Latest Release of the Contigo System

The next release of the Contigo system was on **Friday, September 26, 2008.**

This release introduces the **Contigo Data Exchange API (Application Program Interface)** product. Data Exchange can be used by third party companies or developers to integrate the Contigo Commercial Portal with external systems including dispatching, routing and billing systems.

Solutions

In this release we introduced some architectural improvements that add flexibility into the user interface controls in the Commercial Portal. Any Commercial Portal user with Administration privileges can now hide or show several tabs within the system, including Vehicles, Assets, Personnel and Maintenance. As an example, this would allow a customer with only Fleet vehicles to hide the Assets and Personnel tabs, or would allow a customer with only Asset tracking devices to hide the Assets, Personnel and Maintenance tabs. These controls can simplify the user interface and make the system easier to use for many users.

Note that once any data has been added to any module, that module cannot be hidden until the data is deleted. For example, if a customer had the Maintenance tab showing, and they added a maintenance schedule to test the module, they would not be able to hide the Maintenance tab until after that maintenance schedule was deleted.

Solution controls in the Commercial Portal are under:

Administration > Profile

In the Partner Portal, when creating new Commercial and Consumer/Residential accounts you will see a drop list for "Solutions". At this time there will only be a single entry in this drop list for "Standard - Commercial" or "Standard – Consumer". In the future the Solutions mechanism will allow us to add new, solution-specific features to the portal.

Contigo Data Exchange Product

The Contigo Data Exchange provides programmatic access the Contigo system to support integrations with third-party systems. Several capabilities that currently require logging into and using the web portal can now be automated using Data Exchange. Data Exchange supports reading landmark and item data. Additional capabilities and methods will be added over time. Please send feedback to support@contigo.com.

1.1 Capabilities

Landmark management – ability to read landmarks programmatically

This can be used to read landmark information. In the future, this capability will be expanded to synchronizing landmarks in the Contigo Commercial Portal with customer addresses sitting in other databases. Using Data Exchange, it will be possible to automatically update landmarks in the portal when changes are made to corresponding customer information in other systems. This avoids having to manually update customer information twice by and reduces possible manual errors.

Location output – ability to read current and historical location information for items

This can be used to output the latest location information for vehicles, assets and personnel and is especially useful for integration with dispatch and routing systems. Using location output the latest location information for items can automatically be read from the Contigo system and used in other external applications. Location output can also be used to read historical information on items.

1.2 Mechanism

Contigo Data Exchange uses a request-based model. Requests to read or update data are made by an external system. Data Exchange replies with the information requested or a confirmation of an update performed. Each request made to Data Exchange requires authentication similar to a user logging in. To use Data Exchange it is recommended that a separate user group and user account be set up. This user group can then be granted the unique Data Exchange permission (see below). This allows users in this group to authenticate and submit Data Exchange requests.

1.3 Security

Data Exchange is a power user feature requiring technical understanding and development skills. In order to ensure that it is not misused the following security features are provided:

Encrypted access – accessing Data Exchange can only be done over encrypted SSL requests. This means that data transferred between external systems and the Contigo Data Exchange is encrypted and not in clear text format.

Data Exchange permission – when Data Exchange is enabled an additional user permission becomes visible. This permission is available in the *Administration → User Group* interface. Using data exchange is similar to logging in and accessing the web portal, except that this is done programmatically. Every data exchange request made requires a user account to log into the system. In addition the user account must have the **Data Exchange permission** granted. It is recommended that a separate user group and user account be set up to use data exchange. This user group can then be granted the Data Exchange permission.

1.4 Enabling Data Exchange

Contact your service provider if you would like to use Data Exchange. Please note that Data Exchange requires additional service fees.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at support@contigo.com .

Best regards,

The Contigo Team