ACTIVANT™

Vision™ Release Notes

Release 7.3
EP9000 Rev. A
October 2005

This guide contains information pertaining to Activant Vision™ 7.3.

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Introduction

Activant Vision™ 7.3 is the latest version of the popular comprehensive business management system. Activant Vision™ was designed specifically for multi-tiered distributors in the automotive aftermarket by TSH software engineers and seasoned aftermarket pros.

Activant Vision™releases occur every three months, delivering new improvements to our users as fast as possible. Activant Vision™ 7.3 includes several interesting new features and hundreds of bug fixes. These release notes demonstrate the changes in 7.3.

If you'd like to learn more about Activant Vision™ in general, please contact your Activant sales representative. Activant Vision™ has many uniquely advantageous features thtat distinguish it from other products.

Activant Vision™ 7.3 includes all of the improvements made in Activant Vision™ 7.1. If you'd like to learn more about those, please read the Activant Vision™ 7.1 release notes.

Who Should Use This Guide

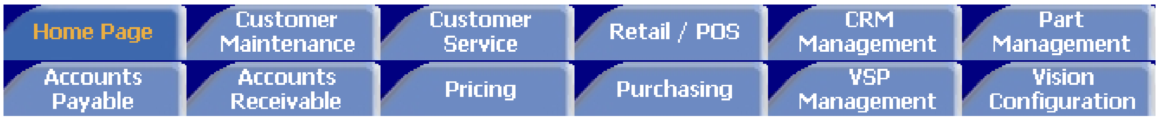
Managers should review the new features and enhancements before loading the upgrade.

This guide is useful for introducing personnel to the new features of Activant Vision™ 7.3.

This guide also assumes knowledge of startup and shutdown procedures.

How This Guide Is Organized

The guide is organized by software module, in the order they appear on the module strip:



Typographical Conventions

Convention	Description
Entries and Keystrokes	Entries that you make and keys that you press to perform a function at the terminal appear in boldface type inside angle brackets or single quotes. Consider these examples: Press **<CR>**. Type **LOC<CR>**. Type **'N'**.
Messages	The messages and prompts received from the system are presented in special type. For example: `this record has been added`
Notes	Notes call attention to information that is especially important. Notes look like this: ***Note:*** This is a note.

Where To Get Help

For Questions About...	Do the Following...
An error message or solving a problem	Check the online help or other system manuals. If you can't find the answer, call the Advice Line at **1 (847) 768-3100** or e-mail support at: tsh.support@activant.com
On-Site Training and Upgrade Services	Contact your account manager or sales representative.
Using the new features and enhancements of Activant Vision™ 7.3	Check this guide. If you cannot find the answer, call the Advice Line at **1 (847) 768-3100** or e-mail support at: tsh.support@activant.com

