
Release Notes

Release Notes: HeadOffice V3R0 sp03

Version: V3R0 sp03

Vista



Vista Entertainment Solutions Ltd

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About Vista

Vista Entertainment Solutions develops software for the Cinema Exhibition industry. The **Vista** software system consists of a number of integrated products that cover almost all aspects of managing and operating cinemas. The product line is scalable so as to be suitable to exhibitors who run from one cinema to hundreds of cinemas.

The Vista **Point of Sale** and **Vista BackOffice** (base Vista) provide all Cinemas level function for Box Office and Concessions. At least one installation of Base Vista is required for all Vista customers. All other modules are optional.

The optional modules are:

- **Web Ticketing** - a customisable system that enables ticket sales on the Internet along with display of show times and movie information.
- **IVR Ticketing System**- an automated touchtone phone booking system.
- **Vista Kiosk** - a customisable ATM ticketing system that features touch screen and state of the art multimedia technology for remote ticket sales either on or off-site.
- **Call Center** - provides a central web based application for booking and selling seats across a circuit of cinemas.
- **MobilePOS** - utilises a Pocket PC based PDA's to sell tickets and concessions while connected to the Vista system via a wireless network.
- **Vista Signs** - manages configured animated messages on cinema signs including LED, TV Monitors and Plasma.
- **Vista Projection** - controls the export of cinema show-time schedules to automated projection systems.
- **Vista Air Conditioning** - provides an interface between base Vista and the air conditioning system to regulate air circulation and temperature depending on head count information stored in the Vista database.
- **HeadOffice** - provides central maintenance of key cinema data, uploading of cinema performance data to HeadOffice, a film settlements system and a business intelligence system for analysing circuit wide performance.
- **CashDesk** - a companion product for Vista BackOffice for cinemas that wish to have higher levels of cash and treasury control within the cinema.
- **Employee Scheduling** - provides a graphical employee roster system at cinema locations, along with a HeadOffice module that consolidates all roster information.
- **Film Programming and Scheduling** - a companion product to HeadOffice. It is a system for planning and booking films across a circuit from a central location. The booking system generates best fit schedules to download to the cinema.
- **Voucher Management** - a companion product to Vista HeadOffice that controls the ordering, stocking, transfer, and redemption of coupons, vouchers and passes.
- **Loyalty** - a customer relation management program for the creation, maintenance and evaluation of loyalty programs.

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CHAPTER 1

In This Release

Vista HeadOffice Applications Version 3 Service Pack 03 (V3R0 sp 03) contains the following enhancements and corrections.

Enhancements for Limit Sales by Channel- A list of allowed sales channels has been added to Vista HeadOffice (and other applications). This will allow the restriction of certain films to certain sales channels, e.g. sale of age restricted moves from the web.

Upload of Banking Information to HeadOffice- This has been changed for miscellaneous transactions so that exporting will occur for any fund transactions with a Tender Type of Cash, or Tender Type of Denomination as long as they are not a Voucher.

Vista Transfer uploading and downloading errors have been fixed.

Film Hire: New system setting exists which provides the option of modifying how tax is calculated.

CHAPTER 2

HeadOffice

Enhancements for Limit Sales by Channel

A list of allowed sales channels has been added to Vista HeadOffice (and other applications). This will allow the restriction of certain films to certain sales channels, e.g. sale of age restricted movies from the web.

Sales Channels are defined as:

- Call Centre
- Automated Phone Booking
- Kiosk
- Handheld POS
- POS Sales
- POS Bookings
- Internet Ticketing

HeadOffice Enhancements:

Film Maintenance:

Menu Location: Box Office/Films-Sessions

- A new tab 'Sales Channels' has been introduced on this form (both at HeadOffice and Cinema). This allows the user to indicate which sales channels are selected for a film. By default, each sales channel is selected. The user needs to de-select any channels not required.
- The existing field 'Available to Remote Selling Devices' has been removed from this form as it is no longer required.
- A bug has been fixed in 'saving of Film Print record' in the HeadOffice database.

Other Applications:

The following applications have all been enhanced to indicate which sales channels are available for each session.

- Vista Point of Sale
- Vista Sales Server
- Vista Kiosk
- Vista IVR
- Vista Mobile (PDA)
- Vista Internet Ticketing
- Vista Call Center

User Maintenance:

- A new system setting (UserNoAutoGenerated) has been introduced which allows the automatic generation of User Numbers.

