

Interface

Making Ministry Manageable



Why Should Our Church Use Check-Out For Children?

The Insta Check-in program is one of the most popular features of the RDS software, and it's easy to see why. In addition to having the ability to automatically record attendance and print nametags for participants in the activity, Insta Check-in has many safety and security features in place, particularly for children's programs. Among these are:

- Print "advisories" (allergies and other health concerns) both on the child's name tag and on the check-in report
- Print photos of both parents and authorized guardians on a check-in report for easy identification by child care attendants
- Print a parent's cell phone number in case attendants need to contact parents during worship or Sunday School
- Assign pager numbers
- Print the child's activity on the nametag so that s/he can be returned to the correct classroom in the event of an escape
- Print a date/time stamp on both the child's nametag and the parent receipt

Some churches go as far as comparing the date and time stamp on the parent receipt with the date and time stamp on the child's nametag, but without actually going through the check-out process. However, what would you do in the event of a fire, tornado, or other emergency situation if the building had to be evacuated quickly? Would you know if children had already been picked up by their parents or another guardian?

For churches using RDS check-out, this is as easy as clicking the button for "Summary Report" on your Insta Check-in screen.



Without having to set up any parameters, this report instantly shows, for each kiosk or check-in station, each child who was checked in, who checked them in, and what time they were checked in. It also shows every child who was checked out, who checked them out, and what time they were checked out. An attendant can quickly look at the list and determine if any children have already been picked up. This can save valuable time and allow staff members to spend their efforts caring for children for whom they still have responsibility.

For churches with multiple kiosks or check-in stations, it is important to have a designated person for each kiosk who will have the responsibility to print the summary report as the building is being evacuated.

Thanks to Stephanie Garner of Westminster Presbyterian Church for pointing out the importance of this feature for her church.

On-Site Versus Cloud-Hosted Services

The Fall 2014 issue of the NACBA Ledger (National Association of Church Business Administration) included an article about the comparison between on-site and cloud-hosted systems.

The author writes, “You may be asking yourself which software application platform is best for your organization, on-premise or cloud-SAAS (software as a service).” The author then shows some of the differences in these two methods.

Factors	On-Premise	Cloud-SaaS
Install Location	Your Servers	Vendor's Servers
Hardware	Your Purchase & Setup	Vendor's Responsibility
Hardware Upgrade	You Maintain & Upgrade	Vendor's Responsibility
Software Upgrade	Your Responsibility	Vendor's Responsibility
User License	Initial Purchase Plus Support	Initial Purchase Plus Support
Hosting Fee	None	Monthly/Annual Fee
Owner of Data	You	You
Data Security	Your Responsibility	Vendor's Responsibility
Backup & Recovery	Your Responsibility	Vendor's Responsibility
Scalability	Your Responsibility	Vendor's Responsibility
Retain Legacy	You Keep Hardware & Software Working	Archive By Vendor

RDS goes several steps beyond the traditional services for Cloud-Software as a Service provider.

- RDS Connect is “Software as a Secure Service.” It is hosted on Tier III Data Centers and all in-transit data is encrypted by 256 bit SSL encryption with 2048 bit SSL key encryption. This is the highest standard for security.
- RDS Connect assures users with ownership of their data.
- RDS Connect not only does daily backup of data but stores the previous 90 days of backups.
- RDS Connect provides unlimited scalability and an archive of each year's complete data.

MyChurchWebsite.Net

After discussing this during a training class, we received the following information in an e-mail from Deanna Hollis and we thought this might be of interest to some of our clients:

“When needing to communicate with our membership and/or prospects via e-mail, we utilize our web provider – mychurchwebsite.net. We choose this form of mass e-mail due to the ability to send a large number of e-mails in one push and in a minimal amount of time. This service is included in our yearly maintenance fee.

As we decided to utilize the website for mass e-mailing's, we pulled a member list from RDS and exported and e-mailed the list to our website provider. They offered to create the mailing list for us. We currently maintain a member list and a prospect list. As updates/deletions/additions are needed, we are able to manage the list as Administrators on our website. The process is easy and time efficient.

If you are interested, contact mychurchwebsite.net at 580-924-4099 (Monday – Friday; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.CST).”

Deanna Hollis, Capitol Hill Baptist Church

RDS Connect Cloud-Hosted

It just keeps getting better. Since its introduction in December, 2010, the response of churches to the Cloud-Hosted RDS system has already required more than a doubling of the capacity for new users.

Hosting on a Tier III Data Center gives RDS Connect its unsurpassed speed, security and guaranteed up-time. RDS may be the only, or one of few, Internet connected church systems with Tier III hosting and 256 bit SSL encryption.

