Release Review v10.03 Q & A

General Questions

Q: The Employee activity list has fewer columns now. Can we add them back from Grid tools?

A: Yes, there are fewer columns. The reason is because we have added the full functionality for data grids.

Yes, you can add them back. In fact, you can add even more columns. You can go to the grid and right-mouse click on any header and add/drop columns as needed. Let's do a comparison. In release 10.02, your list had 44 columns. In release 10.03, your list has 11 columns (the basics), but the grid has access to 173 columns, essentially everything in the employee record.

There are several bonuses to this methodology. With fewer columns on the list, it loads faster. With more columns available on the grid, you can get exactly the information you need.

Q: When will other activities have the full functionality for data grids?

A: We have to implement this functionality one activity at a time. For the 10.03 release, we started with the Employees and Employee Benefits activities. In 10.04, we will be adding this to the Vendors, Fixed Assets, Vendor Requisitions, Adjust Payroll, Employee Pay Management, and Employee Payroll Setup activities.

If you have suggestions for which activities should be addressed in 10.05, please contact Escape Customer Care.

Q: Is there a way to view Release Reviews in the software? Also, can I view PAST Release Reviews?

A: Yes, all Release Reviews, the Top 10 and other release information can be accessed from the Online Resources module on your activity tree. Go to the Release Information activity for a list of releases.

Q: We love selecting multiple codes from a lookup. Is there a CR to add this to more lookups?

A: Yes, our plan is to add this feature to more lookups. We have created two CRs (change requests): CR 9807 is for Finance, and CR 7801 is for HR/Payroll.

In release 10.03, the fields that are now using this logic are Academic Dept, Addon, Addon Salary Schedule, Assignment Salary Schedule, Assignment Status, Assignment Type, Barg Unit Id, Bargaining Unit, Calendar, Contribution Id, Custom 1, Custom 2, Deduction Id, Employment Status, Employment Type, Holder Status, Job Category, Leave Group, Note Category, Pay Cycle, Pay Schedule Type, Person Type, Race, Retire Plan Code, Retire Status Code, and Status.

There are no new fields scheduled for 10.04. If you have suggestions for which fields should be addressed in 10.05, please contact Escape Customer Care.

Finance Questions

Q: Is the ability to assign fixed assets to employees available for Departmental customers without access to the HR portion of Escape Online?

A: Unfortunately, no. As you know, Departmental systems do not have access to employee records. This is a licensing issue.

Q: Can users edit the job category and class for budget salary vacancies?

A: Users can only edit the job category and class if the item is created manually. If the vacancy is loaded through the budget model (from HR/Payroll records), the job category and class are locked.

HR/Payroll Questions

Q: Can leave balance reports be available to admin, restricted by location-based user permissions?

A: Great idea. Right now, the only reports that recognize user-based location permissions are the Pay Detail Salary Calculation (Pay37) and the Position Assignments (Pos03). If you would like to extend this functionality to leave reports, please contact your Escape Customer Care representative to create a CR.

Q: Do the screen labels or field description at the bottom of the screen give a clue to which fields can have multiple selections like the pay cycle field? Is there a way for the field description to indicate this search method is available for that search field?

A: The intent is to have this feature available on all lookups, both Finance and Payroll. See the question above to see a list of the fields already implemented.

Q: Will the PERS Qualifying (Retire93) report run before payroll is posted?

A: Yes, but the information you see on the report depends upon where you are in the entry/edit process. Most qualifying members are paid through addons. As a payroll technician adds units to addons in the Adjust Payroll activity, you will see these hours on the report. However, if the addons are entered via an import in the Additional Pay activity, you will not see those hours until the import batch is submitted. And, of course, even once all of those hours are in and payroll is posted, the retirement technician can still edit the hours until the report is generated.

Q: What is the hierarchy the software is going to use to find accounts to distribute both miscellaneous contributions and deductions that are not based on the calculation methods of P1, P2 or TP1.

A: For Positive Earnings:

1. Position earnings (>=0) that affect Base Pay and charge benefits = Yes ($0 is only used if nothing is > 0).
2. Earnings with Charge Benefits set to Yes.
3. Anything that affects Base Pay.
4. Any earnings (would still like an error to occur when we get to this level for contributions).

For Negative Earnings

1. Earnings with Charge Benefits set to Yes.
2. Anything that affects Base Pay.
3. Any earnings (would still like an error to occur when we get to this level for contributions).

How it works:

1. Detail Earnings by employee are categorized based on the hierarchy mentioned above.
2. The software will summarize earnings using these earning categories looking for what the minimum category for both positive and negative earnings are separately.

3. If contribution/deduction is positive find positive detail earnings that match the earnings category minimum determined in #2 above.
4. If cannot find will combine with all negative earnings from #2.
5. If contribution/deduction is negative find negative detail earnings from #2.
6. If cannot find will combine with positive earnings from #2.