Item/Cinema Linking Programs:

- Cinema / Cinema Groups can only be edited once the edit icon has been pressed. Previously, you were able to select cinema/cinema groups and edit them but had to return to edit mode to save it.

Multiple Barcodes for Ticket Type Maintenance:

- Ticket Type Maintenance has been changed so that multiple barcodes can be linked to a single ticket type.

All barcodes for the same ticket type must conform to the same structure (length/position of code, etc).

HeadOffice Corrections

HeadOffice Auditor:

- A correction was made to the HeadOffice Auditor as it ignored cinemas that were off-line. These off- line cinemas are now included in the audit process.

Data Synchroniser:

- The error that occurred when records were being imported from a site to a blank HeadOffice database has been fixed.
- The error where the first record of each table that was being imported was not getting a number appended to the newly created code has been fixed. E.g. For the film table, the first record gets a code of HO, and the next record gets a code of HO 00000001, HO 00000002 etc.

Price Card Maintenance:

- The system error that occurred when trying to create a price card package from an existing ticket type package has been rectified.
- Previously, vouchers or redemptions could not be part of a ticket package. This has been corrected.

Item Maintenance:

- If an item was marked as a Booking Fee Item (in Item Maintenance) then it could not be deleted or unmarked as a Booking Fee item. THIS has been fixed.
- Previously, when using an Argentinian setup , spUpdateItem or spNewItem would fail. This has been corrected

User Maintenance:

- Does not permit duplication of user names anymore.

Recipe Maintenance:

- The error with the copy function adding components of the selected recipe correctly but displaying the parent item when the recipe is created has been fixed.
- The error message, "activex component can't create object," which appeared when pressing the create icon in recipe maintenance on an empty database has been fixed.
- The error message, "the following error has occurred and cannot be handled by cabinets, error number 91, object variable or with block variable not set," when the "create icon" was pressed on an empty database has been fixed.

House Cost Exceptions:

- The error message, "no active distributors setup" that used to appear when using House Cost Exceptions on an empty database has been resolved.

All Link Programs:

- The Link Maintenance program error that was occurring on an empty database has been resolved. Previously when entering create mode, the message, "There are no items or cinemas," appeared. While this was correct for cinemas it was incorrect for items.

Ticket Type Cinema Link:

- The error message, "the following error has occurred and cannot be handled by cabinets, error number 91, object variable or with block variable not set," when the "create" icon was pressed on an empty database has been fixed.

Item Cinema Link:

- The error message, "the following error has occurred and cannot be handled by cabinets, error number 91, object variable or with block variable not set," when the "create icon" was pressed on an empty database has been fixed.
- Previously, this program allowed cinema/cinema groups to be chosen without going into edit mode. You were not able to save however and had to re-enter edit mode to do this. This has been changed so that edit mode has to be entered to choose cinema/cinema group.

Price Book Detail Maintenance:

- The error message, "application message, type mismatch, pricelist details," that appeared when the create icon was pressed on an empty database has been fixed.

Promotion Detail Maintenance:

- The error message, "application message, error, one or more required arguments are missing..." when the create icon was pressed on an empty database has been resolved.

Item Class Maintenance:

- The error message, "do you wish to apply changes before exiting (message =20014)," when the create icon was pressed followed by exist, when no changes had been made, on an empty database has been fixed.

Film Hire Changes

Film Hire now has the functionality to calculate the Net Box Office figure by taking the Gross Box Office figure and deducting the tax amount based upon the selected Override Tax in Film Maintenance. To use this functionality the system setting "CalculateOnRevenueValue" has to be set to "DetermineNetDuringCalc". These changes affect the Film Hire Payment calculation.

The following forms will be affected:

- Circuits
- Contract Maintenance
- Film Hire Payments

The following reports will be affected:

- Cinema Statistics Report
- Film Hire by Distributor Report
- Weekly Film Hire Report
- Film Hire Performance

CHAPTER 3

Vista Transfer

Uploads to Head Office

Upload of Banking Information to HeadOffice:

- This has been changed for miscellaneous transactions so that exporting will occur for any fund transactions with a Tender Type of Cash, or Tender Type of Denomination as long as they are not a voucher.

Uploading Previous Batches to HeadOffice:

- The problem whereby batches could not be uploaded if they had previously been uploaded has been resolved.

