

Automatic Reports via Background Processor

Introduction

The Background Process allows you to set up recurring processes that either process data or creates reports. For Hosted accounts these reports can only be emailed. Self-hosted accounts can have reports emailed or printed on a designated printer. The process can be set up to run just once or repeatedly on a prescribed schedule.

If the process has dates or other parameters to be entered these can be set up as part of the process.

Job Parameters

In order to facilitate setting up a report you can select Run in Background from the Output Destination box. This will work with nearly all of your background processing needs.

Here is how this would work if you were to schedule POS report POS-RP-2-21 (Tender Register Summary).

1. Do everything that you would normally do to run the report but select Run in Background instead of the Terminal or a Printer.

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File Connection View Help

Tender/Register Summary

This report selects the sales transaction detail (STD) records for the parameters that you specify and summarizes them by the tender summarization code. Then the summary report is printed. Because there may be many records involved and many calculations are being performed, this report may take several minutes.

Store:
 Register:

Beginning Date*
 Ending Date*

Summarize Stores:
 Summarize Registers (Y/N)*
 Show Non-Merch Detail:
 Class or Department Detail:
 Include Reconciliation:
 Use History File (Y/N)*

Parameters

Select your output destination

☒ Terminal

☐ System Printer

☐ Local Printer

☐ Other Printer

☐ Email

☐ Send to Host File

☒ Run in Background

☐ Command String

After selecting Run in Background the following box will appear. Select "Schedule".

Tender/Register Summary

Send to Background

After selecting Schedule you are then prompted for a name to call this process. Enter a brief code, do not enter spaces.

Tender/Register Summary

Enter the name of this process You may enter up to 10 characters

When you have chosen a name/code to call this process the following screen appears. This is the Job record that will be

used to run this process on the schedule you specify.

Tender/Register Summary

Background ID: RP-2-21

Account* POS

Sender Port* 2356

Notify Sender* N

Run Status* R

Next Run Date* 08/31/17

Next Run Time* 02:00am

Day Intervals* 1

Exclude Days:

Time Interval* 24:00:00

EXCLUDE TIMES:

##	FROM..	TO....

Start: Time:

End: Time:

Total Executions:

Group Code:

Sequence in Group:

Process Type* P

Process ID* RP-TTS-10

Output Tag: P

INPUTS:

##	TEXT
1	""
2	DATE-1
3	DATE-1
4	""
5	Y
6	N
7+	""

=Update X=Cancel Entries M=Modify

ScreenID BG.0 User FLT Version 6.7 Port 2356 Account POS 14:03

This is the record that is created. Once you saved it you will be able to access through BG-01.

Field Definitions

- **Account** This is the Account that the process will run from. It is strictly informational.
- **Sender Port** Not used
- **Notify Sender** Not used
- **Run Status** R=run at scheduled time and intervals, I=run immediately (great for testing), and X=Stop from running. If this is set to "I" then it will switch to "R" once it has run.
- **Next Run Date** The next date this process is set to run.
- **Next Run Time** The next time this process is set to run.
- **Day Intervals** This is how frequently you want to run the process.
 - 1 = daily, 7 = weekly, 14 = every two weeks, etc.
- **Exclude Days** Enter the days that you **do not** want this

process to run. Options include SUN, MON, TUE, WED, THUR, FRI, and SAT.

- **Time Interval** This is how frequently in a given Day Interval you want this process to run. 1:00:00 is hourly, 24:00:00 is once per Day Interval.
- **Exclude Times** Time ranges that you do not want the process to run.
- **Group Code** This allows you to create groups so that processes run in the order you want.
- **Sequence in Group** Where in this group the process will run.
- **Process Type** There are three options based on the kind of process is going to run. Valid types include "T" for TCL/Command Line, "P" for Procsb (this is the majority of processes), and "TD" for TCL/Command Line with data being supplied by the INPUTS in this process.
- **Process ID** Each menu option on the system takes you to another Menu, a Data Entry Screen, or a Process. Always use a Process. Nearly all process have a set of inputs that is used to define parameters for that process.
- **Output Tag** This parameter is used to define printer and email options. It is discussed in detail below.
- **LAST RUN** This box has the last run date and starting time, and the date that the last run ended and the time that it ended. Most processes take a minute or two at the most.

