

## GPS 4.6 Overview

### Summary

GPS Release 4.6 provides a lot of additions for users and IT:

- **Over 50 functional enhancements** (with the focus being on ease of use)
- **2 new modules: Express User Interface (UI) and Financial Reporting and Consolidation**
- **Compatibility with technology advances like Vista and Excel 2007**
- **Infrastructure improvements** to provide web services/web portal functionality in the next release

**GPS Release 4.6 will be available in March 2007 for download by customers on maintenance.**

### GPS Express User Interface (UI)

GPS Express UI is a simplified user front-end that can be used either connected to the server or offline. It is designed to provide a low-cost, minimal-training option by removing the multi-dimensional features for basic “fixed view only” type users who do not require the full analytical capabilities, while retaining these critical features:

- Secure User-controlled on-demand refresh (with dynamic consolidation across multiple databases)
- Content filtering prior to view refresh
- Cube filtering/locking after view refresh
- Full access to pre-defined cube layouts and cube filters
- Ability to export reports as .PDF or to Excel
- Ability to export filtered (or non-filtered) cube data to Excel
- Ability to save refreshed views and then manipulate them offline (e.g. on an airplane)
- Seamless user skill migration to next level UIs (Business User Plus or Power UI)

### Financial Reporting and Consolidation

GPS has built-in report writer that facilitates report writing for all business reports including financial statements. The GPS Financial reporting hierarchy enables addition to or extension of the ERP chart of accounts by providing an easy means of defining financial reporting categories or lines that do not exist in the original chart of accounts. This provides a flexible and powerful way to create comprehensive financial reporting and analysis.

This hierarchy also enables Consolidated Financial Reporting across any number of non-integrated financial databases.

The previous releases of GPS provided the supporting tables for the financial hierarchy and maintenance required but the maintenance of the hierarchy required consulting services. The new module significantly enhances and simplifies the ability to maintain the hierarchy across the enterprise as follows:

- Separate licensed-controlled application within System Administration
- Secure User access to this new application, by individual Environment
- Ability to identify any Site (database) as containing Financial Reporting Hierarchy tables

- Minimize maintenance using "mass copy" of standard Financial Categories / Structures / GL Account Cross-references to any number of databases
- Starting point set of Financial Categories / Structures
- Foundation for Consolidated Financial views and Reports

This new module fully leverages GPS's native multi-database access capabilities to significantly "lower the bar" for creating powerful real-time consolidated financial reporting solutions.

## **Major Functional Enhancements**

In addition to the new Express UI and the Financial Reporting and Consolidation modules, GPS 4.6 includes many improvements to the existing modules.

### **For Connected Users (Express, Business UI Plus, Power UI):**

- Improved Windows authentication interoperability
  - Database-independent **"single sign on" option** (allows windows-authenticated users to securely access the client applications directly, without having to provide a password).
  - Accommodation of installations with multiple Windows domains
- The GPS Object Repository as the central point for maintaining view templates for all connected user clients, not just eDeployment.

This:

- Simplifies and centralizes view template maintenance
- Eliminates the need to administer drive-side mappings
- Only shows templates to a given user based on secured lists (Information Types, Dimensions, and Facts)
- Saves analysis time by allowing the opening of multiple views (.VWLS files) and Filters (.PTFL files)
- Optionally submit large refresh requests to eDeployment (if present), and have the system email the refreshed view when completed

### **Major Ease of use Features (all user clients) include:**

- Improved ease of export to MS Excel and Adobe (.PDF) formats (directly from toolbar)
- Improvements in Cube Filter Locking functionality
- Toolbar improvements/standardization to streamline new user interactions
- Many additional incremental improvements to improve usability

### **Major Dashboard-related Features Include:**

- Automatically update all cube layouts when a cube definition changes (makes enhancing dashboards less labor-intensive)
- Removal of dashboard loader dataset size limitations (now constrained only by MS Excel version capabilities)

### **Miscellaneous Additional Features of Note Include:**

- A new mechanism to allow eDeployment to refresh a view once and copy it to an arbitrary set of users (without having to group those users into a specific Reporting Group)

- Enhanced “information traceability”
  - Add columns to metadata database to identify actual table/column being mapped in each case
  - New columns will be used to “auto-document” some of the integration mappings at a fine-grained level via GPS views/reports

### **Technology Compatibility Improvements**

The IT world does not stand still and neither can GPS. Here are the new areas of external compatibility now supported in 4.6:

- Vista (client modules only)
- Excel 2007 (dashboard loader)
- Firebird 2.0 (installation automatically upgrades to 2.0, which provides increased robustness and functionality)

### **Future-oriented Infrastructure Improvements**

GPS 4.6 is the next vital step in opening up new possibilities in the web services and web portal spaces. To that end, the following “under the covers” infrastructure improvements have already been implemented in 4.6:

- Multi-database support for core system tables (will allow for the use of SQL Server for network and metadata databases instead of Firebird)
- Capture all internal details of a view into Object Repository as it is being uploaded (will support end user mapping of web parts to available GPS content)
- Web services based connection support for client modules
- Internal support for OBIS (Open Business Information Server), a standard (WSDL-based) web service that will enable secure access to GPS content