Utility Billing: Best Practices

Submitting Support Tickets

 MCSJ - Go to Help > Submit Support Ticket. Select the Module you need assistance with. Enter a Subject line for the case. Include as many details as you can in the allotted space. Specify a priority so we can best identify the urgency of your case. Attach up to 4 documents for our staff to review prior to contacting our office. Click Submit when finished.

X Close	Submit Support Ticket	
Please fill out the up to one minute receive when the r	orm and click the Submit button to create a suppo depending on the size of the attachments. Please outine is finished. Thank you.	ort ticket in our system. This could take note the Ticket Number that you
Select Module:	•	
Subject:		
Details:		
Priority: Nor	mal 🔻	
Attachment 1:		Select File
Attachment 2:		Select File
Attachment 3:		Select File
Attachmont 4		Select File
Attachment 4.		

- EA411.com If the MCSJ software is open, go to Help > Launch Support Site. If the MCSJ program is not open, open a browser and go to EA411.com. Once on our website, hover the mouse over Contact, and then click Support. Begin entering your contact information, and check off your current situation. Select the Module your case is in reference to. Enter any case details you would like us to be aware of before we contact you. Click Submit when finished.
- 3. <u>Support@edmundsassoc.com</u> Send any support inquiries to our support email, with as many case details and attachments as the situation may require.

4. Live Chat - If the MCSJ software is open, go to Help > Launch Support Site. If the MCSJ program is not open, open a browser and go to EA411.com. Once on our website, click the Live Chat button on the right side of the screen towards the scroll bar. Insert your name, and then hit Enter. An operator will then shoot you a message asking how we may assist you today. Begin describing your case, our operator will do their best to assist you. If a phone call or connection to your computer is necessary, one of our representatives will contact you to assist with the issue.

WhosOn Chat: Connected

Please wait. An operator will be with you shortly. Kathy says: Good Morning Joe Graham. My name is Kathy how can I help you? Joe Graham says: I am testing our Live Chat functionality for User Group. How are you today? Kathy says: I am well - very good - have a great one!

Setting Up Your Workspace

- Saving your Workspace Our system has the ability to open preselected MCSJ screens upon logging in to the system. To set up, open all Maintenances/Routines/Reports you would like to have open when logging into MCSJ. Then go to *File > Save Workspace*. A message will pop up asking if you would like to save the Workspace. Click Yes to Save. Now, when you log into MCSJ, those screens will open immediately. If you would like to Restore your Workspace without logging out and logging back into MCSJ, you can go to *File > Restore Workspace*. This will re-open any screens from your Workspace that may have been closed by the user.
- 2. Setting Favorites Our system has the ability to save any MCSJ screen as a favorite. Once saved, you may simply click Favorites, and select the MCSJ screen you would like to open from your list. You may

rename the routine in the list to better match your terminology or identify the routine as a certain number step in a procedure. For example, you may rename the Payment Window as Cash Register, or list the Export Meter Gun Data routine as Meter Reading Step 1. Renaming the routines in your Favorites list does not rename the routine once it is pulled up.

F <u>i</u> le	<u>F</u> inance	<u>B</u> illing/Collections	<u>P</u> ersonnel	System <u>U</u> tilities	<u>W</u> indow	Fa <u>v</u> orites	<u>H</u> elp	_
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Sele Boo	ect Service ok/Page Ra	Type to Include: Wange (Blank for All):	ater/Sewer	Cycle Range	e (Blank for	All):		
		to		to				
Ent	er Year/Pe	riod to calculate us	age for High	/Low Limits:				
Yea	r:	Period:						
Out	tput File N	ame: importFiles	\ssi001.rte					

3. Window -By clicking on Window, a list of all open screens in MCSJ will display below. Clicking on any of the screens in the list will bring it to the front of the Workspace so you may resume using it. This is beneficial for when you have multiple screens open at once and are having difficulty finding the one you need. By clicking the Cascade option, all open windows will be moved to the top left corner of the screen, overlapping in a Cascading fashion. Close All will close all open routines on your Workspace. Open All will open all screens that may have been minimized. Minimize all will Minimize all open routines to the bottom of the Workspace.