Uploading Errors:

- The translation error log was logging the primary keys of certain films and ticket types that are failing translation, while the description remained blank. This has been fixed.
- The error whereby sales files were able to be successfully imported into Head Office but no data was being loaded into the final set of tables has been fixed.
- The error where the date was wrong when a batch was highlighted to be uploaded has been fixed.
- The translation error that occurred while importing XML file into HeadOffice has been fixed.
- The translation error that occurred during the stored procedure that translates redemptions and then generated an error has been fixed.
- The translation errors that occurred for ticket type and workstation group has been fixed.
- The error where HeadOffice was not recognising Payment Vouchers redeemed (because they are not associated with a session or ticket type) and subsequently assuming that the translation process was failing, which resulted in the download failing has been fixed.

HeadOffice Auditor:

- The error that occurred in HeadOffice Auditor when a zero value transaction existed in the database causing the upload to cease functioning has been corrected.
- An enhancement has been made so that data that has been exported after the day has closed but before the next day starts is now included in the audit.

For example, previously if a cinema did an upload at 3.00am and the end time of your day was 6.00am then the auditor would not audit this data as it did not recognise the upload as a whole day of trading.

After the enhancement, in the above example the data still would not be included unless the cinema closed its day before 3.00am when the upload took place.

- When data is exported from the cinema to HeadOffice using the SQL Job and the HeadOfficeUploadMode system setting is set to 'CurrentDayPlusPrior' the Auditor will not Audit this data.

Multiple Ticket Types:

- Previously when more than one ticket type existed with the same HeadOffice code, it correctly allowed the sales to be uploaded into one central record (the one marked as Allow Download=N). However if there was no record with Allow Download =N or if there was more than one, the ticket type was logged as not being mapped in the error log. This has been rectified.

Downloads to Cinema

Item Class

The failure of "Item Class" to download has been fixed.

Vista Transfer

The error message regarding data migration not being completed has been fixed and modified to include information about which records are causing the error. This allows the user to use Data Migrator to resolve it.

Head Office Code

Errors downloading more than one item with the same code from HeadOffice have been fixed.

CHAPTER 4

Film Scheduling

Cabinets

- The Circuit Sheet Groups, Film Box Office Categories, Film Censorships and Cinema Location Types active column now displays either Yes or No rather than 1 or 0.
- The Circuit Sheet Group's Display Sequence is now displayed as an integer with zero decimal places
- Currency Cabinet is now available in Vista Film Scheduling (under General Maintenance).

Film Maintenance

- Soundtrack, Film Duration are required fields for all films, when Vista Film Scheduling is installed.
- Previously problems occurred with how the associated Film Print record was saved. This has been corrected.

Screen Maintenance

- Two new fields have been added- CleanupTime and TrailerTime. When adding a new record the CleanupTime defaults to a new system setting "DefaultCleanupTime" and TrailerTime defaults to the system setting "DefaultTrailerTime".
- The field TurnaroundTime, now uses new system setting "DefaultTurnaroundTime" when in the planning grid, rather than the screen TurnaroundTime.
- Previously double clicking on Cabinet Grid to open an existing Screen record, Cabinets Form would open but record was not displayed. This has been corrected.

Planning Chart

- The display ordering of screens has been changed so that screen numbers are listed 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc not 1, 10, 11, 12, 2, ...

Planning Grid

- The display ordering of screens has been changed so that screen numbers are listed 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc not 1, 10, 11, 12, 2, ...
- The Status functionality at the Site button has been removed as it is no longer valid.
- An enhancement has been made to allow the "Don't Allow Complementaries" flag to be set for a session.

When adding a film to the Planning Grid, the "Don't Allow Complementaries" flag is set if the "Week Commencing" date of the Grid is less than the Film's "No Free Tickets Until" field. This can be overridden by right clicking the session and selecting "Don't Allow Comps," or double clicking on the Screen on the left, which will bring up the Session Times view and allow the "Don't Allow Comps setting for each session, to be changed".

- TrailerTime and CleanupTime are now displayed and editable on the planning grid. These values are defaulted from the Screen when a film is added to the Planning Grid. However by double-clicking on the Screen on the left, you can edit the CleanupTime and TrailerTime for each session in the Session Times view.
- Previously when the separator between the Planning Grid and the list of Films was moved, some of fields did not move correctly and were incorrectly visible on the background. This has been corrected

Hardtop Extract

- The "Allow Complimentaries" screen has been removed and been replaced by the "Now uses Planning Grid Sessions Don't Allow Complimentaries"flag
- The error that occurred on an empty database has been corrected.
- Trailer and Cleanup Times overrides have been removed. This is replaced by the "Planning Grid Sessions Trailer Time and Cleanup Time values."

