

Runge Software News



February 2008

Issue 2

Welcome to the February 2008 issue of the Runge Software News, our bimonthly newsletter designed to provide you with simple, easy-to-read information on how to get the most out of Runge's technology solutions.

In this issue we discuss the latest XERAS developments, our new product licensing agreement, and our Windows Vista™ desktop support. And we also have our regular sections: hints and tips, forum topics, help, etc.

XERAS Version 7.6

Version 7.6 of XERAS is due for release in the second quarter of 2008. Its key enhancements include:

- **Report Writer.** Report Writer is a new tool in XERAS 7.6, which:
 - ✓ Introduces flexible, query-based reporting to XERAS.
 - ✓ Allows you to design, format and execute these reports based on a XERAS model.
 - ✓ Allows you to display report results in various formats using the built-in display tool or by using other well-known file formats like Microsoft Excel.
 - ✓ Bypasses the need for scripting when customised reports are required thus creating a quick turn-around time.
- **ListSum_MPF Audit.** A new multiple period function has been introduced. This function, List Sum Audit, allows for easier auditing of cells using the ListSum_MPF formula by returning all columns that this formula affects in that sheet. Previously only the selected single column would return audit results.
- **MatchSum Audit, CSum Audit, RSum Audit.** These functions now have associated audit tools that allow you to trace input at a glance.
- **Event Scheduler Audit.** This new functionality has improved auditability. It summarises scheduled events and creates a powerful audit tool. Audits can now be performed without having to drill down to all the input data cells.
- **Global Equipment Replacement Audit.** There have been significant improvements made to the ERepu functionality that allow for multiple audit results to be displayed in the output table, such as: fleet hours, unit operating hours, existing units, installed units, new units, usage, life in years, and life in hours.

About XERAS

XERAS is a software system that allows mining operations to construct sophisticated yet easy-to-use financial models for strategic decision making through to annual budget preparation. XERAS is widely used by mining operations around the world from many commodity types. The software combines the flexibility and familiarity of spreadsheet modelling with the more structured benefits of a database system. It is extremely well suited to applications where the required detail and size makes traditional spreadsheet systems too cumbersome and error prone.

XERAS' powerful functions are used for complex calculations such as automatic equipment purchase and replacement, capital depreciation, equipment overhaul scheduling and varying equipment costs with age based on the production plan being assessed. XERAS can be structured to report the financial plan using the client's specific activity-based chart of accounts.

Runge has developed a range of specific applications using XERAS for strategic evaluations, life-of-asset plans, maintenance, operations and administration budgets.

New Licensing for All Runge Software

Runge is implementing a new licensing system for all our software products. The new system, Reprise License Manager (RLM), provides users with easy-to-implement license terms, and allows Runge greater flexibility in assigning these license terms. We expect the new licensing system to be in all our products by the end of the third quarter, 2008.

For full details of the new licensing details, please read the [press release](#).



Supporting Windows Vista™

Development and testing is progressing on all Runge products to ensure compatibility with Windows Vista™. We will release a Windows Vista™ supported version of all our desktop application products by the end of the third quarter, 2008.

Forum

We have created a forum where you can share information with other Runge software users. Use the forum to post any questions you have about any of our products, share best practice information, workarounds, and solutions. However, if you require assistance from our Help Desk, please refer to the Help section below.

Go to the [Runge Forum](#) web page which provides links to each of the product forums.

Topics currently being discussed in the forum are:

- [Save and edit a setup report scenario in XPAC 7.8.2](#)
- [Xact reporting tools](#)

Hints & Tips

Our regular 'hints and tips' section helps you save time when using our software.

Keep your XPAC models simple! The more complex you make a model the longer it will take to change and the more difficult it will be tracking what is affecting the model. When using an XPAC model ask yourself the following questions:

- What are the resources you need to schedule for your operation? Dragline, truck and shovel, high grade, waste?
- What is the time-frame you are scheduling for? Short-, medium- or long-term?
- Do your reserves match your resources and your time-frame? Are 50m*100m blocks necessary for life-of-mine models?

Getting these major sections right can make using XPAC a much more satisfying experience.

Help

Do you need assistance using our software products?

Contact the Runge Help Desk by email (support@runge.com.au) or phone (+61 7 3100 7200). Perhaps you'd like to ask us something you've seen in this newsletter; email us at runge@runge.com.au.

Runge Technology Solutions		Release dates
 xpac	Business focused mine scheduling	Q3 2008
 xact	Scheduling success into your day-to-day mine planning	Q2 2008
 xeras	Responsibility based budget forecasting and financial modelling	Q2 2008
 FracSIS	3D spatial information management and interrogation products	Q3 2008
 talpac	The industry standard for haulage fleet evaluation	Q4 2008
 dragsim	Fast and effective dragline simulation system	Q2 2008
 facets	Longwall simulation to optimise productivity	TBA

If you would like to see further information about a particular product, click on a logo to get more information about that product.

Runge Software News is issued every two months; next issue: April 2008.