F <u>i</u> le	<u>F</u> inance	Billing/Collections	<u>P</u> ersonnel	System <u>U</u> tilities	<u>W</u> indow	Fa <u>v</u> orites	<u>H</u> elp
					Payment	<u>W</u> indow	
B					Owner Ma	aintenance	
	Add	📝 Edit 🛛 🔀 Close	e 📋 Dele	te 🛛 📀 <u>Previous</u>	Work Ord	ler Maintena	ance
Acc	ount Id:	- 0	Type:	Section:	Tax Acco	unt <u>M</u> ainten	ance
	o ante nan				Utility Acc	c <u>o</u> unt Mainte	nance
Pro	op Loc:			Location Ic	<u>C</u> ascade		
Se	erv Loc:				C <u>l</u> ose All		
	City Id:	Block:			Open All		
	city iu.	DIOCK.			Minimize	All	

Hyperlinks

 Our system has the ability to pull up information referenced in other Maintenances from the current screen using Hyperlinks. If you see an identifier underlined on the screen, that is an indication that this is a Hyperlink. Simply click on the Hyperlink and the appropriate Maintenance will be pulled up with the accounts information. For example, if we are looking at Account 42-0, we see that the Location ID is 34. By clicking on the Hyperlink for the Location ID, it pulls up Location Maintenance with the information for Location ID 34 filled in.

6							Utility Account Mai	ntenance	Е		Utility Loca	tion Maintenanc	ce	
🛉 Add	📝 Edit	X Clos	ie 🚺	Delete	O Previo	us 💽 <u>N</u> ext	🗄 Detail 🛛 🖂	Letter	🛉 Add 😭	Zedit 🛛 🔀 Clos	e 📋 Delete 🤇	Previous	Next 🕜 Help	
Account lo	d: 42	- 0	Тур	pe: R01	Section:				Location Id:	34	Prop Loc: 107	E NARBERTH TE	ER	
Prop Loc: Serv Loc: City Id:	107 E NARB	ERTH TER		20.02	Location	ld: 34	Owner: E Bill To: E	BROWNELL, F BROWNELL, F	City Id: Block: 1 Lot: 2	.07	Serv Loc:			
General	Additional	Water S	ewer	W/S Meter	Balances	Recent Activity	Location Accourt	ts Notes	Account Id		Name	Status	s Status Date	Total Balance
WO Id	Status	Assign	ned To	Requeste	d Date	Appointment Dat	e Entered By	Complete	42-0	BROWNELL, RICH	ARD & SANDY	Active W,S		0.00
17-01188	Completed	SU		04/19/17			SU	04/19/17						
17-01037	Completed	SU		04/12/17			SU	04/12/17						
15-00229	Completed	SU		12/04/15			SU	12/04/15						

One Click Adjustments

 Our system has the ability to do single line adjustments to Utility Accounts from the Utility Account Maintenance screen, instead of going through a batch. Pull up the Utility Account to adjust, and go to the Balances tab, click the Balances Service tab to be adjusted.

a. For a Billing Adjustment, determine which Bill Year/Period needs to be adjusted. Once the amount to be adjusted has been determined, either double click on the Billing Amount to be adjusted, or Right Click on the Billing Amount, and click Adjust this Billing. A Billing Adjustment screen will appear. Enter the Bill Code the adjustment will be done with, and the transaction date for this adjustment. A Description of the Adjustment can be entered if desired. Enter the amount to be adjusted in the Flat and or Excess Amount section. (Flat amount references either the Flat fee or the Minimum charge for a Bill Code, the Excess amount references the amount Billed for usage over the Allowance. Entering the amount to be adjusted in either section will have the same effect on the bill total, but will potentially affect your Billing Register if running with Bill Adjustments included.) Enter Positive amounts to increase the Billing, and Negative Amounts to decrease the Billing.

E							📧 Billing Adjustment	↔	×
Add	d 😭	Edit	🔀 <u>C</u> lose	•	Delete	Previous 📀			
Account	: Id:	56	. 0.	Ту	pe: R01	Section:	Bill Year:	2018 Period: 3	
Brop Lo	107		TED			Location Id	Service:	Sewer	
Serv Lo	bc: 107	E WAYNE	TER			Location id	Bill Code:	<u> </u>	
City I	ld:	Block:	1.07		22.03		Adjust. Date:	04/09/2019	
	1	1					Description:		
Genera	I Addit	ional V	Vater Se	wer	W/S Meter	Balances	Flat Amount:		
Total Ba	alances	Water	Sewer	Aged					
Year	Prd	Code	Billed		Principa	l Balance	Excess Amount:		
2018	3		66.7	5		.00			
2018	2		e Ad	just	this Billin	g .00		OK Cance	1
2018	1		66.7	5		. 00			

b. For a Balance Adjustment, determine which Bill Year/Period needs to be adjusted. Once the amount to be adjusted has been determined, either double click on the Balance Amount to be adjusted, or Right Click on the Balance Amount, and click Adjust this Balance. A Balance Adjustment screen will appear. Enter the Balance Adjustment Code the adjustment will be done with, and the transaction date for this adjustment. A Description of the Adjustment can be entered if desired. Enter the amount to be adjusted in Adjust Amount section. Enter Positive amounts to increase the Balance, and Negative Amounts to decrease the Balance.

