

TECHNICAL BULLETIN FROM GLOBAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS

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Global 3000 V4.2 Source - A change in policy

Since the launch of Global 3000, we have followed the Global 2000 policy of applying object code patches (i.e. zaps) to issue most software fixes. Urgent support issues demanded urgent fixes and source held by our Production and Despatch Department lagged behind object code changes. Some fixes were created by the re-issue of a program (i.e. re-packages). Re-packaged sources were reflected in the source held by Production and Despatch, but somewhat inconveniently – they were renamed and added to the end of the source master diskettes.

We are pleased to announce a much improved source update service. Object code patches are no longer created for Global 3000 thus allowing the source to remain in step with the object code. All old patches have been re-applied and tested at source level. A tightly controlled multi-user development environment now allows us to automatically re-create source masters directly from our on-line masters.

With effect from today, Global 3000 sources will be completely regenerated from on-line masters on a monthly basis. The timing is aimed to coincide with the monthly Autozap service. Published dates indicate when the Autozap run is to be released – source masters will be updated with corresponding source changes at the same time. Only source code fixes for re-packages included in the Autozap run will be applied to the sources in Production and Despatch.

Please re-order source masters in the normal manner as and when required. If you time your order with the release of an Autozap run, you will have completely up to date sources. A month or so ago we withdrew our source write-up service. Until this service is reinstated, regenerations of source will continue to be issued free of charge.

A complete review of our source write-up service is currently under way. The aim is to produce write-ups automatically by using source code comparison software. Once again the timing will be aimed to coincide with the monthly Autozap service. Ideally write-ups will be sent directly to those Resellers with source code contracts, rather than being supplied with source diskettes. This will enable you to make a monthly decision about the re-order of source in advance.