

Update Bulletin

Check Definition and ISS45 7.7.1_59

July 1, 2002

Fujitsu Transaction Solutions is pleased to announce Patch _59 for ISS45 7.7.1.

The new code can be downloaded from the ISS45 Dealer Support Web site. The direct address is http://www.icretail.com/support/iss45/docs/software/771_59pat.html.

Among several other changes (see the Patch Table on the Web site) Patch _59 changes the way ISS45 interprets the MICR stream from some printers. With the WinPoS version of _59, a new parameter can control whether to use the Check Definition file in the system to parse the MICR stream or to use the native parsing firmware when using an Axiohm printer. A short background may help you decide how you want to use this change and how you will want to work with this in the future.

- Fujitsu went to a Check Definition file in 2001 for two reasons: first, to enable handling the MICR stream in the Epson printers, and second to enhance the Axiohm's ability to handle new MICR formats without the need for firmware upgrades.
- Epson and Axiohm have adopted different strategies for dealing with MICR. Axiohm provides parsing from within the printer's firmware, and passes pre-formatted data to the PoS software. The advantage is that the software needs to do almost nothing, but the disadvantage is that when new MICR formats are introduced, the printer cannot handle them until a firmware upgrade is performed on the printer.
- Epson's philosophy is that the PoS software needs to handle the MICR parsing, and Epson therefore passes a raw MICR stream to the PoS software. The disadvantage is that the PoS software has to be "smart," but there is a major architectural advantage in that updates for new MICR formats can be handled by a file change as opposed to updating printer firmware.
- The "Check Definition File" was implemented to work with both types of printers. Unfortunately, there were many formats that were not contemplated in the original Check Definition File, and so Dealers suffered many file updates at first. At least, however, new formats could now be handled without a physical printer firmware upgrade.
- ***Make sure you are using the current Check Definition File database!*** Several Dealers sent us all the formats they had run into in the field, and these were combined into a single file. Using the updated file will enable your stores to operate without MICR read format failures barring new introductions. The most recent release is dated April 22, and is available (where else) on the ISS45 Dealer Web site at <http://www.icretail.com/support/iss45/docs/software/CheckDef.html>.
- Epson has now provided a DLL utility for ISS45 to embed within the WinPoS software. This module is expected to further enhance ISS45's capability for processing MICR with the Epson printers. Assuming testing proves positive, the Epson module will be released this month in Patch _60.
- It was Fujitsu's first priority to address WinPoS – we are working to find a way around memory constraints so that the DOS version can also use Axiohm MICR direct passing.

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