E Utility 💽 Balance Adjustmen	t ↔ X
🕂 Add 🍞 Edit 💥 Close 前 Delete 🔇 Previous 📀 Next 🗄 🗉	
Account late 50 00 Tunor 1911 Castion Bill Year	: 2018 Period: 3
Account id: 56 - 6 Type: Rot Section: Service	Sewer
Prop Loc: 107 E WAYNE TER	
Serv Loc: Adjust. Code	:
City Id: Block: 1.07 22.03 Adjust. Date	: 04/09/2019 🔳
A Description	:
General Additional Water Sewer W/S Meter Balances Recent Activity Loc Adjust Amount	
Total Balances Water Sewer Aged	
Year Prd Code Billed Principal Balance Penalty Total	
2018 3 66.75	OK Cancel
2018 2 66.75 Adjust this Balance	

c. For a Penalty Adjustment, determine which Bill Year/Period needs to be adjusted. Once the amount to be adjusted has been determined, either double click on the Penalty Amount to be adjusted, or Right Click on the Penalty Amount, and click Adjust this Penalty. A Penalty Adjustment screen will appear. Enter the Balance Adjustment Code the adjustment will be done with, and the transaction date for this adjustment. A Description of the Adjustment can be entered if desired. Enter the amount to be adjusted in Adjust Amount section. Enter Positive amounts to increase the Penalty, and Negative Amounts to decrease the Penalty. You can not create a Penalty Credit through this routine.

E						×.	Utility Account Main	📧 Penalty Adjustment	↔	×
<u>+ A</u>	d 🛛	Edit	🔀 <u>C</u> lose	🛅 Delete	Previous	Next 🕑	E Detail I III			
Accourt	t ld:	56	- 0	Type: R01	Section:			Bill Year:	2018 Period: 3	
Prop L	oc: 107	E WAYNE	TER		Location Ic	d: 48		Service:	Sewer	
Serv L	.oc:						Owner: Mt	Adjust. Code:		
City	ld:	Block:	1.07	22.03			Bill To: M	Adjust. Date:	04/09/2019 🔳	
Gener	al Addit	ional V	Vator Sow	ar W/S Mot	er Balances	Recent Activ	ity Location Account	Description:		
Total I	Balances	Water	Sewer Ac	ged	er bulances	necent neerv	ity Location Account	Adjust. Amount:		
Year	Prd	Code	Billed	Princ	ipal Balance	Penalty	Total Balance			
2018	3		66.75		.00	.00	00		OK	ancel
2018	2		66.75		.00	Ad	just this Penalty			uncer

Additional Tab

1. Setting 3rd Party Notifications - Our system allows you to send Delinquent Notices and/or Bills for a Utility Account to a 3rd party. Pull

up a Utility Account and go to the Additional Tab. Towards the bottom right hand side there is a section titled Co-applicant. The Co-Applicant is able to receive either just Delinquent Notices for this account, or Delinquent Notices and Bills. Fill in the information for the 3rd party, this will print on the additional Bills/Delinquent Notices.

2. Setting up Direct Withdrawal - If you wish to use our Direct Withdrawal routine, any Utility Account that wants to sign up will need its Bank Account and Routing Number entered into the Additional Tab. Routing Numbers are first entered into Bank DFI Maintenance under System Utilities, and then selected from the picklist. The Prenote flag should be checked off when the Account is being added to Direct Withdrawal. This will allow you to create a Prenote file to send to the bank and test the Account before running the regular direct withdrawal routine. After the Prenote has been accepted, you may uncheck Prenote. There is a routine in Special Routines to uncheck all Prenote flags at once.