INPUTS: This is a list of any values as they will be needed by the process. In this particular example we have "" (press enter) three separate times. And then the word DATE twice. Since you are probably familiar with this report this values would look familiar. Other values on the next screen include Y, N, D, N, etc.

When DATE is used there are three options:

DATE This is today's date. Use this if the scheduled run date is for the current date.

DATE+n This is today's date + n days.

DATE-n This is today's date – n days.

It is recommended that you run a process a at lease an hour prior to midnight and some time after midnight.

Output Tag

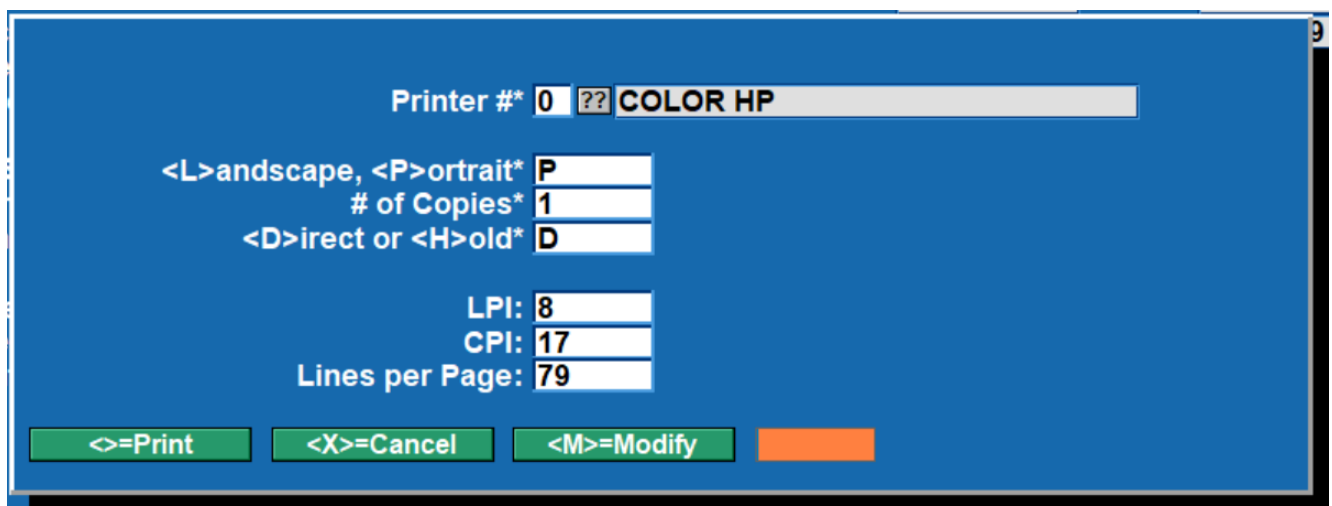
The Output Tag is used to indicate if the process is to be printed or emailed.

If Printed (Self-Hosted users only) enter a "P" in the field.
If emailed enter "E" in the field.

Printer Output Tag

When selecting Printer the following appears.

**NOTE: Printer output is only available for self hosted systems. Customers running on the hosted environment will need to use the email output.*

