# Understanding Your CU\*Answers Invoice and Maximizing Your Return

Correlating CU\*Answers Pricing and Monthly Invoices With The Way Your Credit Union Earns Live Interactive Session: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 Web Conference Summary: Tuesday, August 4, 2009



## Introduction

- As we interact today, we all have several hats to wear:
  - As credit union buyers of CUSO services, you're here to make sure you understand "the deal" and how that deal is evolving (due diligence)
  - As credit union operators, you're here to help us better match our services with your business plans and future directions (focus group)
  - As CUSO stakeholders, you're here to make sure that the CUSO is putting its best foot forward in designing products and services that are priced properly for credit union operations (due diligence)
  - As CUSO stakeholders, you're here working by proxy for all of the interested parties who are vested in the success of our network and the credit union industry (focus group)

# How the CU\*Answers Accounting Team Works for You

We're more than just the people who send you your bill...

## **The CU\*Answers Accounting Team**

An Untapped Resource for Your Credit Union?

4

- Every department at CU\*Answers is a client service department...
- Sometimes clients overlook how the CUSO's accounting team can add to a credit union's success
- More than bookkeeping, the accounting team is a valuable resource for how to make a buck on some big investments



## Of course we do send a lot of bills...



## Invoice Activity: CU\*Answers

**Types of Invoices We Produce** 

- Monthly Online Processing Invoices
- Monthly Statement Processing Invoices
- Monthly Self Processing Invoices
- Monthly WESCONet Invoices
  - Equipment
  - Maintenance
  - Web Hosting
- Monthly Miscellaneous Invoices

## Invoice Activity: CU\*Answers

**Interesting Statistics** 

7

In May, we issued 412 total invoices for CU\*Answers

In May, the total invoices exceeded \$2,470,000

We currently maintain 1,887 inventory items on our accounting system

All departments are responsible for billing to some extent

# Invoice Activity: CU\*Answers

### How It's Done

- Great Plains Dynamics is the core accounting platform
  - We use the iSeries to compile a great deal of information
  - We then integrate the data from the iSeries into Great Plains
  - Manual input for external (non-automated) items
- Billing draft file is prepared and read by 2 staff members for validation and checks for accuracy
  - Management review of billing file
  - Invoices are prepared and a random 10 are pulled for further verification
- Invoices are delivered to clients via email

## **Delivering Invoices via Email**

What's We've Done So Far

- Implemented for the following companies
  - CU\*Answers all
  - Xtend most
  - eDOC many
  - CU Student Choice all
- Each client can have up to 5 email accounts on file
- IMPORTANT REMINDERS:
  - Please let us know about any changes to these email addresses!
  - Remember that this list is *separate* from the list used for broadcast emails (from dmoore@cuanswers.com)

# Delivering Invoices via Email

### **Important Reminders**

- We will call all clients when an email is returned as "Undeliverable" in an attempt to get a new valid address
- The email invoices are a slightly different format and presentation from the printed versions
  - We can re-email or reprint them for the next 7 years



Questions? Need a copy of an old invoice?

Contact Carlynn DeKraker (ext. 172 or email to <u>cdekracker@cuanswers.com</u> or) for help with research or if you need any old invoices recreated!

## Implementation of CU Check 21 for Merchant Capture

- What is it?
  - Electronic deposit of our business checks
  - eDOC Merchant capture technology to be used (Check Logic Lite)
- All CU\*Answers deposits (Xtend and eDOC also) will be scanned and deposited remotely to our accounts at Corporate One FCU
  - We expect a late summer implementation



# Paying Invoices via ACH

What We've Done So Far

- Last summer (release 8.1) we added a feature to CU\*BASE Accounts Payable that links incoming ACH debits to A/P Vendor history
  - Like bill pay for credit unions!

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A/P

A/P ver payment

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# Paying Invoices via ACH

What We've Done So Far

### Benefits

- No postage or paper expenses
- No chance of lost or stolen checks
- Creates a record in the A/P vendor file
- How it works
  - We will continue to email the invoice to you on or about the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month
  - We will process an ACH Debit against the account you designate later in the month

## Pay Your Invoice via ACH

- We tested this process with a client in July and all went well
- All early movers will be implemented on 8/10/09
- Sign up form available on our web site

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http://www.cuanswers.com	I/ICZK9/	index.	pnp						
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# Reading That Monthly Invoice

