

## Ready for Electronic Registrations?

The provision of Electronic Bus Service Registration (EBSR), underpinned by the TransXChange standard data format, is now becoming a reality for many Operators and Local Authorities with paper registrations replaced by the electronic equivalent.

An essential requirement for those dealing with Electronic Registrations is to have software that enables the process to be carried out both quickly and easily. EBSR will significantly reduce the amount of paperwork required to register a service and remove any errors in interpretation of the documents. The electronic transfer of data will also remove the need for timetable data to be entered from paper sources, providing significant time savings in creating timetable data for Traveline and other purposes.

Omnibus have developed a suite of programs to enable users to fully exploit the benefits of EBSR and TransXChange. Our EBSR Module will take the user step by step through the process of creating Registrations. For

Local Authorities the timetable data from the EBSR files submitted by operators can be easily imported into OmniTIMES in a matter of seconds. In a couple of minutes you can import 30-40 new registrations, whilst under the current system you would still be opening the envelopes! This frees up valuable time for other purposes.

This Omnibus technology is already in use at a number of clients, including PTI Cymru and Northamptonshire Council who use it to import EBSR information into OmniTIMES for their Traveline database. We also have some operations using the modules to export timetable data in TransXChange format to Real Time Information and Ticket Machine systems.

This software will be on show at the ATCO Summer Conference in Torquay (18th-19th June). Please call at our stand and see the potential benefits that can be gained from Electronic Bus Service Registration.

## PocketBUS hits the road

At the end of 2008, we announced that we had completed some major changes to PocketBUS, our service and performance monitoring tool. These changes bring in a wider range of information and data recording, together with more flexible reporting and a new management element for the software.

At the start of 2009, Gloucestershire County Council upgraded from their existing PocketBUS, which they had been using for about 18 months, to the new version. "It's so much improved – it's like having a new computer", commented Nick Bauer, who is responsible for PocketBUS at the Council.

"There were a few issues to start off with, but working with Omnibus these were quickly resolved – its like a partnership, and there isn't much of that these days".

Gloucestershire County Council have 6 inspectors using PocketBUS; "The new system was easy to learn and is quick and easy to use. It has revolutionised collection of passenger numbers, which used to be done on paper and was difficult to collate. The new PocketBUS has a new file format too, which allows us to easily create new databases and interrogate the data using better reports."

On the whole, the revised PocketBUS has been a hit at Gloucestershire – although they did need to purchase new handheld computers to make it perform much more quickly, "We have the new IPAQ 214's, which start the software up in seconds, so inspectors can react quickly out on the street".

If you want to see the new PocketBUS, please contact Omnibus or visit us at the ATCO exhibition in Torquay.



## NEW LOOK FOR OMNISTOP

**Bus Times**

Departures from:  
**EXETER, Bus Station - Bay 12**  
Effective from: 11.05.2009

X38 EXETER - PLYMOUTH		STAMERDASH Exams	
Monday - Friday (except Public Holidays)			
EXETER, Bus Station <12>	0515	0530	0550 0700 0840 then
COUNTRESS WEAR, Roundabout	0522	0537	0557 0707 0850 every
DRUMBRIDGES, Roundabout	0540	0555	0615 0725 0905 hour
ALSTON, Cross	0548	0600	0620 0731 0911 until
ASHBURTON, Bull Ring	--	0604	0624 0734 0914
BUCKFASTLEIGH, Station Approach	--	0610	0630 0740 0920
BITTAFORD, Horse & Groom	--	--	0642 0752 0932
IVYBRIDGE, Town Hall	--	--	0650 0800 0940
IVYBRIDGE, Westover Wood	0600	0622	-- -- --
CATTEDOWN, First & Last	0612	0634	0705 0815 --
CATTEDOWN, Barbican Approach	--	--	-- -- -- 0955
PLYMOUTH, Bretonside Bus Station	0620	0645	0715 0825 1003

  

EXETER, Bus Station <12>		1540 1440 1545 1645 1745 1900	
COUNTRESS WEAR, Roundabout	1350	1450	1600 1700 1800 1910
DRUMBRIDGES, Roundabout	1405	1505	1620 1720 1820 1925
ALSTON, Cross	1411	1511	1626 1726 1826 1931
ASHBURTON, Bull Ring	1414	1514	1631 1731 1831 1934
BUCKFASTLEIGH, Station Approach	1420	1520	1638 1738 1838 1940
BITTAFORD, Horse & Groom	1432	1532	1650 1750 1850 1952
IVYBRIDGE, Town Hall	1440	1540	1658 1758 1858 1959
CATTEDOWN, Barbican Approach	1455	1555	1713 1813 1913 2014
PLYMOUTH, Bretonside Bus Station	1503	1603	1721 1821 1921 2019

  

