



Update

ISS45 Version History

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Several customers and prospects have recently asked for a rundown of past **ISS45** versions and their content in order to gauge ICL's delivery performance. Of course, if you get asked such a question, it's good news since it's a pretty good "buying" question, not to mention that you have a very compelling and powerful response. In the history of electronic PoS, no company has progressed a product so fast and with such a cascade of new features; customers are invariably impressed when provided with this history.

ISS45 RELEASE PRACTICE

ISS45 is released by ICL in a standardized **A.B.C** point-release methodology. All **ISS45** releases contain or account for Controller Services, Back Office applications, Communications capabilities and PoS services in the release.

- The first (**A**) letter is the overall version number. These are for primary product foundations regarding the most fundamental system-level issues and occur infrequently. More than one version may be available at one time. Pricing for the different versions is handled on an option price basis so customers are not penalized for purchasing an early version and upgrading to a new version.
- The second (**B**) letter is the feature level of the release, describing the progress of significant feature additions. ICL endeavors to make the feature levels similar across all versions to the greatest extent possible — that is, for example, Version 7.5 would have the same feature set as Version 8.5. Feature-level releases are published comprehensively on a CD-ROM, normally with new hard-copy user documentation and a new electronic library including both user and technical reference documentation. Feature releases are normally made about twice a year, and ICL usually supports only the current and previous feature-level release at any given time. In order to remove barriers to usage, new feature releases are provided at no additional charge to customers covered by a software maintenance agreement, and provides the new software with automatic-upgrade routines to simplify upgrading installed systems. New and major features may be added as controlled options available over and above the standard feature release.
- The third (**C**) letter describes the current maintenance release of the system. Although the primary purpose of maintenance releases is to improve operation and correct software faults, ICL also routinely uses maintenance-level releases to provide feature upgrades needed in advance of a subsequently scheduled feature release. Much customization for users is released in this manner for example, and even new priced options may be included in maintenance releases. In general, maintenance releases do not include database file changes, although this will be occasionally done if upgrade impact can be minimized or eliminated. Maintenance releases are published as necessary and include automatic upgrade routines to simplify installation and upgrading. The typical time between maintenance releases is six to twelve weeks.

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New documentation, where appropriate, is provided in the form of Release Notes manuals to augment the feature-level manuals previously released. Maintenance releases are provided at no charge to users under software maintenance agreements, and are available from ICL Managed Services or the **ISS45** Bulletin Board or Web Site.

- “Patches” consist of new executable files to replace existing files for maintenance purposes and are available from ICL on an as-needed basis. **ISS45** users can install the new executables immediately if desired, or wait until a maintenance release consisting of several patches. Documentation is normally limited to the README files provided with the patch. Patches are available from ICL Managed Services or from the **ISS45** Bulletin Board or Web Site. There are no charges for patches for users under an **ISS45** software maintenance agreement.
- Alphanumeric releases (7.6a) refer to early and non-released feature releases used for testing and validation purposes. Occasionally in the past, ICL had provided an alphanumeric maintenance release (e.g. 7.4.4a) — referring to a small modification of an immediately prior maintenance release. ICL will use numbers instead of letters for these releases in the future to avoid confusion.

ISS45 VERSION HISTORY

The following table provides the version releases, the release date and a capsule summary of the content. The most important releases are highlighted in bold type.

Version	Release Date	Content
7.6	March 1999	Many small Y2K corrections, and many minor feature enhancements, especially in the areas of Advanced Promotions/Member cards. See Marketing Bulletin 1141.
7.5.2	Not Released	Customer-specific customization, not implemented at time of availability. In 7.6
7.5.1	October 1998	Maintenance, plus customer-specific feature customization.
7.5	August 1998	This release contains approximately 35 new features including off-line suspend/recall; check and cashier capabilities; suspend/recall by shopper ID; keystroke record/playback; delay manager approval until end-of-order; bonus coupon suppression; last ticket search on electronic journal; TeamConsole support; PBR copy command; new Cashier Transaction and PoS Terminal Transaction reports, and other report enhancements. A new CD-ROM and Electronic Library was released with this version. 7.5 Release Notes user documentation was released plus updated technical documentation. See Marketing Bulletin 1136.
7.4.4a	July 1998	Maintenance update to 7.4.4.
7.4.4	June 1998	Although a maintenance release, about 30 new features added, including multiple advanced promotions; schemes/segments; Promotion Identifier LQD system; Corema integration (cost option); frequent shopper LQD enhancements; simultaneous standard/advanced frequent shopper usage; end-of-day reporting; EAN99; process and batch file enhancements. New 7.4.4 Release Notes user documentation. See Marketing Bulletin 1129.

