RDS Interface

The Demise of Courtesy?

Since the beginning of mankind's history, new tools and inventions have brought mixed blessings. The javelin, bow and arrow, gunpowder and guns, telephones, wireless communication, aircraft, controlled nuclear fission, television, computers and more, have both elevated and decimated.

We don't think of the invention of caller ID that identifies the caller without answering the phone in a negative way. It can be a convenience of sorts, but brings with it the seeds of anonymity and arrogance.

I grew up working for a man who was an orphan at ten. Through diligence and hard work he built a retailing business of three hundred and fifty department stores and became one of the wealthiest in his state. Perhaps his background made him empathize with those not so fortunate. Even at the height of his success he would not allow the company switchboard to screen his phone calls. Anyone who called and asked for him was immediately connected. His office door was always open. Anyone walking in off the street who asked to see him was ushered into his office. If a beggar asked for money he received it.

My father's work involved purchasing merchandise for that company. He knew the vendors from whom he wanted products. But his policy was to never refuse to see a salesman. He said that even if salesmen had products in which he had no interest, he always respected their time, and he learned from them.

How different we have become. If the phone rings and we see it is not someone we want to talk to, we can ignore the call. In effect we are saying, "Your call is not important to me. Nothing you have to say is worth my time. My time is more important than yours." This violates common courtesy and gives rise to an arrogant attitude toward others.

Now we see a whole generation that responds only to phone calls, e-mail, voice mail and computer messaging that interest them. Even if answered, the response may be made hours or days later.

Perhaps courtesy and respect in American culture was in decline before caller ID. How often do you observe, "Yes sir" (ma'am)? - Men's respect for women? - Courtesy toward elders? - Children's respect of parents and teachers?

Urbanization may be a factor and we can identify many other problems that erode our society.

A simple beginning to restore respect for others:

- Answer the phone even when you don't care to talk to the caller.
- Respond promptly to messages.
- Be considerate of other people's time and requests.
- Be courteous to elders, parents, teachers, youngsters, associates, employees and employers, and with anyone with whom you come in contact.

These simple things will bring you unexpected benefits, and you will make the day more pleasant for others.

How you treat others is the true representation of who you are.

Dick Webber

Make payments to RDS with your mobile device

Use QR Codes With Your Vanco Services Credit/Debit Cards

Your Vanco Services account includes free QR codes. When placed in the bulletin, newsletter or other church communication, your unique QR code gives members with smartphones and tablets instant access to your mobile giving page. The QR code works with any compatible cell phone or tablet.

QR code stands for **Quick Response Code**, which is a machine-readable optical label. This directs donors to your mobile giving page.

Here is an example of how RDS uses its QR code for clients to make payments to RDS. (download the QR reader app for your mobile device)

You can also use Vanco Services Secure card readers for mobile contributions with a credit card swiper for smartphones and tablets. Contact Vanco Services for your QR Code.

More Churches Praise Vanco Credit Card and ACH Processing

Vanco provides a daily, weekly, and monthly report by email. Each week, I print the previous week's Weekly Detail Report. I then download the Vanco receipts for the dates printed on that report, verify that my batch total is the same as what is reflected on the emailed report, and move forward with posting.

After the month has ended, I print the Monthly Detail Report. Sometimes there is one little batch in there that wasn't on the last weekly report, based on where the end of the month falls. If that is the case, I download Vanco receipts for those last days and post. I then run a OL301V Vanco report for the month and verify that the total matches the Monthly Detail Report total from the Vanco email report. If they match, I'm done!

This new system has saved me a lot of time. Previously, I waited until month's end and entered each ACH entry by hand, which took a lot of time. I dreaded it every single month! The new system keeps my financial reports more up-to-date since I'm posting weekly, and I don't have that yucky morning of data entry to look forward to when I'm busy trying to close the month. For me, this is the most helpful enhancement you've made in the three plus years I've worked with RDS.

Thank you!
Sherry Eggleston
Moore First United Methodist Church

Vanco is great for us. The download that is available through RDS from Vanco for credit card and ACH is very easy to use. It saves me a lot of time now that I don't have to manually enter the transactions.

Pat Stofferahn
Lead Financial Assistant
St. John's Lutheran Church

Convenience For RDS Payments

RDS uses Vanco Services to receive payments for services. Customer support payments, new user setup, licensing, training classes, and check imager purchases can all be paid in the Internet window at right.

On the RDS Website, www.rdsadvantage.com, click on the Payments tab to make payments. You can also use the QR code on the home page and in newsletters if using a smart phone or tablet.

When you make these payments all that's needed is to make a Payables entry in your accounting system to record the payment amount.

There should be no problem from an accounting security point of view because payments made this way cannot be diverted to unauthorized payees.

You save the time and cost of checks, envelopes, postage and time.

Cost Study of Vanco ACH Costs

Vanco Services offers an ACH solution to help you automate tithes, registrations, daycare payments and more. Vanco's fee to process an ACH transaction is 25 cents regardless of the amount. That means the ACH fee for processing a $50, $500 or $5,000 transaction is identical!

The examples below illustrate the economic advantages of using the ACH solution offered by Vanco Services:

Example 1: $100 monthly donation

Donation	Cost	Net	
$1,200.00	$3.00	$1,197.00	
($100.00 x 12 months)	(12 transactions x $0.25)	99.75%	Your cost = 1/4 of 1%

Example 2: $25 monthly donation

Donation	Cost	Net	
$300.00	$3.00	$297.00	
($25.00 x 12 months)	(12 transactions x $0.25)	99%	Your cost = 1%

Utility Menu On RDS Menu Bar

On the Application bar at the top of the window of RDS there is a Utility menu that is open for all users, regardless of security.

These options provide a number of user-controlled features that control how RDS applications function uniquely for each user.

Utility menu applications you might find especially helpful:

- About RDS Advantage
- Rebuild Indexed files
- Update RDS from Website
- RDS Training Calendar from Website
- User/Workstation-Software and Hardware Options
- Users Logged In
- Calibrate Printer
- Printer Maintenance
- Find Program from a Saved Report

About RDS Advantage - Tells you the version of your installed RDS system; the date compiled and other information.

Rebuild Indexed files - If an RDS data file has become corrupted, this application provides a way to rebuild the file(s).

Update RDS from Website - When a new version of RDS is available, click on this option to go directly to your logiin on the Website to download and install the latest version.

RDS Training Calendar from Website - Shows Website calendar with dates of training for each system.

User/Workstation - Software and Hardware Options - There are fifteen important options each user can choose to determine how the system functions at their workstation. These control the user interface size and fonts, e-mail options, mapping, scanning, check imaging, web camera options, and the path to Postage Saver (for USPS Intelligent Mail).

Users Logged In - Shows the users presently logged into RDS.

Calibrate Printer - Calibrates each printer used by the operator.

Printer Maintenance - For each printer and each form, including Avery forms, you can customize the form for eight dimensions, orientation, paper size, font, margins and signature location.

Find Program from a Saved Reports - Report selections in RDS can be customized and saved. These can be accessed from this application to select and print. Only reports for which each user has security access can be used. The programs listed can be sorted by seven columns for easy selection.

RDS Training Opportunities

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

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

Enroll in classes for these dates:

Aug 11-15	**Sep 8-12**	**Oct 13-17**
Nov 10-14	**Dec 8-12**	

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