j Ut	lity Account Maintenance
🛉 Add 🛛 📩 Save 🛛 🔀 Cancel 🕅 Delete 🗍 😋 Previous 🗍 💿 Next 🗍	∃∃ Detail 🔄 Letter 🖹 View Map 🕢 Help
ccount ld: 56 - 0 Type: R01 Section:	
Prop Loc: 107 E WAYNE TER Location Id: 48 Serv Loc:	Owner: MC GOVERN, CHAS S Bill To: MC GOVERN, CHAS S Alternate Id:
General Additional Water Sewer W/S Meter Balances Recent Activity L	ocation Accounts Notes Work Orders
Direct Withdrawal	Type of TIN: Soc Sec#:
Bank DFI: Type:	Driver's License: State: Birth Date: / / I
Account Num: Prenote:	Employer
Bill Group Id: Vendor:	Name: Phone: () -
Lead Utility Acct: Prc:00	Street 1:
Garnishment: Garnish Date: / /	Street 2:
Garnish Routing#: Garnish Account#:	City/St/Zip:
Special Handling:	Co-applicant
Guarantor	Third Party Notification: None
Third Party Notification: None	Name: None Phone: () -
Name:	Street 1: Delinquent Notice Only
Street 1:	Street 2:
Street 2:	City/St/Zip:
City/St/Zip:	Type of TIN: Soc Sec#:
Phone: () -	License: State:
Utility Acct: Amount:00	

Recalculate a Single Bill

1. Our system gives you the ability to Recalculate a bill for a Single Utility Account (This routine does not allow you to calculate a bill for a single

account, that can only be accomplished through Bill Calculation/Update).

- a. First, identify why the account needs to be recalculated. If there was a Meter Reading for the Account entered in error, you may need to first use the Meter Reading Adjustment Routine to edit or delete the incorrect reading. If the wrong Bill Code or Bill Code Units was assigned to the Accounts, then these need to be edited on the Service Tabs of Utility Account Maintenance.
- b. Once the Utility Account has been corrected, go to the General Tab of Utility Account Maintenance and click the Recalculate Bill button. Select the Service Type and Bill Year/Period to Recalculate.



c. Once selected, a screen will display with the Calculation results. The old calculation will display on the left side of the screen, and the new Calculation will display on the right. Verify the totals, if the Calculation is correct, click Update. The Account will now display the Recalculated Bill total.

Calculation Re	esults							⇔ – □	×
The billing tran Any credits/ove Then, any existi	sactions for thi erpayments tha ing overpayme	s bill will be c t were applie nts/credits wi	deleted and replaced wi d/transferred to this bil ill be applied/transferre	th the recalculated result: I (when calculated) will be d.	s. e reversed.				
Bill Code	Bill Year	Bill Prd	Prev Flat Charges	Prev Excess Charges	Recalc Flat Charges	Recalc Excess Charges	Usage	Meter Group	
WR1	2018	3	28.00	3.15	28.00	34.65	1,100	1	
Water Total:			28.00	3.15	28.00	34.65			
Grand Total:			28.00	3.15	28.00	34.65			
				Update	Cancel				

Utility Reports

 Utility Account Status Report - Billing/Collections > Utility Billing > Utility Reports > Account Status. This report provides account service type balances as of a specified date. It is recommended that this report be run monthly, as it will provide a summary of the different types of activity (payments, adjustments, billings, etc.) during the month. It can be used to ensure the proper Journal Entries and Transactions have been recorded in the Finance system, and can also be used to reconcile monthly Utility activity. The best way to run this report is with no Bill Year/Period Range, the date range set to the 1st day of the month to the last date of the month. Check off all Service Types, and leave the Status set to Both. Determine whether you want to run the Report as type Detail, Condensed, or Totals Only. The Totals page will print at the bottom of each Report Type.

E Utility Account State	us 😑 🗖
Print X Close O Help	
Enter the Following:	Range of Accounts (Blank for All):
Report Sequence: Account Id 🔹	- 0 to
Bill Year Range: to	- 0
Bill Period Range: to	
Date Range: 01/01/2019 🔳 to 01/31/2019 🔳	
Cycle Range: to	Select Service Type to Include
Account Type Range: to	V Water V Sewer
Section Range: to	
Select Status: Both 👻	
Status As Of: 📝 / 👘 (Blank to ignore Status Date	e) Report Type: Totals Only 💌
Include Section Totals	Name to Print: Bill To 💌
✓ Include Zero Balance	Location to Print: Property 🚽
Exclude Non-NSF Reversed Payments	
✓ Include Prior Year/Prds in Balance	
Include Year/Prd Balance Only	
Print Block/Lot/Qual	
✓ Print to Screen Print Only Accts with Ser	vice/Separate Charge Debit AND Credit Balances

2. Payment Cash Receipts Report - Billing/Collections > Payments > Payment Cash Receipts Report. This report allows you to print any receipts and/or reversal history between a give date range. We can adjust the report parameters to only include Utility totals. Set the date range set to the 1st day of the month to the last date of the month. Towards the bottom right, unselect all the Payment Types

besides your Utility Service types. This report can be printed to the printer, the screen, or excel.