> Our Invoices and Your Chart of Accounts
 > Matching Invoices to Revenue

### Our Invoices & Your Chart of Accounts Why does it matter?

- Every month your accounting team creates a history of your operational decisions, strategies, tactics, and outcomes
  - This becomes part of your corporate record, and ultimately your 5300 profile for third parties
- Ratios are important...but there sometimes end up as simply the result of day-to-day clerical tasks, rather than a wellthought-out, best-foot-forward plan
- CU\*Answers is trying to automate billing processes so that credit unions can streamline their tactics for reporting expenses and, ultimately, their operational success
  - Improper recording could be detrimental to CU in the examination process
  - Improper recording could be detrimental to our network's reputation

### Our Invoices & Your Chart of Accounts Why does it matter?

- More importantly, how do you match key expenses with tactics for earning on your investment?
  - Isolate expense areas to get a picture of the potential need to focus strategies for payback
    - If you don't know bill pay costs you \$12K a month, then how can you prioritize the need to get a positive return (\$12K+)?
  - In all the noise of running a credit union, it's easy just to lump it all together and cover it as part of general accounting overhead
    - CU\*Answers has dozens of specific tactics for earning: automated service income programs, relationship fees, rate discounts, etc.
    - These often go unused because there is no priority to match expenses to potential earning opportunities

Have you ever thought things were getting more expensive in general, only to find out that CU\*Answers prices have declined or there was a new feature that could turn an expense into a net gain?

### Our Invoices & Your Chart of Accounts Why does it matter?

### NCUA Recommended Chart of Accounts

Taken from CU\*SASE GOLD Online Help http://www.cuanewers.com/doc/gold/gold.htm#NCUA\_Recommended\_Chart\_of\_Accounts.htm

### Operating Expense Accounts (200 - 300 Series)

100 Quarting Systems (Cardina) 110 Companyation 222 Selected 111 Reinforserent für Spannen für Service 119 Othe Companyation 220 Instance Results 111 Persian Flan Casta 222 Secto Security Term (Respired Stand) 223 Unexployeed Comparisation Term 110 Other Replaces Results 230 Treat and Cardinanas Balance 223 Included Tradition Conference Income 222 Officers' and Directors' Transford Conference Reported 218 Offer Yand Barrison 200 Association Date: 130 Office Designation Reported 222 Sec. 222 Maintenance of Buildings 228 Little 220 Description of Building 222 Americation of Local ald Improvements 220 Red Male Term 237 Depreciation Representational Assolu-138 Other Office Concerning Reserves 100 Office Canadiana Baseria 101 Communications 202 Residual New Second Resignment 101 Maintenance of Armiture and Bacigment 114 Toleran and South 202 Insurance 200 Densidian of Arctionard Responses 101 Bertilerine Charges 109 Other Office Operations Reported 270 Readlanders Prevaliend System 171 Advertising 171 Publishand Prevalues 278 City Readland and Providianal System 120 Law Service Reports 111 Calefor Income

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### Sample Invoice for ABC Credit Union - October 2008

Separated into expense categories

			% of Total
invoice item		Amount	Invoice
Active Member Processing (all members)	5	9,125,56	
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Diant or Recovery Processing	S	255.27	
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Or dit Report Fees for Lean Originations	s	502.25	
Or diffeporting focs	s	35.00	
Loan Decisioning Pees	s	61.00	
Service Charge Program Poes	\$	160.00	
ACH Processing for Support	s	659.00	
OFAC, CPI Extract, Crdt Life & Disability, Misc IT Exponents	s	70.00	
Norigage CT 5 Interface Fele	s	25.00	
Data Line Pees for Branch Network	s	1,570.00	
Handwarie Nietwork Maintonance	\$	255.00	
Shipping Focs	ŝ	2.54	
Subtotal Core Processing		14,595.59	44.0%
AT M (pinbased) ProgramSuppert Pees	s	5,456.90	
Odbit (sig nature based) Program Support Pees	s	5,464.55	
Ore dit Card Program Support Focs	\$	609.20	
Subtotal ATM Support		7,5 30.95	23.0%
o-Commerce ree (online banking, o-statements, e-slorts, AYU, etc)	s	2,400.00	
ATU Telephone Line Support relea	s	25.00	
Subtotal Solf Service Support		2,425.00	7.4%
Sil Paymont ProgramSupport Policy (active)	s	1,160.70	
Sil Reymont Program Support Folds (in-active)	Ś	655.00	
6 Reymoni Transaction focts	Ś	1,541,60	
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Subtotal Sill Pay Services	: 5	5.512.50	10.1%
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			3.3%
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Subtotal Ped Deposit/Check 21		1,554.55	5.8%
Dete Andriving fors	s	546.52	
Subtotal: Accord Actoria	1.5	545.59	1.7%
Outspread Callection Services	5	1,250,00	
Web Hesting Services	ŝ	25.00	
	÷		3.9%
Subtotal: Professional Service Men Tax	1.5	1,275.00	0.15
SHELT IX	\$	52.80	0.1%
Grand Total		32,696,76	100.0%
Grand Total	· •	34,630.70	100.0%