3

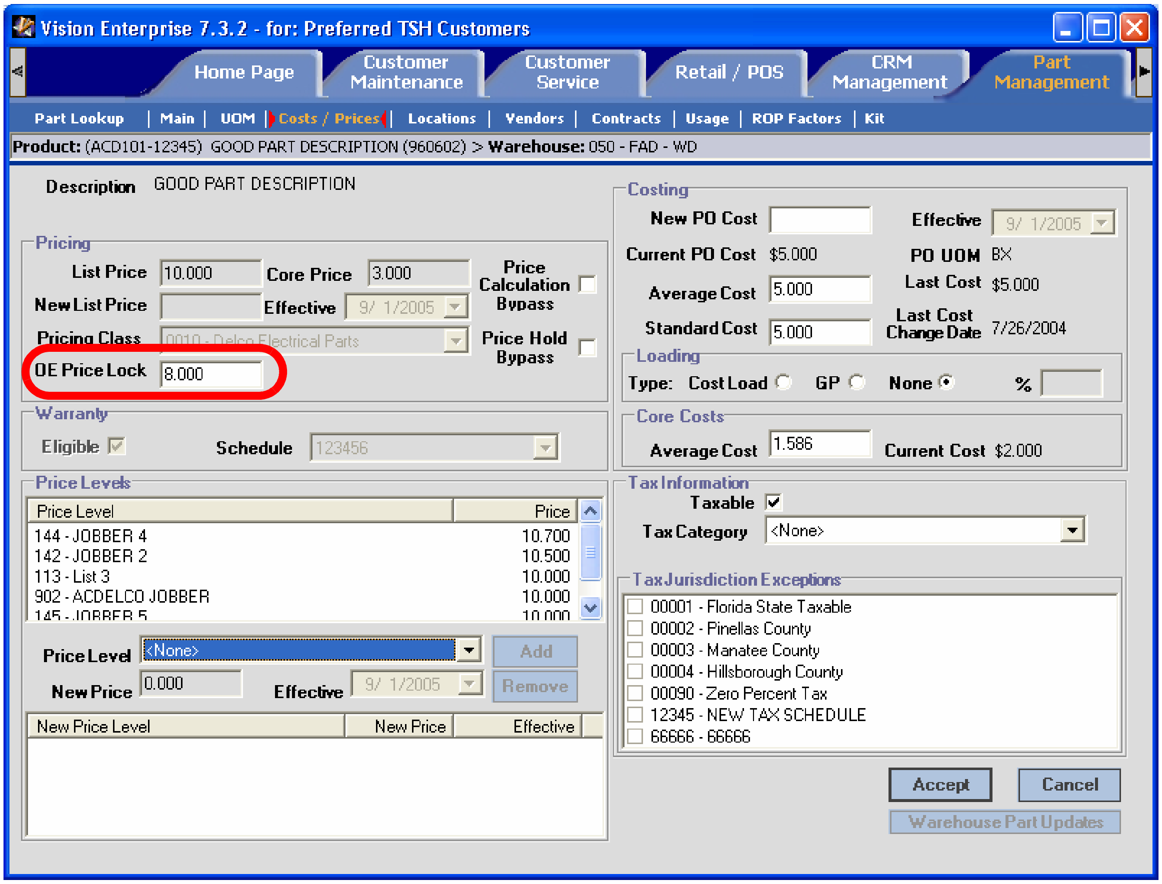
New Features

Part Price Locking

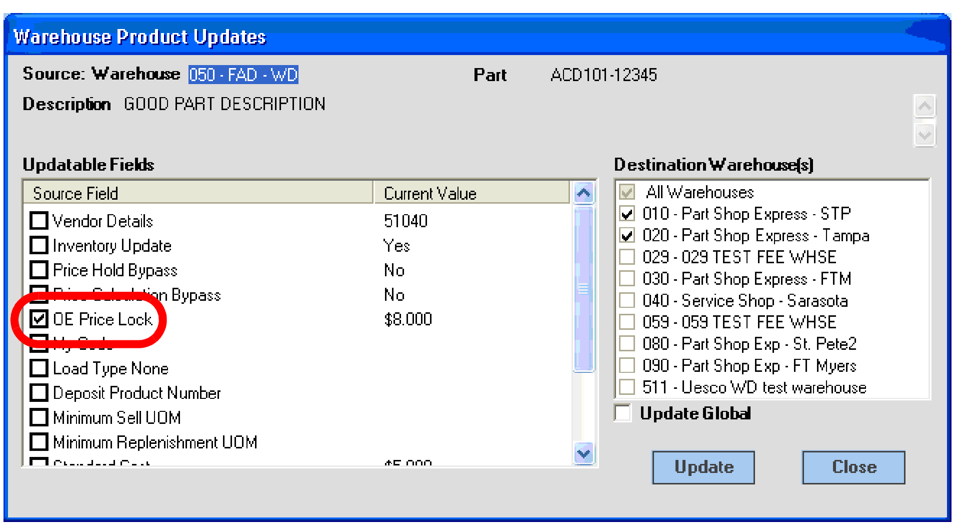
You can now set a part's price as "Locked". In order entry, the price will default to the locked price.

Part Price Locking

The part management Costs / Prices form can Lock the price on a part simply by entering the price at which to lock:



The Warehouse Part Update form also allows the “pushing” of the OE Price Lock indicator to other warehouses:



Simply check the CE Price Lock field as above, and check the warehouses to which to export the price lock.

Order Entry Function

The price will default to a price source of “locked price”, and the price will default to the locked price amount.

If a part is set up for locked pricing, a user may not override the price on sale lines to a lower price unless the user has the new job function of “PRICE LOCKED OVERRIDE”.

The price can be overridden to a higher price by any user with the “PRODUCT PRICE OVERRIDE” job function.

Activant PartExpert Catalog

The Activant PartExpert Catalog has been integrated into Activant Vision™ 7.3, allowing users to easily find automotive parts and add them to an order.

The updated catalog application looks exactly the same as the previous version. This familiar interface also includes new, easier function-key access to lookup modes.

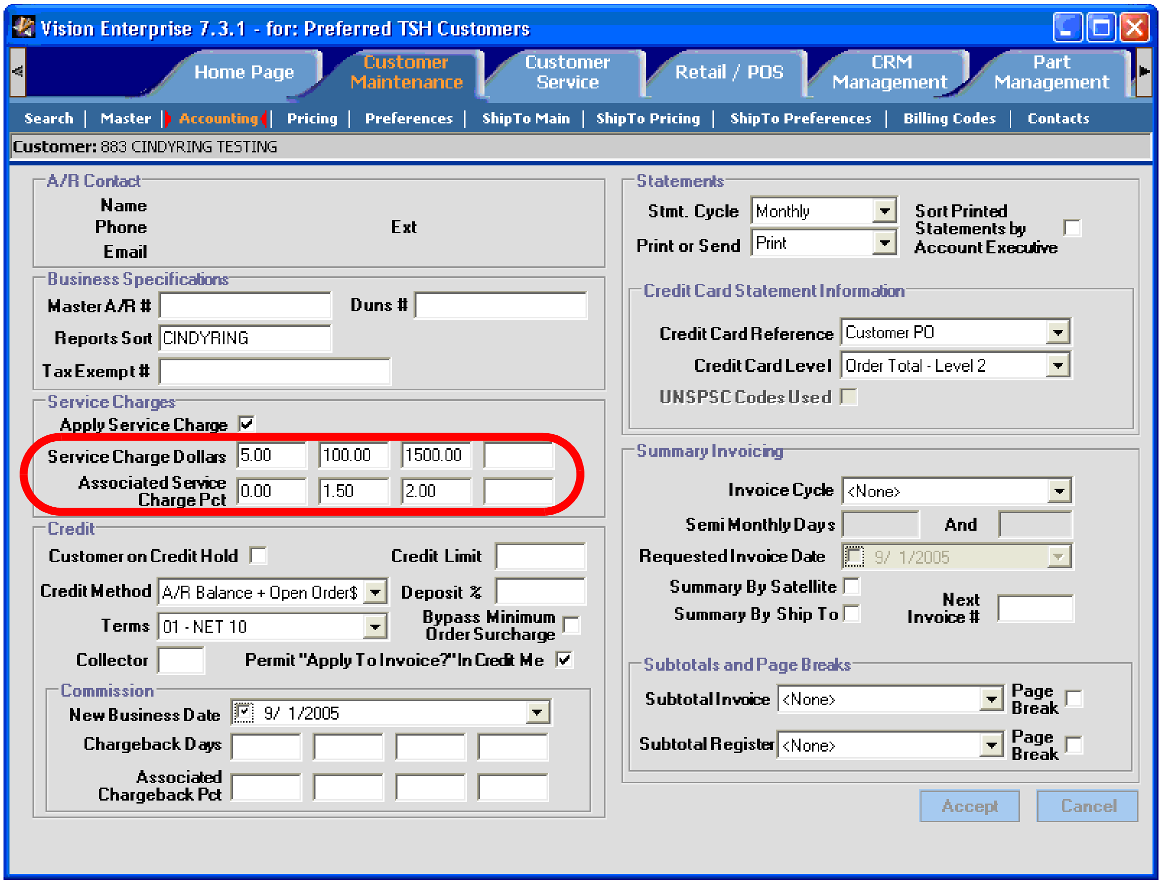
All previous lookup modes are supported, such as: Group/Part Type, Alpha, Interchange, and Manufacturer/Part.

Cover to Cover is also supported, making it easy to get part pictures, installation information, warranty information, manufacturer information, and other information.

PartExpert-specific data such as superseded and alternate part information is also included.

Service Charges by Customer

You can now control service charges for each individual customer, if you wish. Activant Vision™ 7.3 includes a new set of service charge fields in the Customer Service, Accounting page:



These service charge fields override and work exactly like the service charges that are kept for each state. If there are no entries in the customer's service charge fields, the service charge by state fields are used to calculate service charges.

The customer is only charged service charges when the "Apply Service Charge" check box is checked.

Default Order Quantity

Previously, when the user entered a part on the current order form, the focus is placed into a blank order quantity text box. Rather than leaving the text box blank, a quantity of "1" or the per car quantity assigned to the part appears by default.

You can set what default order quantity appears for a part by changing the per car quantity for the part.

Function Keys for Customer Service Form

The customer service form buttons have been assigned function keys, just as in Retail/POS. This gives the user another option by which to navigate to another form within the customer service tab (mouse, CTRL+F, or the function key).

