



Office 2002 Service Pack 3

Those of you who are regular visitors to our website will have seen a warning in the “**Latest News**” section regarding Microsoft Office 2003 Service Pack 3 (SP3).

The Service Pack has a problem that affects users who have an “Access Project” that is linked to a SQL Server database – in other words this may affect users of the SQL Server edition of Take2. The problem is described on the Microsoft web site

(<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/943967>).

For our clients the problem manifests itself as an inability to change the value in tick box fields like this:

Fee Paid:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fee Refunded:	<input type="checkbox"/>

A fix for this problem (and some others) was supposed to have been released by the end of November but there is no sign of it yet.

So, because it is not possible to remove SP3 without doing a complete uninstall of Office, we strongly advise our SQL Server clients who are using Office 2003 not to upgrade to SP3 until such time as Microsoft has resolved the issue.

We will post a message on our web site when this happens.



Beware of Geeks bearing gifts!

Christmas

It hasn't escaped our attention that Christmas is upon us and the first thing to say is that the staff at Meta Office wish all our clients (and other readers of this Newsletter) a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday.

The second thing to note is that our usual Helpdesk hours of operation are 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday – excluding public holidays. Between the 24th of December 2007 and the 7th of January 2008 the Help Desk will be operating at a reduced capacity. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave a message on the answering machine and we will get back to you with a response within 24 hours.

Wellington Anniversary Weekend is on Monday the 21st of January 2008, which is a public holiday here. Consequently the Helpdesk will not be open on the 21st.



Finally as we look forward to a new year it may be time to reflect on what the future holds for those organisations that deliver post secondary education. For those of us with grey hair and long memories (or is that “long hair and grey memories”?) there may be a feeling that, for all the fanfare about “implementing the plan”, this is a step back to a grace and favour provision of tertiary funding.

Policy makers don't seem to be able develop policies without perverse side effects and those charged with implementing the policies continue to impose increasing compliance costs.

However looking forward, we sense that there will be significant change in the sector because, quite simply, the organisational structures in place are beginning to fail. In short, change may come about in spite of TEC's efforts, and not because of them. How far away is our first private university? How long can some ITPs struggle on being all things to all people? When will the ITOs be rationalised? Who is going to buy up and rationalise the private training providers?

A lot of interesting questions, no doubt, but probably best left until everyone returns to work in the New Year. So, for now, enjoy the break!