Propercid for the "Understanding Your CU"Answers Invoice" focus group/training event. July 25 and August 4, 2009 CL L'ANSWERS

### CUANSWERS

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Prepared for the "Understanding Your CU"Answers Invoice" focus group/training event July 25 and August 4, 2009

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### **Our Invoices & Your Chart of Accounts**

What could we do differently tomorrow?

- As we automate this function, how can we standardize invoices around the way credit unions see their expenses and their offsetting income opportunities?
- Let's get organized...
  - Any ideas on how we might sort the invoice items?
  - What categories of expenses should we highlight?
  - What G/L summary or other suggestions could we give on the invoice?
  - Should we have a consolidated invoice? More, separate invoices?
  - Should we package more pricing instead of the *a la carte* breakdown?

# Matching Invoices to Revenue

Thinking About Your 2010 Business Plan



## Matching Invoices to Revenue

Thinking About Your 2010 Business Plan

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# Matching Invoices to Penue

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to send Randy a line item by line item expense-to-revenue tactic for your CU\*Answers invoice.

### Randy will highlight a report on this project at the 2009 CEO Strategies event.

# IRA SH & CD Present Money MKT Saving w/ Neg Bal Checking w/ Neg Bal Checking w/ Neg Bal Aggr Bal to 500 Aggr Bal to 5000 Aggr Bal to 25000 Aggr Bal to 75000 Aggr Bal to 75000 Misc OTB SAV Acct

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Learn About This Feature

3,512

# **Thinking About Pricing**

What does history tell us? Can we continue the trends? What might be changing? Are we transparent enough? Do we stand out from the crowd?

# Communicating the Evolution of Our Pricing Model A CUSO Directive

Working to earn your constant respect for our efforts, and making sure you understand "the deal"





### Selling to New Clients

### Purpose: Licensing Fee

This is the base unit cost for a credit union member. Unlike other fees, there is no correlation between base member processing cost and the member's actual relationship, positive or negative, with the credit union—if they are a member, this is what they cost. This fee includes basic member servicing features provided by CU\*Answers. For this price, a credit union membership can have up to 999 sub-account suffixes, including savings, certificate and loan accounts. This fee functions as the primary licensing fee for core credit union applications such as accounting, teller services, loan services, back office services, and misc. trial balance services.

This fee is contractual based on the term of the contract, so the fees listed below are the starting point based on the year when a credit union began processing with CU\*BASE.

		Month	y Fee Per I	Aember	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Active Member Fees (5-year contract)	\$0.53	\$0.53	\$0.53	\$0.56	\$0.56
Active Member Fees (3-year contract)	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.58	\$0.58
Active Member Fees (1-year contract)	\$0.57	\$0.57	\$0.57	\$0.60	\$0.60
Closed Member Fees - current tax year	\$0.23	\$0.23	\$0.23	\$0.24	\$0.24
Closed Member Fees - previous tax year			Free		
Written Off Member Processing			Free		
Disaster Recovery Fee	\$0.015		\$0.0	0175	
Minimum CU*BASE processing services fee		\$2	,000 per mo	onth	

Figure 1

Comparing your current deal to the off-the-rack rates of today

### Understanding the Potential for Change During a Contract Term

The mechanism that CU\*Answers uses to increase this fee for existing credit unions is referred to as the COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) adjustment. The average COLA adjustment for the period between 2001 and 2008 was 2.815%, but the actual increase CU\*Answers passed on to its clients during that period was much lower. It averaged only \$0.011 per member month. Based on a per-member fee of \$0.50 per member, this works out to be 2.2%. We have rarely taken a full COLA increase. In 2002, 2005, and 2008, CU\*Answers waived its COLA increase entirely.



In an unprecedented move in 2009, CU\*Answers will roll back the per-member fee for 45 credit unions, resetting the cumulative effect of their COLA increases by \$0.01 per member month.