The function keys are assigned as follows:

The function keys will be assigned as follows:

F2 - Customer profile

F3 - Ship to

F4 - Current order

F5 - Part

F6 - Catalog parts

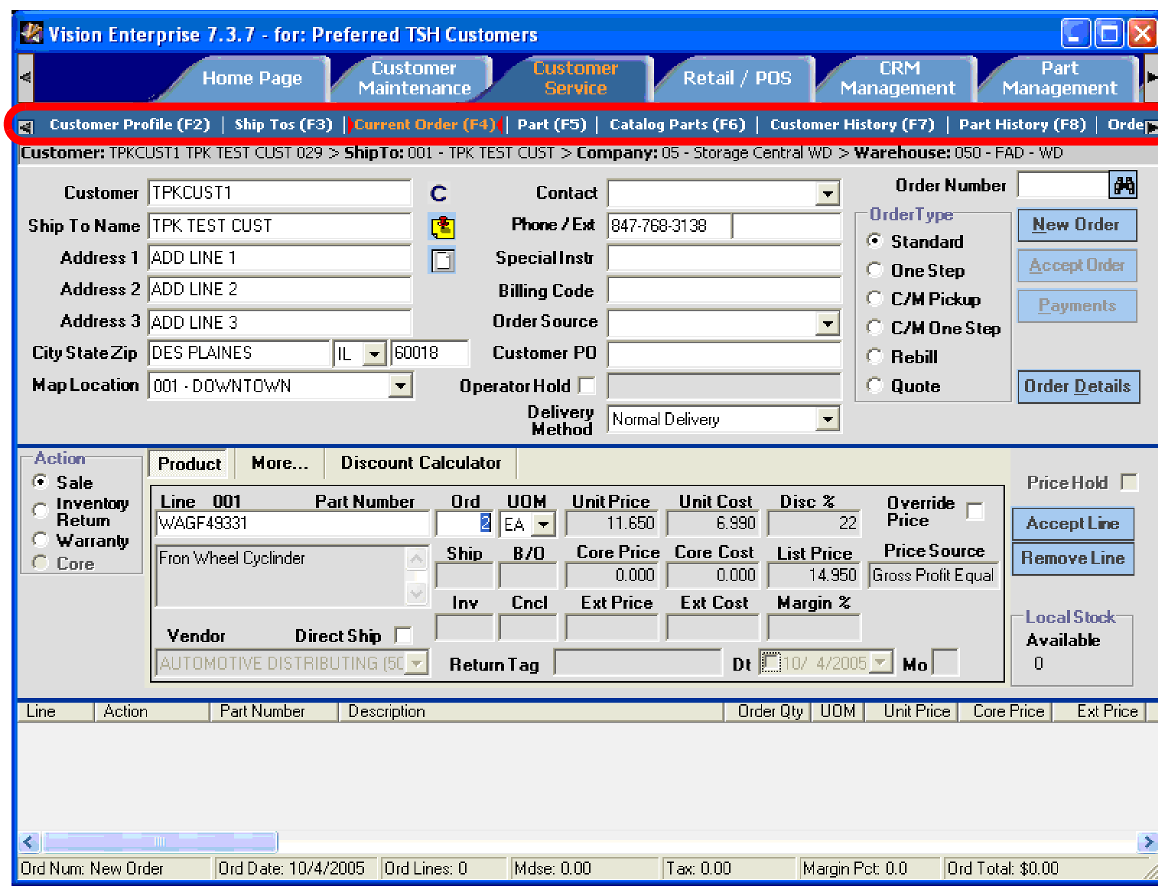
F7 - Customer history

F8 - Part history

F9 - Order inquiry

F10 - Payments

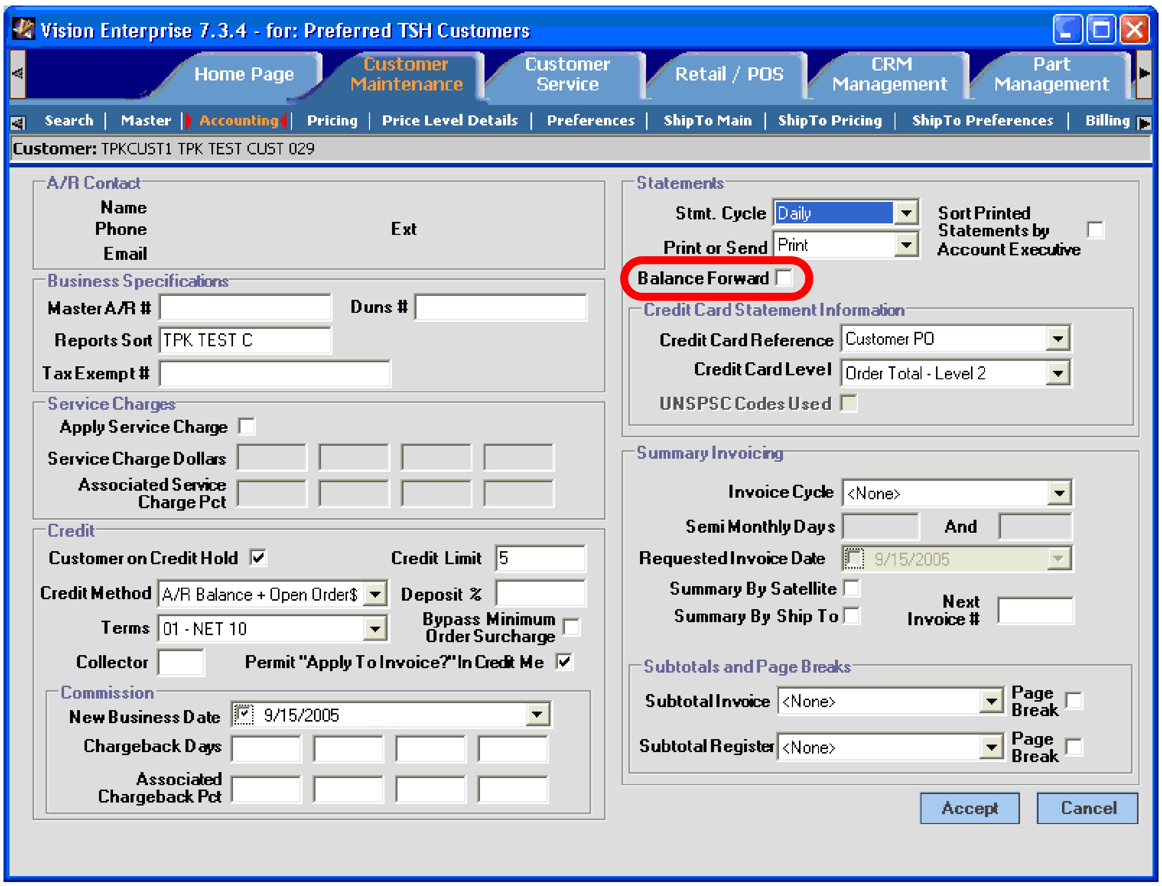
The new Customer Service Form looks like this:



Balance Forward Statements

Activant Vision™ 7.3 has been enhanced with balance forward statements. Balance forward statements combine all outstanding balances into a single number, which shows the total amount the customer owes from before the current month.