Version	Release Date	Content
7.4.3	January 1998	Maintenance release, with the major addition of "Enhanced Frequent Shopper," enabling use of standard frequent shopper PLU fields with the Advanced Promotions option. Altogether, about 30 enhancements were made in the 7.4.1/7.4.2/7.4.3 releases. New 7.3.1—7.4.3 Release Notes user documentation was released. See Marketing Bulletin 1129.
7.4.2	November 1997	Maintenance release with six new features including WIP (Workstation-in-PoS); EBT with NTN PINnacle interface.
7.4.1	September 1997	Maintenance release including new CLUB.ASC file to record and export frequent shopper activity from Advanced Promotions. See Marketing Bulletin 1129.
7.4	July 1997	Major enhancement release with about 30 new features and enhancements. Significant new capability with full 32-bit native NT operation. Other principal additions: new platform support for IBM, NCR and SNI terminals; Year 2000 changes; free item/trading stamp feature for Advanced Promotions; BOGO enhancements in Advanced Promotions; SIL option renovation; Cashier name and Shopper name on receipt options; new ASCII extracts for S18 PACF functions. Documentation included 7.4 Release Notes and the initial general release of the ISS45 CD-ROM. See Marketing Bulletin 1122.
7.3.2a/b/c/d	March-June 1997	Maintenance updates to 7.3.2 with minor enhancement content only.
7.3.2	February 1997	Intended as a new feature version, this product had over 40 new capabilities but was nonetheless released under maintenance numbering. Important new features include the first release of the ISS45 LoadMaker™ version control tool; PoSMail™; frequent shopper control over the Advanced Promotions Option; real-time queue length reporting; restricted sale enhancements; birthday validation enhancements; cashier item search; FlyBuys™; graphic displays on idle screens; voucher shopping and tendering; service fees. A 7.3.2 Release Notes document was produced. See Marketing Bulletin 1113.
7.3.1	November 1996	Feature release with over 40 new features: Advanced Promotions Option/Member Card frequent shopper system; enhanced 24-hour operation; automated end-of-day; basket analysis reporting; check listing and check logs; ASCII version of the Transaction Log; multiple day analysis with electronic journal; general void; not-found PLU slip; terminal accountability; PoS Alerts automatic messaging system; automated system integrity monitoring; enhancements to automated WIC; weight display on CRT; system software key control. New hard-copy user and technical documentation was released. See Marketing Bulletin 1103.
7.3	(October 1996)	Test version only. When completed, this release was within 30 days of the 7.3.1 release (see above) and was withheld in favor of 7.3.1.
7.2.1	April 1996	Maintenance Release with a small number of enhancements including PAN masking for electronic payments transactions and more convenient file maintenance using F4 to link to promotions data.

Version	Release Date	Content
7.2	October 1995	Feature release with over 30 new features and improvements. Reorganized Receipt™; thermal printer support; enhanced bad accounts system; cashier input of shopper information; manager accounting system; sign-on/sign-off and training mode searches for the Electronic Journal; multiple family code fields; vendor coupon and cashier over-limit reports; zero-price PLUs; bar-coded suspend/recall and in-store printed coupons. New user documentation was provided. See Marketing Bulletin 1058.
7.1	August 1995	Feature release with about 30 new features and improvements. Positive/Negative check approval system; interface to RDS in-house charge account system; automatic discounts; "you-could-have-saved" messages; cost-plus pricing system; shopper display messages with scrolling; APT (xiNETix) interface option; bagger ID; context-sensitive help framework at PoS; post-void. New user documentation was published, plus updated technical manuals. See Marketing Bulletin 1050.
7.0.1	March 1995	First General Release version of ISS45, containing additions and fixes to the 7.0 version.
7.0	February 1995	Live store test version of ISS45. See Marketing Bulletins 1026 (major account) or Marketing Bulletin 1000 (RETAILpartners).

To your success,

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