In 2009, the average price paid by clients (under contract as of 12/31/08) will be \$0.532 per member month.



Understanding the potential increases over the life of a contract...although contracts are often a worse-case scenario

Figure 2

Understanding the Value You Receive Over a Contract Term

North Mark Same         North Mark	ABC Credit Union Sample CUIDASE Pricing Overview ()	2005 - 20081 *															
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Understanding the Value You Receive Over a Contract Term



### Platform Technology Updates/ Disk Retention/Statements

### Purpose: Resource Usage Fee

How does CU\*Answers price a credit union who requires a high level of transaction activity and its related disk storage requirements, compared to a smaller credit union that requires less data processed and stored by our systems? Like a 25,000 sq. ft. building costs more to lease than one with only 5,000 sq. ft., this fee is basically a "rental" fee for the use of resources. This section is also referred to as a "Resource Usage Fee." It is calculated by correlating the resource requirements of a credit union to the number of member check transactions per month. The reason for this is that checking accounts historically require the most amount of disk storage, are a good indicator of the number of statement pages, and seem to be the most easily measured variable between base and variable member activity.

Services covered by this fee:

- Statement creation
- Transaction history retention
- · Upgrades to hardware resources for core processing (IBM iSeries)

		I	Per Item Fe	e	
Checking Items Processed	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1 to 100,000	\$0.030	\$0.030	\$0.030	\$0.030	\$0.030
100,001 to 200,000	\$0.020	\$0.020	\$0.020	\$0.020	\$0.020
200,001 to 425,000	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015
425,001 or more	\$0.010	\$0.010	\$0.010	\$0.010	\$0.010
Minimum Resource Utilization fee	n/a		\$500.00 (	per month	
Figure 3					

Let's talk about where this is going

### A New Era for EFT Services at CU\*Answers

### **ATM and Debit Card Transactions**

### Purpose: Licensing Fee and Resource Usage Fee

ATM and Debit Card transactions are both priced from the same table; however, their volumes are not combined when determined the pricing tier. There are two primary ways we handle ATM and debit card transactions:

- Offline (batch) processing This style creates more overhead based on day-to-day operator costs. Operators are
  responsible for running and verifying jobs that send balance files to the third-party network and receive post files to be
  manually posted against member accounts.
- Online (interactive) processing This style requires more expensive communication resources because the lines are live and interactive. The number of lines that can be interactive are finite based on the resources in the computer room, and the diligence required to maintain the connection is expensive.

Since 2006, the pricing for online processing has been reduced by as much as 35%. We anticipate these prices to continue to drop as volumes accelerate with member usage. It is important to remember that the Fee Per Checking Items Processed (see Figure 3) is now under stress due to the declining number of check transactions. In 2009, ATM and Debit card fees were linked to the online Credit Card processing strategies. These transaction fees continue to be a pay-as-you-go area, and CU\*Answers believes this is the best way to account for plastic costs at a credit union.

		Per Ite	em Fee		
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
One daily file transmission	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05
		Minimu	um \$200.00 per	rmonth	
Second daily transmission		\$	250.00 per mon	th	
1-20,000 online transactions *	\$0.100	\$0.100	\$0.075	\$0.075	\$0.070
20,001-75,000 online transactions *	\$0.075	\$0.075	\$0.075	\$0.075	\$0.070
75,001+ online transactions *	\$0.050	\$0.050	\$0.050	\$0.050	\$0.050
ATM Inquiries	n/a	n/a	n <i>l</i> a	n/a	n/a
ATM Card PIN Requests	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ATM Card Ordering	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Credit Card online transactions	n/a	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10

\* For 2009, \$0.065 if also performing Online Credit Card transactions.

Figure 6

### The e-Commerce Fee

### Affording Tomorrow, Today

### Purpose: Licensing Fee and Resource Usage Fee

In 2008, CU\*Answers revolutionized its pricing by combining all of its strategies related to e-Commerce between a member and a credit union into one fee. Instead of an *a la carte* usage fee for each major component, CU\*Answers now charges a flat fee that encourages credit unions to push their members towards these cost-effective solutions. In essence, we hoped to create a "black hole" in a credit union's income statement that pulled both members and credit union strategies towards these services.

To do so, we committed to capping our expenses in the e-Commerce area, pushing ourselves to innovate with the same budget, instead of simply adding more functionality and charging more along the way. In 2009, we took the next step and tighten our belt another notch. We want every credit union leader to see that the next member they add to their e-Commerce offerings *lowers their costs* on a per-member basis.