To set a customer for balance forward statements, click the “Balance Forward” check box in the Customer Maintenance, Accounting screen:

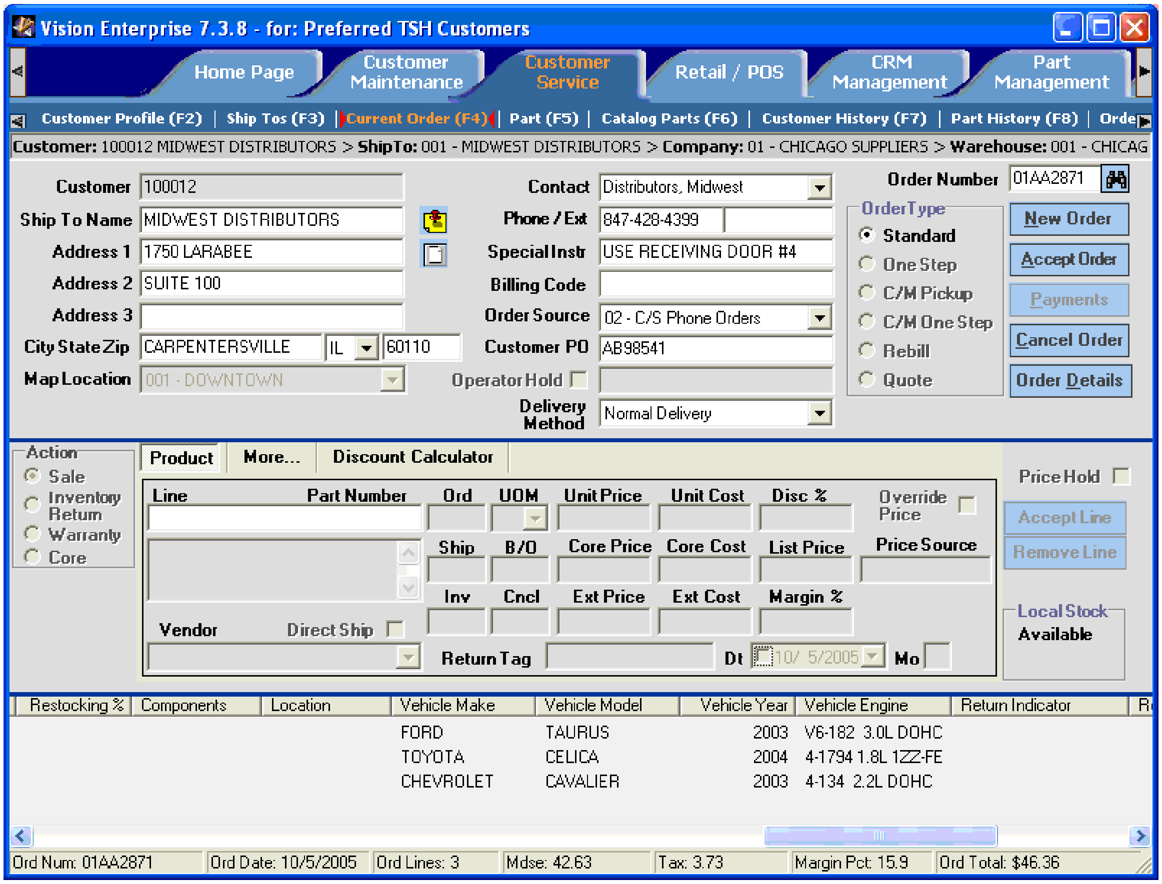


If a customer is set for Balance Forward, only the current month’s individual transactions are printed. All transactions older than the current month will be aggregated and printed on one line as the Balance Forward total.

Application Information on Invoice, Order Screens

The year, make, model, and engine type is now printed on the invoice when the parts are added from the catalog. It is also displayed on the current order and order inquiry screens.

It is near the end of the line item on both screens. For an example of how these fields are displayed on screen, here is the current order screen:



You may, of course, resize the column to see all of the information.

On the invoice, a line is printed below the part line. It looks like this:

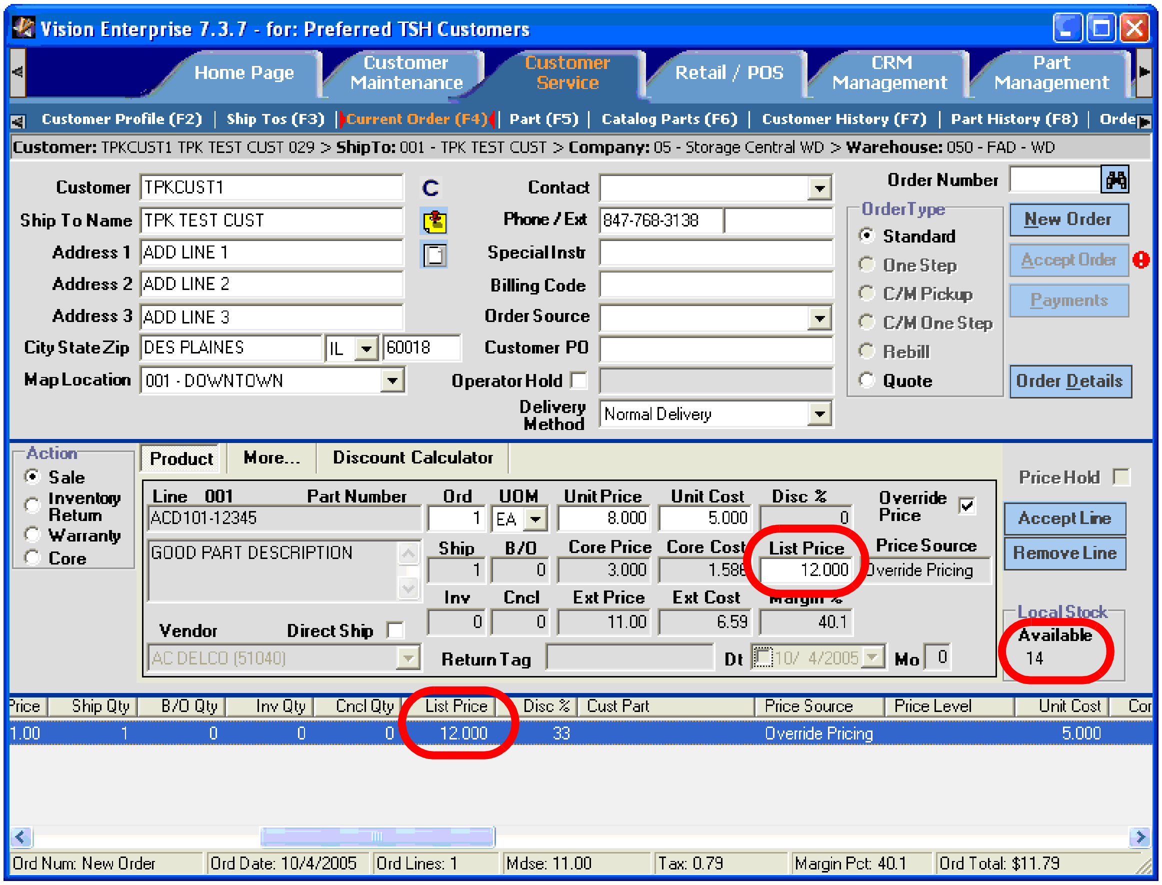
`2001 CADILLAC SEVILLE V8-279 4.6L DOHC`