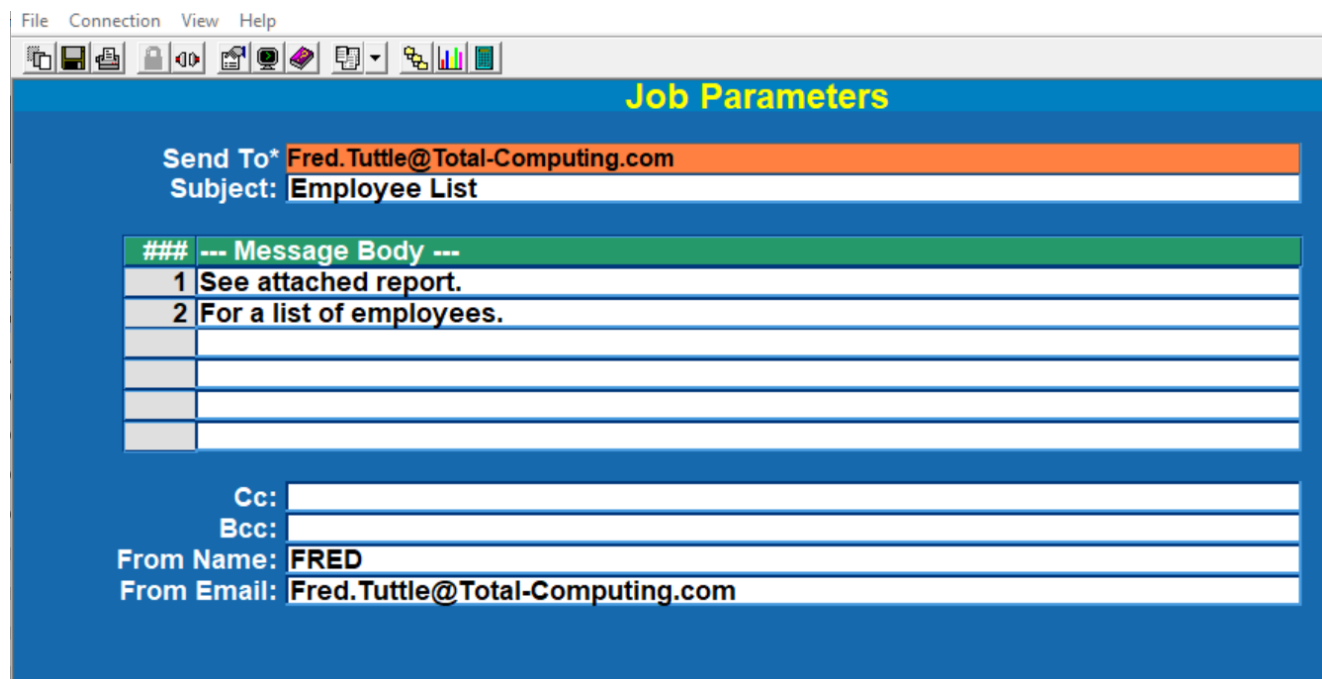


Select your printer options.

Email Output Tag

When selecting Email the following appears. Enter the fields as they best match your requirements. If you have already

entered the fields and just want to make some adjustments then after entering “E” your prior settings appear (as in this example).



The screenshot shows a software window titled "Job Parameters" with a menu bar (File, Connection, View, Help) and a toolbar. The window contains the following fields:

- Send To*:** Fred.Tuttle@Total-Computing.com
- Subject:** Employee List
- Message Body:** A table with two rows:

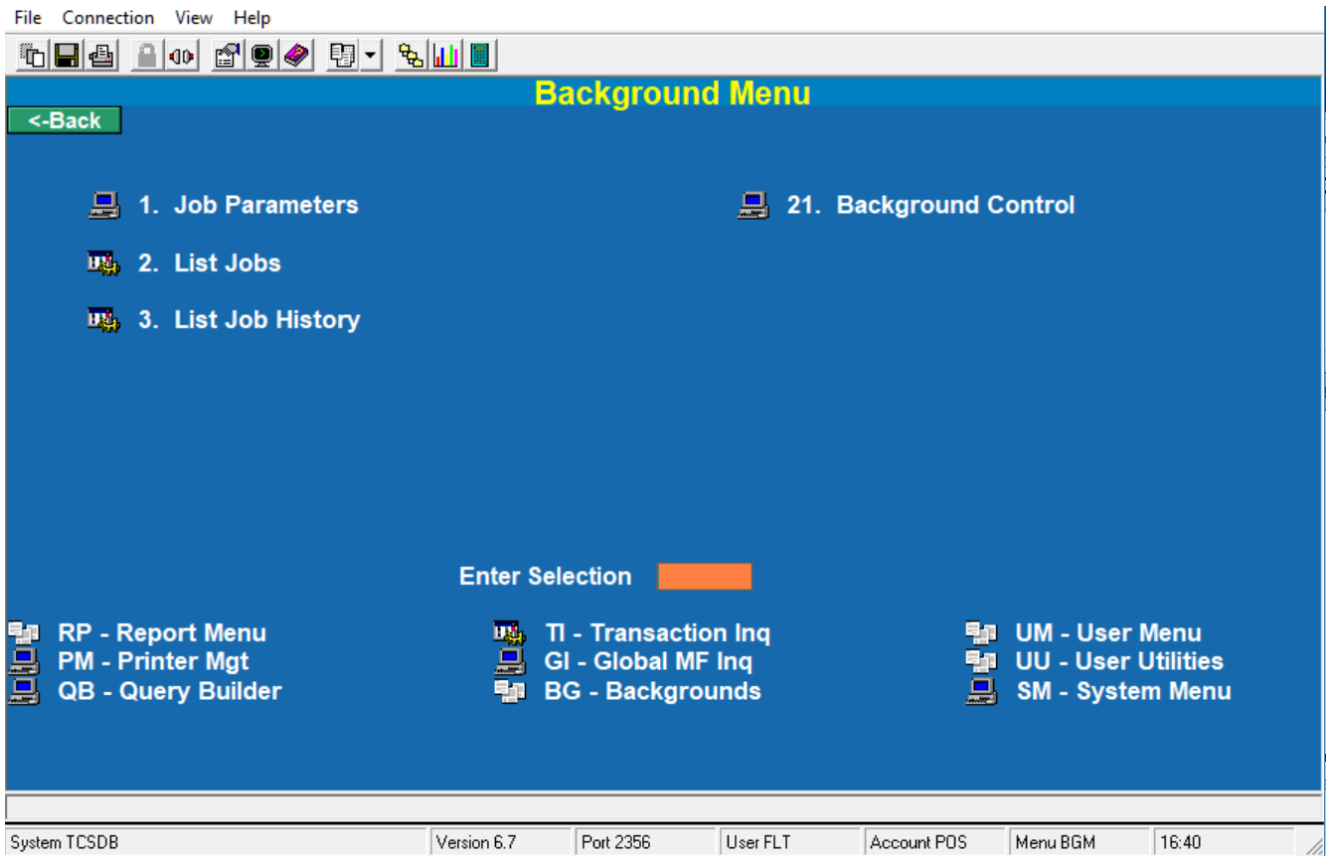
###	--- Message Body ---
1	See attached report.
2	For a list of employees.
- Cc:** (empty field)
- Bcc:** (empty field)
- From Name:** FRED
- From Email:** Fred.Tuttle@Total-Computing.com

You can have multiple email address by separating them with a comma.

Managing Backgrounds

The background process is managed by selecting option “BG” at the bottom (or common section) of the screen. This is available in all modules and can be ran by entering BG into the menu selection field even if you do not see a button on screen.

When you select BG the following menu is displayed.



1. Job Parameters was discussed in the prior section.
2. List Jobs will give you a report of all of the jobs that have been setup on your database. You will notice on the following list that there are many different jobs that can be set up.

