

TECHNICAL BULLETIN FROM GLOBAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS

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Global System Manager (Windows NT) beta release

The beta release of Global System Manager (Windows NT) will be available on 22nd July. It runs on Intel computers running Windows NT Server V3.51, Windows NT Workstation V3.51 (as a client and as a server for up to ten clients) and Windows 95 (as a client and a server although it is recommended NT is used for the server). It will not run on other versions of Windows (e.g. Windows 3.1 and Windows-for-Workgroups 3.11).

This software is a full 32-bit Client-Server release of Global System Manager and does not suffer from any of the restrictions of the essentially 16-bit Global System Manager (MS-DOS) implementation. It will also run on a stand-alone Windows 95 or Windows NT computer.

All existing Global applications will work on Global System Manager (Windows NT) without any changes.

All indications are that Windows NT will be the dominant operating platform in the foreseeable future and the ability to operate on Windows NT is likely to be a major pre-requisite of all serious application software vendors within the next few months.

After the beta release of Global System Manager (Windows NT) the development effort will continue. We are hoping to formally launch the product in October to coincide with the Softworld and Windows NT shows as well as our own Global Reseller Conference.

The beta release software will comprise:-

- Standard Global installation via BACNAT, BACRES, BEA etc. diskettes;
- One, or more, file servers accessed via any network supported by Windows 95/NT;
- One process (client) per computer;
- V2.0 compliant Global GUI;
- Printing using a DOS.PRI interface;
- A Windows 'Splash' screen is displayed when Global System Manager is initiated;

- A4 documentation providing details of the installation process;
- Diskette access (note that diskette access is relatively slow).

We expect to include the following software features in the final release but they are not included in the beta release:-

- Support for Power PC platforms;
- Support of serial screens;
- Tape support;
- DDE interface;
- Printing via Windows;
- Global Contract protection message appearing in the About box;
- SVC 61 interface;
- Btrieve open database for Speedbase (Intel servers only);

Other open database architectures will be supported in later releases, as will integration with Novell.

Beta testing is from 22nd July until the end of August. It is proposed to have a meeting in early September with all UK-based NT sites to review the port.

As with all beta test software any problems should be faxed to the Hotline in the normal manner but clearly marked 'GSM-NT BETA' to ensure prompt action.

Any resellers who wish to be part of the GSM (Windows NT) evaluation program should fax details to Andy Smith at Bourne End (01628 532 514).