List Price and Availability on Current Order Screens

Counter staff need to know how many parts are available when they place a part on an order screen. This is now shown on both the Customer Service and Retail/POS current order screens.

The list price is now displayed on the current order screens. Also, sometimes users need to override the list price for parts. This is now available for users with the “Price Override” job function. The new list price is stored in the invoice, and does not affect the list price in the Part Information screen.

Here is how both features look on the Customer Service current order screen:



Part Searches only Show Part Number Matches

Part searches are now filtered to show only matches where the part number (minus the manufacturer abbreviation) matches the search text.

Many searches were coming back with irrelevant matches where a part number had been found in another part's description.

Accounts Receivable Future Payments

Activant Vision™ 7.3 has the ability to handle multiple future receivable payments natively.

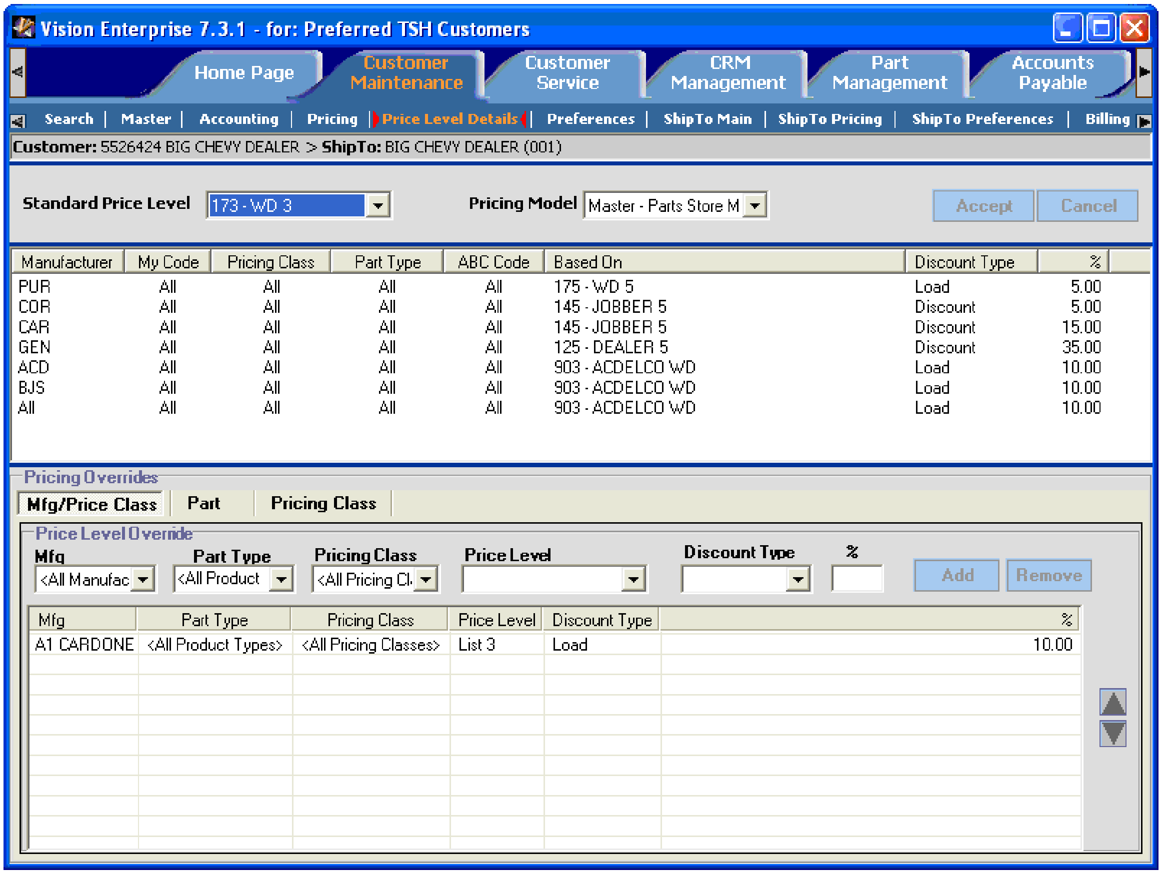
When entering an order, the user can specify the first payment date and the number of payments. When the invoice is printed, if it has multiple number of payments, multiple remittance advice lines will be printed in the remittance advice section - each with its own due date, amount and AR number.

A/R inquiry handles future payments with the new ability to scroll through the multiple A/R records for each invoice.

Price Level Detail Screen

Activant Vision™ 7.3 has a revamped pricing user interface. The new Price Level Detail screen allows you to see how pricing affects a particular customer.

This is the new Price Level Detail screen:



To use the Price Level Detail screen, select a customer in the top bar.

You can then set the standard price level and examine the effect different price models have, and maintain the customer's pricing overrides.

The standard pricing level and overrides can be saved by clicking on the Accept button in the top right corner. The pricing model is not saved.

Time Tracking Expansion

Time tracking capabilities in Activant Vision™ 7.3 have been expanded beyond the basics. The new, more fully realized time tracking software includes the following capabilities:

- Differentiation of time by Regular, Vacation, Holiday, or Sick.
- Time reporting that determines what's paid and what's unpaid time.
- Time reporting to list days per employee where time is missing, or the total of time entered is less than the total work time allotted for that reporting period.

- Accrual of vacation time annually, allowing rollover from the previous year, up to designated maximum.

The reporting has been expanded to include Vacation, Holiday, and Sick time reports, and streamlined to move missing time to the errors report.

