4 of course. The Communication Listening configurations give the ability to listen for communications traffic across either/both protocols.
- Speaking of protocols, EOM 8.0 will allow sending and receiving the HTTP protocol.
- Another: The new version will also allow sending with the FTP protocol.
- For you DDA gurus: finally, the ELSE and ELSE IF will be allowed in the DDA language.
- File Expiration Search will allow file expiration based upon the file creation or last modified date/time.

- Print-to-file configurations give you the option of overwriting the file if it is already exists.

Example DDA conditional logic in EOM 8.0:

```
IF UserVar EQ "password"  
{DDA commands}  
  
IF UserVar EQ "password"  
{DDA commands}  
ELSE  
{other DDA commands}  
  
IF UserVar EQ "password"  
{DDA commands}  
ELSEIF UserVar EQ "OPERATOR"  
{other DDA commands}  
ELSE  
{different DDA commands}
```

DDA Feature *(you may not know about)*

Display Variable again? We have mentioned the use of the DDA Display Variable command in the past, usually related to debugging, but it appears that the message is just not sticking.

The DDA Display Variable command gives you the ability to expose values of user-defined or system-defined variables, which could be used to notify operators of impending doom, write important security information to the EOM log file, debug your DDA, or in general provide a status from within an executing DDA. The "exposing" of information can be in the form of writing the information to the EOM Log File, to the printer debug file (if you set Printer Debug Mode on the printer beforehand), or to the Print Preview window. The Display Variable command lets you select where the information is exposed, which

could be to all three places or a subset of the three.

One of the most frequent uses of this command is to debug DDAs. Often we are not certain what data is identified by the DDA Item, so we insert a Display Variable command, set the "Variable to Display" to \$CurrentData, and set the "In Print Preview Window" to "Yes". When the DDA Item executes via Print Preview the current value of \$CurrentData displays in a message box to view. Similarly, if you aren't sure that the string you are building is correct, simply display it.

By the way, instead of deleting the Display Variable command from your DDA when done debugging, set the "Enabled" value to "No", just in case you need to display that data in the future.

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How do I ...?

This section of the newsletter will discuss solutions to questions that come from real customers trying to solve real problems.

This month we answer the question "What kinds of migration problems can I expect?"

Many customers have already upgraded to the EOM 7.0/7.1 versions. Having said that, it never ceases to amaze us how many customers are still using pre-EOM 7.0 versions (even converted a DEPCON 5R1 site recently). We know, if it isn't broken then why fix it? The short list of answers includes:

- You will be using supported software.
- Useful features have been added since the 90s.
- Consolidate EOM instances via the new EOM architecture.
- Security and configuration validation is much tighter.
- Those 386 PCs just aren't going to last much longer.

What can we expect?

O.K., assuming you decide to upgrade, there have been a few interesting upgrade issues that we have encountered. A few of the more interesting are:

- 1) Performance was so much better that a Backup Job interfered with the Custom Job.
- 2) DDA syntax tightened:
 - A) EOM 6.1 DDA had DDA item with a line and column range, DDA commands within that DDA Item used columns outside the DDA Item column range. EOM 7.1 does not allow this. For example, if the DDA Item identified Line 2, columns 1-25, DDA commands in this DDA Item where using `$CurentData[54-60]` "successfully" in 6.1.
 - B) Multiple DDAs had Print Data commands with Y coordinate limit values where the value was less than the Y coordinate. This is a syntax error in EOM 7.1.
 - C) One customer had an IF statement along the lines `if IF UserVar[1-6] EQ "1234567"` which apparently worked in EOM 6.0, but did not work in EOM 7.1.
- 3) The Custom Jobs that replaced the User Jobs may require a File Mask conditional change. For example, if you are using the GiveltBack.exe program as a User Job in EOM 6.1 and have a File Mask looking for "GiveltBack" in the File Masking field, that value needs to be changed to "UGiveltBack" when using the new Custom Job.
- 4) The paper tray selection did not upgrade properly and there were no warnings when saving the configuration. The text found in the EOM 6.1 Print Attribute Input bin did not match the text found in the EOM 7.1.6 Print Attribute Input Bin, it appears that if the EOM 6.1 text does not match then it defaults to "(printer setting)".
- 5) The EOM client can be installed on multiple PCs if desired. The issue at one site was that the Client would not execute, apparently due to tight security on the desktop systems.
- 6) Very similar to the above experience, the firewall software on the customer PC needed tweaking to allow an EOM client connection to the remote EOM service.
- 7) There are a few of you out there that were constrained by early DEPCON versions where the Print Attribute, Characters Per Line allowed a maximum of 512 characters. There were a variety of workarounds, including changing the application, using the GiveltBack program to break up lines, or simply truncating the line of data. EOM now allows between 4 and 4096 characters per line, so you may want to change how those files are handled.

Time to Upgrade?

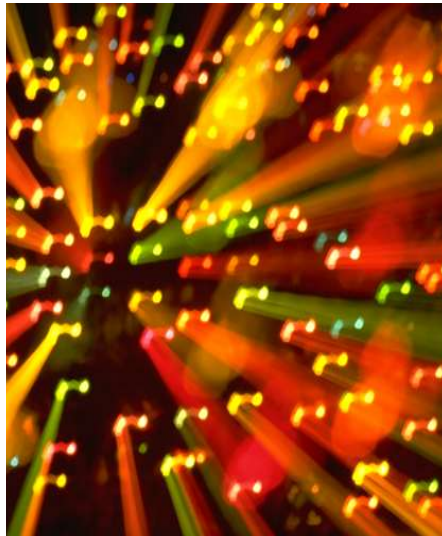
We have been running into a lot of EOM 6.1.2, 6.1.3, and even a 6.1 sites recently. Helping customers with these versions is not nearly as easy as EOM 7.1, nor is it as easy for the customer to maintain. Keep in mind that EOM versions 6.1 and below are no longer supported. A major reason to upgrade to EOM 7.1 is that the latest and greatest software provides latest and greatest capability -- including the ability to import and export parts of the EOM configuration. In addition, Interim Correction 7.1.6 fixes a significant Windows print driver issue.

Who are we?

Highly skilled, creative, solution provider focused on the Unisys Enterprise Output Manager product (formerly known as DEPCON) with a sense of urgency sums up who we are and what we do. We provide general Enterprise Output Manager consulting, migrations, upgrades, configuration, training, and custom programming.

On-site services, remote services, and general consulting are available now.

Why use PGCG? Deep knowledge of the EOM product integrated into a variety of customer environments sets us apart. Our customers production environment depends on solid, working solutions that we provide.



Quick Hits

A customer had a manual process to move files from a DMZ server to a server inside the firewall. The manual process was replaced with the EOM Directory Monitor feature, calling the UCopyIt Custom Job with the /D option to delete the original file when the file was successfully copied.

The soon-to-be-released EOM 8.0 Print Attribute has a new property "Remove \$DEPDR\$ syntax". This means that EOM will remove the text line directly. Most customers using the \$DEPHDR\$ syntax use a DDA to remove the \$DEPHDR\$ line(s), the DDA (or DDA commands) will no longer be required.

Have a suggestion for "How do I ...?" Write a brief description and send it to SteveD@PrettyGoodConsultingGroup.com for future newsletter discussion.

Interested in EOM training? We can either do custom training on-site or arrange for a formal class through Unisys. Please contact us for details.

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