Find: Page



SORT CO.BG KEY RUN.STATUS START.DATE START.TIME LAST.START.DATE LAST.START.TIME PROCESS.ID						
PAGE 1						
KEY.....	RUN	NEXT....	NEXT....	LAST	LAST	PROCESS
	STATUS	RUN DATE	RUN TIME	DATE	TIME...	ID.....
21REPORT	X	07/13/17	02:00am	07/12/17	11:19am	RP-TTS-10
BACKUP	X	05/21/98	02:55pm	07/19/00	04:10pm	BACKUP
BB.AVG.COST	X	10/17/12	09:30am	10/16/12	09:30am	BB-AVG-COST
BU	X	07/13/17	02:55pm	07/12/17	11:19am	Z
CJT	X	05/21/98	04:20am	02/07/01	08:25am	TEST
CLOSE.CC.BATCH	X	05/21/98	03:00am	11/12/99	12:49pm	CLOSE.BATCH.CES
CW	X	02/07/01	03:12am	02/07/01	03:40pm	CW.INTERFACE
DAVE	X	01/17/13	11:59pm			TX-RP-INV-VAL
DAVE.TIME	X	03/11/08	01:48pm	03/10/08	01:48pm	RP-DSJ-02-NS
DDDDD	X	10/17/12	11:59pm	10/16/12	11:59pm	TX-BB-EVAL
EMAIL1	X	07/13/17	08:15am	07/12/17	11:19am	POS.BATCH.EMAIL
						S
EMP	X	08/02/17	01:52pm	08/02/17	01:50pm	CASHIER.LIST
EWS	X	05/21/98	12:00pm	11/12/99	12:49pm	MMM
EXP	X	09/10/12	02:10pm	09/10/12	02:05pm	EFOLETT
FEEREPORT	X	03/10/08	11:59pm	03/09/08	11:59pm	RP-FEE-01
FRED.TEST	X	07/25/17	11:59pm			CASHIER.LIST
FRED1	X	02/02/06	10:11am	02/01/06	10:11am	POS-23-03
FRED2	X	07/12/17	11:59pm			RP-TTS-10
GM.ITMCNV	X	05/21/98	05:00am	10/30/97	05:00am	GM.ITMCNV
GM.PO	X	05/21/98	05:00am	10/30/97	05:00am	GM.PO
GM.VNDCNV	X	05/21/98	05:00am	10/30/97	05:00am	GM.VNDCNV
JAKEBK	X	05/21/98	02:55pm	07/19/00	04:10pm	LOTSOFSAVES
JDM	X	09/08/04	11:02am	09/07/04	11:02am	POS-TRANS-05
REBUILD.DSJ	X	07/13/17	03:30pm	07/12/17	11:19am	POS.REBUILD.DSJ
RENT1	X	08/26/13	02:00pm	08/25/13	02:00pm	POS.RENTAL.EMAI
						L
RESIZE	X	05/21/98	10:00am	11/12/99	12:49pm	BG.RESIZE
RP-2-21	X	08/31/17	02:00am			RP-TTS-10
BBC POST	X	05/21/98	04:00am	10/30/97	04:00am	BBC POST

1. List Job History shows a list of the last 50 times that a job was processed.

 BG.LIST.JOB.HISTORY

Find: Page 

SORT CO.BG.STATUS NOPAGE 05:02:51pm 30 Aug 2017 PAGE 1			
CO.BG.STATUS Command Line.....		Date....	Time....
BG.LAST.JOB		08/29/17	11:59pm
EMP	CASHIER.LIST	07/27/17	07:12pm
		07/27/17	07:14pm
		07/27/17	07:58pm
		07/27/17	08:05pm
		07/27/17	08:20pm
		07/27/17	08:21pm
		07/27/17	08:38pm
		07/27/17	08:38pm
		07/28/17	12:45pm
		07/29/17	10:50am
		07/29/17	10:59am
		07/29/17	11:00am
		07/29/17	11:06am
		07/29/17	11:09am

21. Background Control is where you start and stop phantom jobs. The only job that you should stop is BG.PROCESSOR. All other phantoms are controlled by their own process.

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Phantom Job Management

##	Account	Port	Status	Date	Time	Process
1	POS	4928	Unknown	08/10	12:26	BATCH.CREATE.SRS.DATA
2	POS	4464	Unknown	08/28	12:58	BG.PROCESSOR
3	POS	4032	Unknown	08/10	12:26	POS.BATCH.UPDATE.S

Options

Start a Job

Refresh List

Stop a Job

Exit

To Stop a Job click on the row that has BG.PROCESSOR on it then click on Stop a Job.

To Start a Job simply click on Start a Job.

After you do either one of these you may experience a short

pause. This is caused by the system monitoring the process to make certain that it was started or stopped.

Email Notification

Self-Hosted users may choose to have reports print to a specific printer or sent via email. Hosted users are limited to reports that are emailed only.

When an email is sent it will have the Sequence/Iteration number of the report included in the body of the email. The email will look similar to this.



The EMAIL.PDF attachment is the report that was scheduled to run. This is the 212th iteration of this Employee List.