Setup

To set up the new time features:

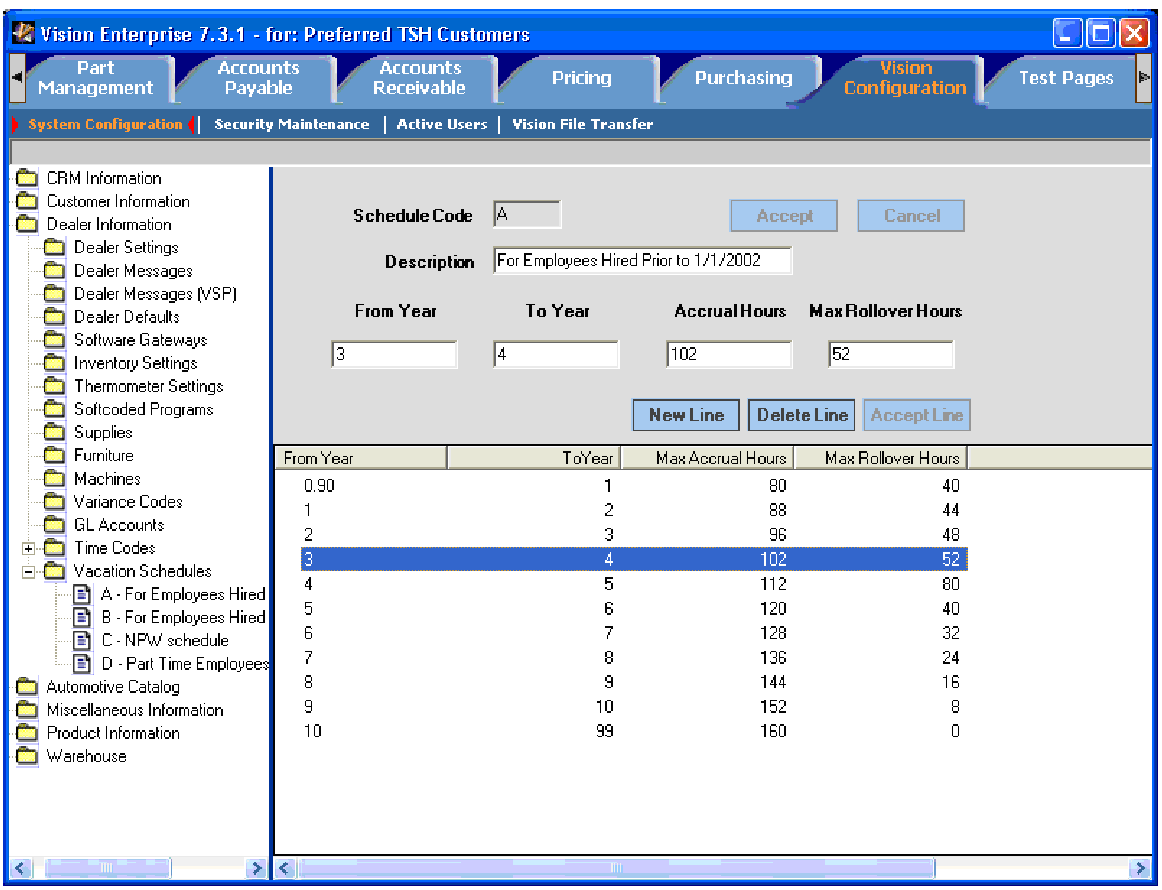
1 Setup the Time Codes for Regular pay, Vacation, and Holiday.

Optional codes are Sick leave, Family leave, and Jury Duty, as you may want to do future reporting that would track those types of time usage.

“Regular” pay should be a code R, with the Type flag = P (paid). This is because the Time In/Time Out entry screen asks only for the Employee Id, and assumes that the type of work being done - when checking in - is regular, paid time. It needs to have a code that it can automatically assign, without stopping to ask for input - so, we've designated that code to be “R”.

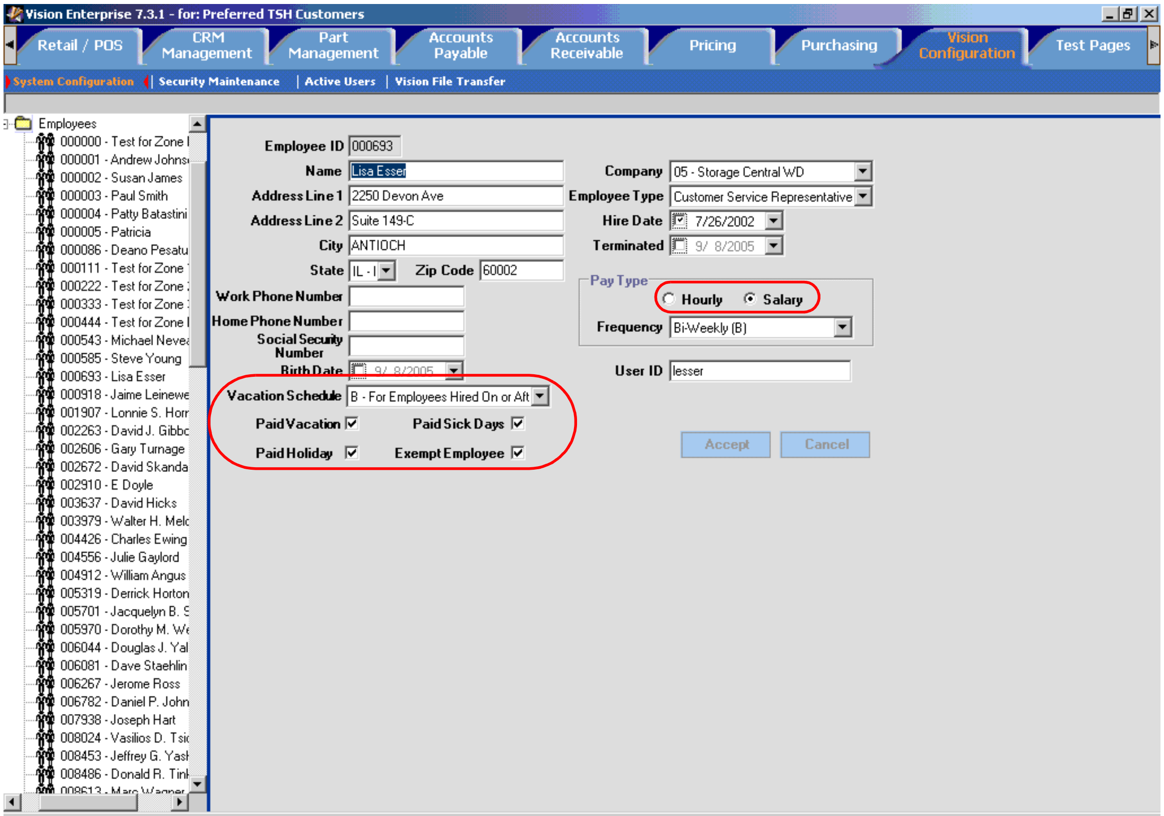
2 Setup the Vacation Schedule(s) so that vacation can be accrued.