EXETER, Bus Station <12>		0540 0600 0700 0840 then	
COUNTRESS WEAR, Roundabout	0547	0607	0707 0850 every
DRUMBRIDGES, Roundabout	0605	0625	0725 0905 hour
ASHBURTON, Bull Ring	0614	0634	0734 0914 until
BUCKFASTLEIGH, Station Approach	0620	0640	0740 0920
BITTAFORD, Horse & Groom	--	0652	0752 0932
IVYBRIDGE, Town Hall	--	0700	0800 0940
IVYBRIDGE, Westover Wood	0632	--	-- -- --
CATTEDOWN, First & Last	0644	0715	0815 -- --
CATTEDOWN, Barbican Approach	--	--	-- -- -- 0955
PLYMOUTH, Bretonside Bus Station	0655	0725	0825 1003

Effective from: 11.05.2009 © Omnibus Software Ltd Page 1 Stop Bus EXETER, Bus Station - Bay 12 (11/05/2009)

For more information about public transport in Devon

www.devon.gov.uk Devon County Council

One of the things that OmniSTOP users may notice is that there are a number of styles available to use for their displays. However, the design you want may be slightly (or very) different to these – and Omnibus can help! Working to your specification, Omnibus can produce client-specific designs that automatically style your displays; colours, fonts, generic texts and images may all be included in a template that is then added to your software for use.

One recent example of this is a template designed for Devon County Council. Using the timetables maintained for Traveline in OmniTIMES as their source data they not only wanted specific colours and layout in their OmniSTOP displays, but also required the services to appear in a specific order. This is often done because passengers are used to a certain layout, or because a particular service is more frequent.

You can obtain further details on OmniSTOP by contacting Omnibus or visiting us at the ATCO Conference in Torquay.

# What our clients have to say...

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

This issue, we posed some questions to Neil Holland of Northamptonshire County Council:

### 1. What is the scale of operations at Northamptonshire County Council?

Northamptonshire's bus stop network includes 4017 "live" NaPTAN stops, and we currently have around 200 public bus services, details of which are all stored in OmniTIMES.

During the 12 months to the end of May 2009, we received more than 120 registration changes, 53 of which came in as Electronic Bus Service Registrations. All of these were imported into OmniTIMES via the TransXChange importer.

### 2. How has the Omnibus software worked for you?

Before buying OmniTIMES and OmniSTOP, we used a timetable database to store and export our timetable data for Traveline. We

recognised that we needed to produce quality roadside timetable displays, so went to tender for a system that would handle both the Traveline data and also produce the displays we wanted. Omnibus won this tender and the software was installed in 2006.

We were very happy with the roadside displays when we began producing them from OmniSTOP, and we remain so now. We have since produced timetable displays for the vast majority of urban and core routes and major inter-urban routes. We plan, in the near future, to review the coverage of displays across the county, so that we can produce displays for all stops that are currently without one.

With regard to the handling of timetable data and the production of CIF files for Traveline, there was some initial concern about how the system worked, which was admittedly partly due to resistance to change, but also due to issues with the data export that could be

produced from OmniTIMES. This was soon overcome as we were able to work with Omnibus staff (along with the Traveline software supplier) to produce a data export that was acceptable to all parties. Throughout this period we found Omnibus a very amenable and friendly company to work with.

Both the original aims discussed above, therefore, have been fulfilled satisfactorily.

Very recently, we have started to use OmniTIMES for planning Local Authority tendered bus services. This is in very early stages, but once we can demonstrate that using OmniTIMES can save us time in planning (it was previously created by hand in Excel or Word), we may get other team members trained, pushing OmniTIMES into the core of how the Bus and Rail Team function.

Further aims include investigating the potential of the OmniEXPORT and OmniFLAG modules.

### 3. Are there any comments you would like to make about Omnibus?

We have, on the whole, found OmniTIMES and OmniSTOP very useful software to work with. The system is very flexible in enabling us to display our data in various ways. We also find the Omnibus staff are always very friendly and helpful whether speaking on the telephone, e-mail or in person. Omnibus, as a company, also seem very ambitious, constantly developing their software, clearly striving for a strong position within the industry.

### 4. You are using the Omnibus EBSR Module. How have you found that?

We took the EBSR TransXChange Importer due to our largest operator, Stagecoach, beginning to submit their registrations in this format. We have used the module to import a large number of Electronic Registrations to date and have been very impressed with the speed that the module imports the data. The TransXChange viewer is a useful additional feature, allowing us to view the Registrations easily as a reference.



## SEE SOMETHING THAT YOU LIKE?

If you wish to see any Omnibus product first hand, please contact us. We are attending several events this year, so if you plan to attend any of the following please visit our stand or make an arrangement for a demonstration whilst you are there (or just pop by for the obligatory Omnibus chocolate!)

ATCO Summer Conference, Torquay (18th – 19th June)

Coach and Bus Live, Birmingham NEC (7th – 8th October)

So, if it's EBSR you need, depot allocation, timetables and scheduling, displays, mapping or rota building – in fact any of our products – please come along and ask!



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