		Fee	e Per Month	1.	
-Commerce Fee	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 🚽
1 - 2,500 Members		n/a		\$350.00	\$150.00
2,501 - 5,000 Members		n/a		\$850.00	\$810.00
5,001 - 10,000 Members		n/a		\$1,200.00	\$1,050.00
10,001 - 15,000 Members		n/a		\$1,700.00	\$1,600.00
Over 15,000 Members		n/a		\$2,400.00	\$2,300.00

E-Commerce Fee includes unlimited It's Me 247 Online Banking with PIB multi-layered security, regular and credit card e-statements, e-Notices and e-Alerts, Online Banking Community (OBC) publishing, and Audio Response usage fee.

### Figure 11

### The e-Commerce Fee

### Affording Tomorrow, Today



### Evolving Concepts Bill Pay

### **CU\*EASYPAY! BILL PAYMENT/PRESENTMENT**

This service, in partnership with CheckFree, is one of the great success stories of our CUSO format. In 2006 we switched from "good funds" to the industry-standard processing method, moving to a new pricing structure with different fees for active and inactive users. Pricing is now tiered based on usage, a model that is designed to reduce entry barriers and encourage credit unions to market bill pay aggressively without having to worry about those members who sign up and never use the service.

		Fee Amou	int		
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CU*EasyPay! Implementation (one-time fee)	\$2,250.00			r/a	
fonthly Minimums					
	Nomin. fees for first 60 days. After 60 days, sponsor fee of \$250 DD/mo applies until 101 subscribers; waived if 101 subscribers is maintained.			n/a	
ser / Customer Service Fæs					
Bill Payment User Fees	\$4.95 (includes 15 transactions)		\$2.65 ad	tive; \$1.50 inac	xive
dd'I Bill Payment Transactions	\$0.36		\$0.40	(per transaction	n)
er User Signup Fee	\$3.00			n/a	
iscellaneous Fees					
top and Reissue Request		\$15.00 ea	ch		
wernight Delivery Request		\$15.00 ea	ch		
Ion-Sufficient Funds ACH Debit		\$20.00			
lesearch Fee	n/a			\$25.00	
heck Image Rietrieval Fee	n/a		\$1	0.00 per item	
Resource Time (Special Requests)					
CheckFree Customer Service Rep		\$40.00/ho	ur		
Non-Systems Professionals		\$125.00/h	our		ook for a 15% redu bill pay fees later ir
igure 12					-

# **Evolving Concepts**

### Statements



# **Evolving Concepts**

### Shared Branching

Xtend Shared Branching (CU*BASE participating Clients)	Xtend initiative - see Ancillary Services Pricing Guide
FSCC Shared Branching online interface	
lssuer	
One-time setup	No charge
Per transaction fee (plus FSCC related fees)	No charge
Acquirer	Servic
Monthly fee for 1 or 2 Branches	No charge
Monthly fee for 3 or more Branches	No charge
Data line - Monthly fee (for either issuer or acquirer)	No charge
CUSC Shared Branching online Interface	
lssuer	
One-time setup	\$1,500.00
Per transaction fee (plus CUSC related fees)	\$ 0.10
Acquirer	
Monthly fee for 1 or 2 Branches	\$250.00
Monthly fee for 3 or more Branches	\$500.00
<b>Data line</b> - Monthly fee (for either issuer or acquirer)	\$75.00 (pro-rated)
Other National Shared Branching Networks (one-time and recurring fees)	Quote provided

### **Other Miscellaneous Fees**

The remaining sections of the Fee Schedule relate to items that have a smaller impact on the individual credit union's invoice. While very significant to CU\*Answers' overall revenue stream, questions are seldom raised about their place in the overall pricing scheme. Once again, the history of these fees shows CU\*Answers' desire to control costs for credit unions and to expand services very rapidly.

The charts below show a great deal of range as to the capabilities of CU\*Answers and its services. Services like online credit bureau access include multiple strategies for credit unions, from pulling a credit report to every terminal to credit scoring, and are directly related to key lending features like risk-based pricing. Below you will find comparison charts for the following miscellaneous items:

- External Vendor Communications
- Service Charges and Processing Charges
- Miscellaneous Processing Charges
- OTB Credit Cards
- Data Archival
- Custom Programming

### **Best Guesstimates for the Future**



# Thanks for the day!