Reports

- Problems in "Report 15 - Hardtop Schedule By Film" have been corrected. Previously it was not possible to open this report.

CHAPTER 5

Voucher Management

Corrections:

Batch Voucher Redemption and Batch Voucher Sale:

A problem has been fixed where Voucher Management would reject a HeadOffice connect string if the connect string had a blank password.

Batch Voucher Redemption:

- The error that occurred was a HeadOffice connection which was not set up in both the Redeem Vouchers Wizard and the Update Batch Errors function. This has now been corrected.
- A problem has been fixed on the Update Batch Errors Form , when 'Override All Errors' was selected and no Batch Errors exist.

Stock Report: Due to a functionality provided by Online Voucher Validation, it is possible that a stock record will not be recorded as issued, but have a redemption record. The stock report should not display such records and has been corrected as such.

Report problems associated with address displays occurring when HeadOffice is turned off have been corrected.

Enhancements:

Transfer Vouchers:

- Voucher Types can be selected by typing characters directly into the grid. This mechanism was added to simplify data entry.
- The error messages associated with Transfer Vouchers have been made more informative where the transfer would be invalid.
- Performance has been enhanced when opening Completed Transfers.
- Support has been enhanced for Case Insensitive Voucher Code through Online Voucher Validation.

Batch Voucher Redemption:

This has been enhanced in order to strip off Checksum and Expiry Date if they exist on Barcodes uploaded to HeadOffice.

The following reports have been enhanced to adjust the transfers/settlements for redemption refunds:

- Funds Transfer Report

- Funds Transfer Cheque Summary Report
- Settle Journal Report
- Settle Journal Summary Report

Each report has been enhanced so that the revenue of any voucher redemptions that are refunded is transferred back to the cinema that sold the voucher.

ALL Voucher Management Reports have had their locking behaviour enhanced so they do not affect the performance of online voucher validation.

Issues Report: This has been enhanced so that it displays refunds correctly.

Issues Summary Report: This has been enhanced so that it displays refunds correctly.

Redemptions Report: This has been enhanced so that it displays refunds correctly.

Redemptions Summary Report: This has been enhanced so that it displays refunds correctly.

Order Stock Form:

- This now places a default Expiry if the Voucher Type selected is set to have the Expiry date based on the Print Date and has the Expiry pre-printed option on.
- This has been changed so if the Voucher Type selected is set to have the Expiry date based on the sale, then it is not possible to enter an expiry date in the Order Stock form.

Reports have been modified to exclude stock records that only exist for database referential integrity - e.g. voucher redemptions that do not have associated voucher stock records.

CHAPTER 6

Detailed Release Information

System Settings

Generate User Number in BackOffice User Maintenance

Setting Name: UserNoAutoGenerated
 Category: Security
 Valid Settings: Yes - Automatic User Numbers will be generated
 No - Automatic user numbers will need be entered (default)

Tax Calculation (Net/Gross)

- Setting Name: CalculateOnRevenueValue
 Category: FilmHire
 Valid Options: Net- Net values will be used in all film hire tax calculations (Default)
 Gross - Gross values will be used in all film hire tax calculations
 DetermineNetDuringCalc- Enables new functionality

File format for Invoices and Accrual Files

- Setting Name: ExportsFormat
 Category: FilmHire
 Valid Options: Vista- The Vista file format will be used when generating invoices and accrual files(default).
 Navision - The Vista file format will be used when generating invoices and accrual files.

Path to export Invoices and Accrual Files

- Setting Name: DefaultExportPath
 Category: FilmHire
 Valid options: (eg) C:\ (default)
 Description: The default path to which film hire invoices and accrual files are exported to.

Enhanced

This is a special version that can be applied to Service Pack 3. Although no major functional enhancements are included in this release, it includes a large number of modifications, particularly to data download from HeadOffice.

For this reason, it is not considered a re-build of V3 R0 SP03 - or a normal hot fix package, but should only be installed on recommendation from Vista support staff directly.

It contains the following **Improvements**:

- A Correction has been made in Head Office Film Hire. The navision export procedure has been enhanced so that the CSV export can be completed correctly.
- A number of modifications have been made to the HeadOffice Banking Upload Procedure.
- Updates to tblDataControl were deliberately removed from the SP03 enhanced version. These have been re-added for backward compatibility with some customer specific processing.

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