Do this on the new Vacation Maintenance screen:



3 Complete Employee Maintenance:

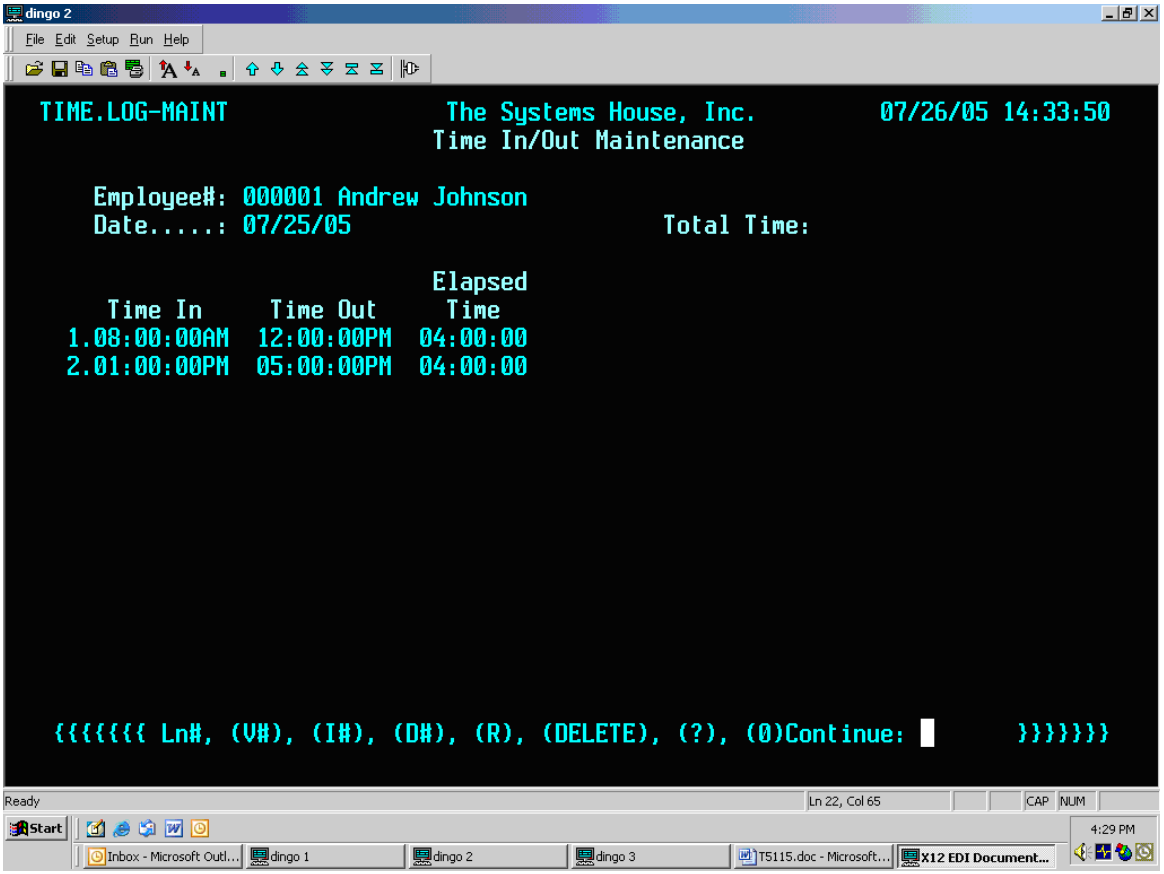
Do this with the new fields on the Employee Maintenance form:



1. Assign each employee a Vacation Schedule code
2. Designate if each of the following is paid or unpaid (on a by-employee basis):
    - vacation
    - holiday
    - sick leave
3. Designate if the employee is Hourly or Salaried (does not get paid for overtime).

Use

To clock in and out, use the newly revamped Time Maintenance screen:



Employee # - Input the Employee Number, END to exit, or <Return> to stay with the same employee, but add one to the Date. The employee's name will be displayed.

Date - Input the Date or <Return> to accept the suggested date. The day of the week will be displayed. If that employee already has any time entered for this week, it will be displayed in the total buckets at the bottom of the page. If the employee is exempt from overtime, and hours in excess of 40 have already been input for this week, the unpaid overtime will be displayed in the upper right corner of the screen.

Note: Up to 12 breaks may occur in one work day. A break is defined as a lapse between an end and start time, such as unpaid lunch time, or a point in time at which the Time Type changes, such as if an employee has to leave work early for jury duty, sick time, personal time, etc.

Time In - The start time, in military format (1 = 01:00:00AM, 12 = 12:00:00PM noon, 24 = 12:00:00AM midnight, 8:30 = 08:30:00AM, etc.).

Time Out - The end time, in military format. The Elapsed Time will be displayed for you.

Time Type - Input a valid Time Type code. The description will be displayed.