E Payment Cash Receipt	s Report 📃 🗖
Print XClose Plep	
Enter the Following:	Range of Block/Lot/Quals (Blank for All):
Report Sequence: Block/Lot/Qual/Acct 💌	Block: to
Report Type: Detail 🔹	Lot:
Date Range: 01/01/2019 🔳 to 01/31/2019 🔳	Qual:
Pay Code Range: 🔝 🛄 to 📃 🛄	Print Utility Accounts with Block/Lot/Qual
Batch Id Range: to	Range of Utility Account Ids (Blank for All):
Bill Year Range: to 2019	- 0 to - 0
Bill Period Range: 1 to 12	Range of Customer Ids (Blank for All):
Name to Print: Bill To 💌	to
Section Range: to	Print Miscellaneous w//Block/Lot/Qual
Range of City lds: to	Print Only Miscellaneous w//Block/Lot/Qual
Spec Tax Code Range:	Select All Payment Types
to	Select Payment Type to Include
Range of Installment Due Dates (Blank for All):	✓ Water ✓ Sewer Invoice
/ / 🔳 to / / 🔳	Tax Sp Charges Lien
Select Payment Method to Include	Sp Assmnt Animal Lic Voucher Agency
Cash Check Credit Voucher Virtual Terminal	Miscellaneous
Print Reference Num	
✓ Print to Screen	
Print to Excel	

3. Utility Unapplied Overpayment List - Billing/Collections > Utility Billing > Utility Reports > Unapplied Overpayments List. This report is designed to show all Overpayments associated with Utility Accounts that were unapplied as of a certain date. (Overpayments and Credits are tracked differently in our system. Overpayments are credits not assigned to a Year/Period. They are created when a Payment greater than the balance due is made on a Utility Account. Credits are assigned to a Year/Period and are often created by Billing/Balance/Penalty Type adjustments to the Utility Account.) Type in the Unapplied As of Date, and check off the Service Types to include. Click Print, this report can be generated to the Printer, the Screen, or to Excel.

E Hility Upperlied Overseuments	Lint
Enter the Following: Report Sequence: Account Id Cycle Range: to Account Type Range: to Section Range: to Unapplied As of Date: 04/09/2019 Name to Print: Bill To Location to Print: Property Select Status: Both Status As Of: // () (Blank to ignore Status Date) Print Block/Lot/Qual Print to Screen Print to Screen	Range of Accounts (Blank for All):

4. Credit Balance Report - Billing/Collections > Utility Billing > Utility Reports > Credit Balance Report. This report is designed to show all Accounts with an overall credit balance for a selected Bill/Year period as of the Date Range end date. If Include Prior Year/Prds in Balance is checked off, any prior year/period balances will be added to the accumulated account balance. The Year/Period Range may be blanked out to include all year/periods. Leave the Balance Less Than section blank or enter a negative number, only accounts with a credit balance less than this amount will print. Both Credits and Overpayments are taken into consideration when running the report.

E Utility Credit Balance Report 🗧 🗖	
Print 🔀 Close 🖓 Help	
Enter the Following: Report Sequence: Account Id Bill Year Range: to Date Range: 03/01/2019 to 03/31/2019 Cycle Range: to Cycle Range: to Account Type Range: to Section Range: to Select Status: Both Status As Of: // (Blank to ignore Status Date Balances Less Than: V Skip Budget Service Types Include Section Totals V Include Prior Year/Prds in Balance Print Block/Lot/Qual V Print to Screen	Range of Accounts (Blank for All): - 0 - 0 - 0 Select Service Type to Include ✓ Water ✓ Sewer Report Type: Detail • • • Name to Print: Bill To ▼ Location to Print: Property

- 5. Meter Exception Report Billing/Collections > Utility Billing > Meter Reading > Meter Exception Report. This report is actually six reports in one. Each of the reports help to identify potential reading and usage issues to be reviewed prior to billing. The report also contains an option to auto-generate work orders for any accounts that meet the report selection criteria.
 - a. Tripped Meter shows accounts that have negative usage and/or accounts that have a previous reading that is higher than the subsequent reading.
 - b. No Readings shows accounts that have no readings in the year/period range selected.
 - c. Consecutive Estimates designed to identify accounts that have estimated reads for a specified number of periods.
 - d. Zero Usage shows accounts where the previous read equals the current read.
 - e. Variance will compare the usage between two selected year/periods. Variance % levels can be entered to only show accounts where usage exceeds or falls between certain percentages.