FieldSoft
Customer Newsletter

Did You Know That

Enhanced AIMSonScene software is released every three months. The enhanced software is available to new customers with software under warranty, as well as other customers who have a **_current_** software support and software enhancement (SSSE) subscription. "Enhancements" make *changes* to existing features, *new* features and bug *fixes*.

The most recent AIMSonScene command module release has some enhanced PAR functionality. A user can for example, proactively "force" a call for PAR rather than wait for the PAR timer to expire.

How does a person identify enhancements made to AIMSonScene? Well I know because I tell the software development staff what features to add or enhance (or so they let me believe). Other people can find out what's new at any time by simply reading the AIMSonScene "Release Notes" that are on line.

AIMSonScene Software Releases

The last AIMSonScene software release took place July7, 2009. The next release is scheduled for September 30, 2009.

Monthly AIMSonScene Tutorials Start In September

Not sure how a feature works? Is use of the configuration module to setup one or more features a mystery as well? Are you unsure how a newly enhanced feature is different from what you are used to? You may not be alone! Fortunately, FieldSoft can help if you can spare 30 minutes once a month.

The company will begin a series of on line tutorials. Each 30 minute session will focus on use of features and related software configuration issues. Up to five (5) separate computers can connect to any single tutorial session. Multiple tutorial sessions per day will be scheduled if needed to meet demand.

System requirements for tutorial participation are straightforward. They are:

- a computer with attached speakers and an **_optional_** microphone
- an Internet connection
- a standard web browser such as MS Internet Explorer
- a computer projector if you wish to have multiple end users participate in a single session

Note that tutorial participation is unfortunately, limited to **_AIMSonScene customers who hold a current software support and software enhancement (SSSE) subscription_** and who **_RSVP_** on a first come, first served basis.

Tutorial dates for the rest of 2009 are scheduled for the third Friday of each month at 2:00 P.M. Eastern time.

Ready to sign up for a tutorial? Send an email to information@fieldsoft.com and type "Tutorial" into the subject line, if so. Include your name and your agency name

in the body of the email so we can ascertain SSSE status. Contact Mark Bouchard with any questions you have.

AIMSonScene And The Federal 1122 Counterdrug Program

KBKI Inc. recently announced that local and state government agencies can purchase AIMSonScene software under its recently acquired GSA Contract (GS35F-0454V) in accordance with Section 1122 of the 1994 National Defense Authorization Act.

The ACT established the authority for the purchase of law enforcement equipment through federal procurement. GSA is responsible for development of a Program catalog which explains the 1122 Program, and which contains products (including AIMSonScene) which may be procured under the program.

Additional 1122 program information, as well as other local and state programs for purchases through the federal system, can be found at http://www.gsa.gov/Portal /gsa/ep/home.do?tabId=17 .

Case Study: Software Eliminates "Seat Of The Pants" ICS Operations

Euless Fire Chief Robert Isbell discovered when hired that the Department did not have incident command system (ICS) software like that he used when previously employed by Southlake, TX., DPS. The absence reminded him of "seat of the pants" ICS he saw early in his career ICS, he explained, where incident commanders (ICs) struggled with personnel accountability, resource management, and other ICS tasks.

Chief Isbell first tried to eliminate seat of the pants ICS with a work around solution of software spreadsheets. He was not successful. The Chief later procured FieldSoft's AIMSonScene ICS software for Euless Fire and Euless Police.

Euless ICs are now able to better track and manage resources and personnel accountability. They do so from the simplest emergency to the most complex. A case in point occurred during a city emergency response exercise proctored by Texas A&M staff.

Chief Isabell was present to backup the then current Fire Chief sitting with other directors at the emergency operations center's (EOC) "big" table. Each director sitting at the table periodically presented a status brief. Chief Isbell, using a single finger, tracked FD tasking and progress with AIMSonScene, and used the same single finger to "print off" reports for the Fire Chief. Directors eventually asked why the Fire Chief was the "***only Director***" able to provide such timely, accurate, and comprehensive information.

Make no mistake. AIMSonScene is not "EOC software" (although it can be very handy in a pinch). It is a tactical boots on-the-ground software application. An application that, according to the Chief's observations, has helped Euless Battalion Chiefs better track resources as well as better manage personnel accountability on the scene. The Chief's most noteworthy observation is that he has "no complaints" with the software.

FieldSoft to Add .NET DLL to AIMSonScene API SDK

FieldSoft has created a Microsoft® .NET® based DLL. The DLL replaces the legacy C++ DLL now included with the AIMSonScene API (Application Programming Interface) SDK (Software Development Kit). The result is a programmer tool that makes AIMSonScene integration with, or interfaces to, other systems even faster, simpler and easier than before. Even COM programmers can code AIMSonScene interfaces with the new DLL.

New DLL interaction with AIMSonScene is through methods and events, instead of formatted strings. The DLL also eliminates the need to parse inbound events from AIMSonScene. Rather, a programmer registers to listen for one or more AIMSonScene events (e.g. – create division or group, move resource, add crewmember, etc.), and is notified when each occurs. Another feature makes it possible for a software engineer to pair up an API command to AIMSonScene, with an acknowledgement. This feature alone saves hours of extra code writing time and effort.

The API has been used to:

1. integrate AIMSonScene with the Motorola Fireground Communications System
2. create interfaces to the Grace Industries TPASS system for wireless accountability,
3. produce three different CAD (Computer Aided Dispatching) interfaces to AIMSonScene
4. integrate a credential and accountability hardware system with AIMSonScene
5. create a data link between the ZOLL FireRMS Mobile Dashboard and AIMSonScene
6. create an AIMSonScene interface to Twitter™, a Web 2.0 micro-blog

The API still includes a means to interface or integrate via a low level IP/sockets approach.

FieldSoft Codes Game Changing Interface to Twitter™ Interface

FieldSoft has created an AIMSonScene to Twitter™ interface. The interface sends ICS events from AIMSonScene to Twitter™ so that anyone allowed can follow incident scene progress from start to finish. The events can be manually viewed via a browser, or _**automatically**_ on SMS compatible cellular telephones.

The new interface to Twitter™, a Web 2.0 personal networking site, will be shown in Dallas, Texas during Fire Rescue International 2009. Interface capabilities will be demonstrated within FieldSoft's exhibit booth (#3255) on August 28, 2009 and August 29, 2009.

The Twitter™ interface is a standalone application that runs behind AIMSon-Scene. Events sent to Twitter™ include benchmarks completed, strategy changes, and incident start and incident end times.

Mark Bouchard of FieldSoft gave two reasons for the Twitter™ interface. "First, FieldSoft needed to demonstrate the new AIMSonScene API .NET DLL. Second, we knew that a no cost solution of automatic notification of incident scene events was desired by department command staff, the press, and other interested parties." Bouchard added, "This interface is a game changer. As far as we know it is the very first application to automatically link the emergency incident scene to a ubiquitous Web 2.0 micro-blog application".

The AIMSonScene to Twitter™ interface application (AKA – AIMSon-Tweet™) will be made available for no additional license charge to new customers and customers with current software support subscriptions. AIMSon-Tweet software support will be provided for no additional charge. Contact FieldSoft directly to request the Twitter™ interface.

Information That the Company Lawyer Makes Me Include

Mark Bouchard is responsible for content. Contact him by email (markb@field soft.com) or telephone (480-899-2128).