Cloud-hosted RDS Connect® serves Windows and Mac users. It is powered by Microsoft Windows Server® 2008 R2. Microsoft's next-generation hypervisor runs virtual machines running independent operating systems.

To provide maximum security RDS Connect has moved from 6 Data Centers to 27 fiber-optic connected Data Centers to maintain system and data redundancy, rated for 99.9 percent site availability.

Benefits of RDS Connect Cloud-Computing:

- Your server is provided by RDS
- Daily secure backups by RDS with 90 days of stored backup
- Work from any location with Internet access
- Computer system updates installed for you
- RDS software versions included and installed
- Reduced or eliminated IT needs
- You own your own data
- Security assured by Tier III Data Center hosting, 256 bit SSL encryption and 2048 bit key encryption
- Unlimited scalability (you never run out of storage or capacity)
- Access your RDS system with mobile devices such as tablets and cell-phones
- Spend more time in ministry and less time managing computers and hardware



RDS Connect is rated as "Software as a **Secure** Service."

RDS Enhancements for Printing From The Cloud

Mac computers have presented some issues and limitations when printing on the cloud. In response to this, RDS has installed special software for cloud users that overcomes these limitations and adds these benefits:

- Increases stability when printing to a Mac or Windows machine from the cloud over and beyond Microsoft's "easy print driver."
- Print directly to local printers from the cloud (terminal server), without additional administrator time required for implementation or configuration.
- This software includes its own virtual printer driver for standard printers, which will receive the print job, compress it, and send it to the local workstation.
- Print compression technology delivers faster performance.



*The RDS offices
will be closed for the
holidays on the following
dates:*

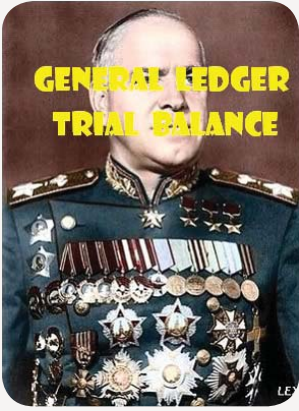
*Thanksgiving
November 27
November 28*

*Christmas
December 25
December 26*

*New Year's
January 1*

Happy Holidays

ACCOUNTING 101: What's a Trial Balance?



The General Ledger Trial Balance is the heart of your accounting system. When you study any report printed from the General Ledger system, whether it's a Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report or a Financial Activity Report, the information for this report flows from the Trial Balance.

Print a Trial Balance (GL307) from the General Ledger Reports menu, requesting the report from the beginning of the year thru the current period, for all accounts, in Summary form. In account number order, this report shows the account number, the title of the account and the beginning balance of each General Ledger account, the net current activity for each account and the ending balance of each account. When you need to analyze the big picture of a church's financial position, this is the report to use because it provides more detail than the more formal presentation reports such as the Balance Sheet.

Change the button on the "Report Type" field to "Detail Only", to get a report that includes all of the above plus the details of every single transaction posted in the period requested. Use this report when you want to determine the specific transactions that create the balance displayed on the various Financial Reports. Be the staff accounting wizard and print a detailed Trial Balance each month for each department head for the specific accounts that fall under his/her assigned budget responsibility.

Take a look at the Trial Balance reports to gain a comprehensive understanding of your organizations business. You'll be glad you did.

What Is Your Level Of Pain?

When going to the doctor for relief of pain, one of the first questions usually asked is, "On a level of 0 to 10, what is your level of pain?" Your answer is needed for the doctor to consider the cause and treatment.

A more ultimate question each of us should ask ourselves and answer is, "On a level of 0 to 10, what is my level of faith?"

The answer to both questions can be subjective, based upon our tolerance of pain and our commitment to our faith. A level 5 pain for one may be level 8 to another. We may see ourselves as level 5 in our growth and maturity in faith which may be different than how others of similar commitment see themselves.

Only the Lord can judge us objectively but it is no less important for us to consider where we are in our faith journey. If I see myself as level one or two and that convicts me to grow beyond that, I can make the effort.

It is just as important for us as members of our church to make the same inquiry about how our church is living up to its Biblical imperative to worship, serve, teach and spread the Good News.

Any takers?



Dick Webber

RDS Training Opportunities

You can enroll for just the classes that cover your work area:

- Monday.....Member Records/Contact Management
- Tuesday.....Activity Records/Insta Check-In/Scheduler
- Wednesday...Contributions/Bank Reconciliation
- Thursday.....General Ledger/Accounts Payable
- Friday.....Payroll/Accounts Receivable

Contact Gail Miller at (800) 337-6328 or (405) 840-5177 to enroll.

Enroll for these dates:

Dec 8-12	Jan 19-23	Feb 9-13
Mar 9-13		