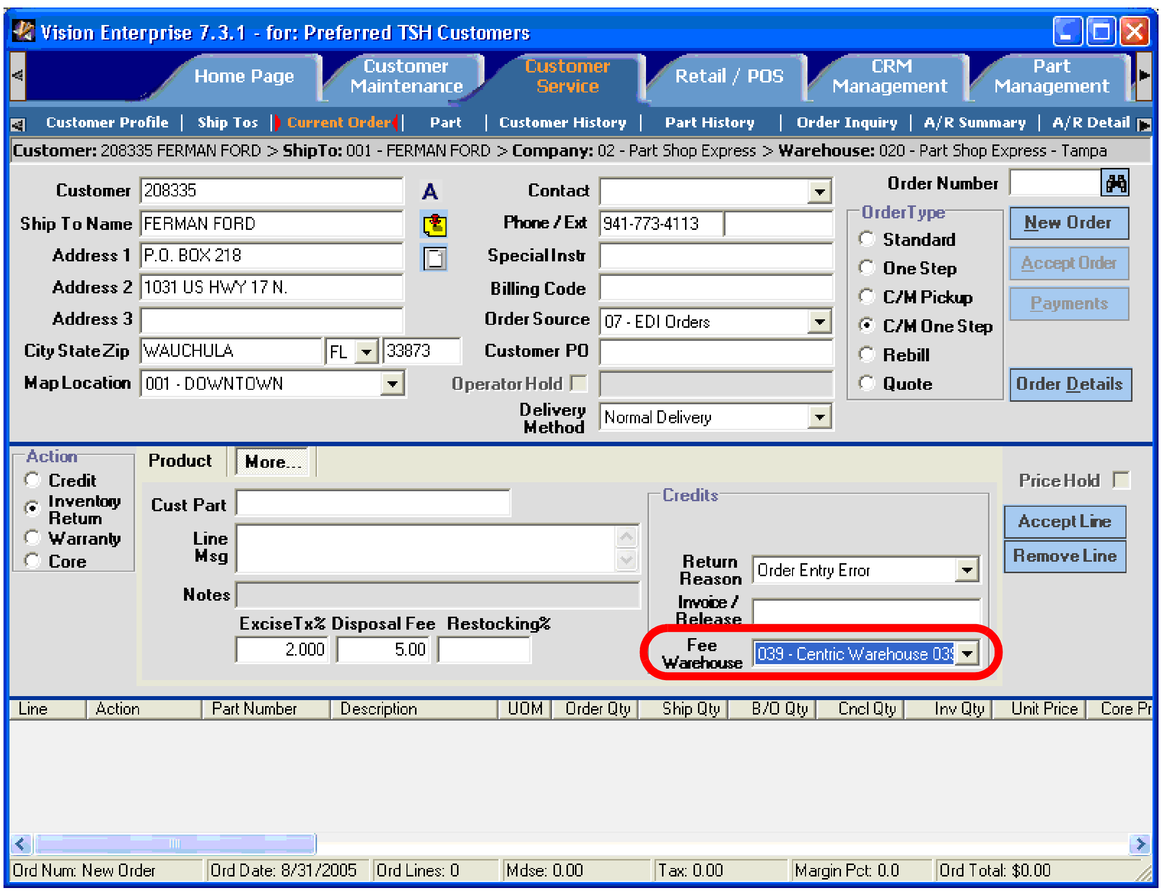
Fee Warehouse Returns

When a user enters a credit to a non-vendor owned customer of a vendor owned part, Activant Vision™ 7.3 generates a credit memo from the fee warehouse to the customer's warehouse.

If a non-vendor owned customer returns a vendor owned product, the screen prompts the user to enter to which fee warehouse the return is going. If the part exists in only one fee warehouse, the system will default selection of that particular warehouse.

Upon completion of the entry of the credit, the system will create a credit transaction from the fee warehouse to the non-vendor owned warehouse. At that time, the system will also create a “Negative PO” from the crediting warehouse to the vendor who owns the inventory.

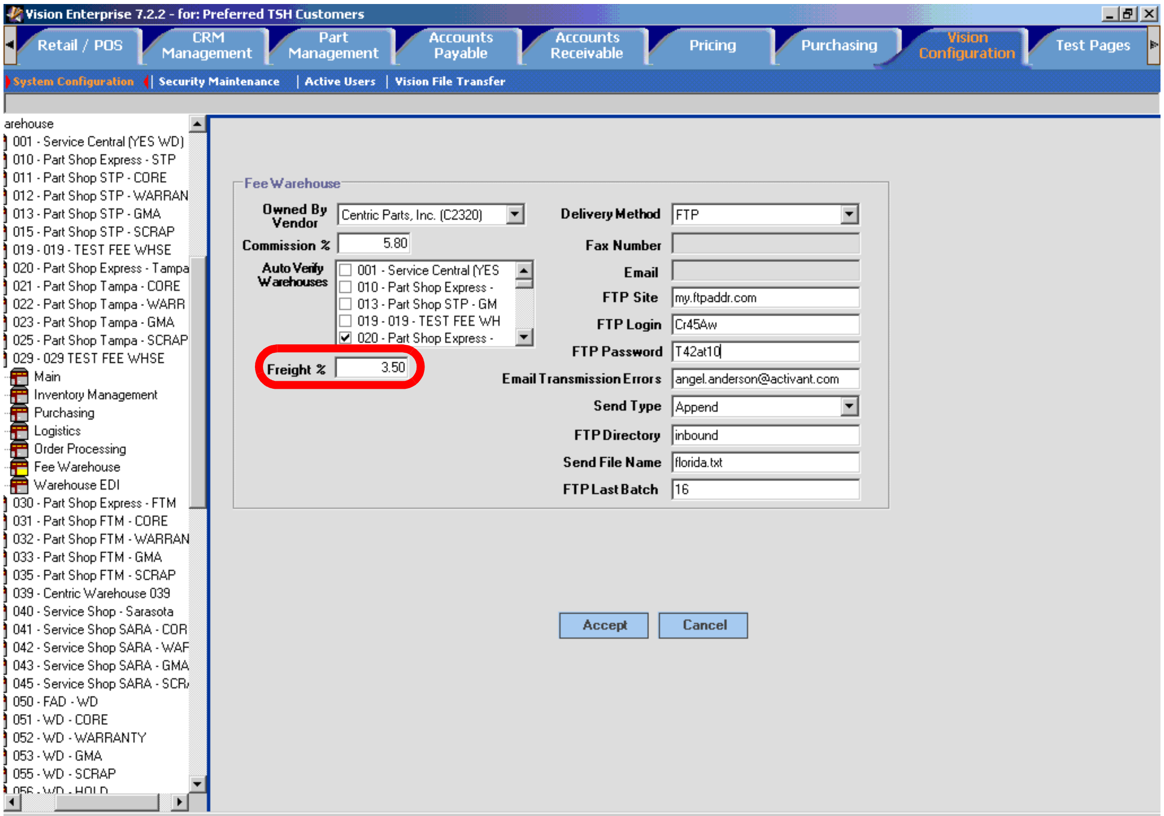
The destination fee warehouse is selected by drop-down menu on the Line Edit Panel of the current order screen:



Fee Warehouse Automatic Freight Calculation

Activant Vision™ 7.3 automatically calculates a freight fee for each fee warehouse customer order when it is shipped. This fee will print on the daily Fee Warehouse report.

These freight rates must be set up in Vision configuration:



The freight is calculated as a percentage of the total invoice value, and can be set anywhere from 0 to 100 percent. If set to 0 (zero), freight is not invoiced.

The freight is set individually for each fee warehouse.

Function

End of Day processing will automatically select those Releases for fee warehouses.

If a Freight Amount was input during Verification, that will be used as the dollar amount of the Freight Fee to charge the Fee Warehouse for that Release.

If there is no Freight Amount on the Release, then the total value (total merchandise price minus total core price) will be multiplied by the freight fee percent for that fee warehouse, and that will be used as the dollar amount of the Freight Fee. All of the freight fees for the day, for that fee warehouse, will become line items on a new Release record that will be billed to the Customer Master (Owned by Vendor) for that fee warehouse. End of Day will then automatically invoice the Freight Fees.

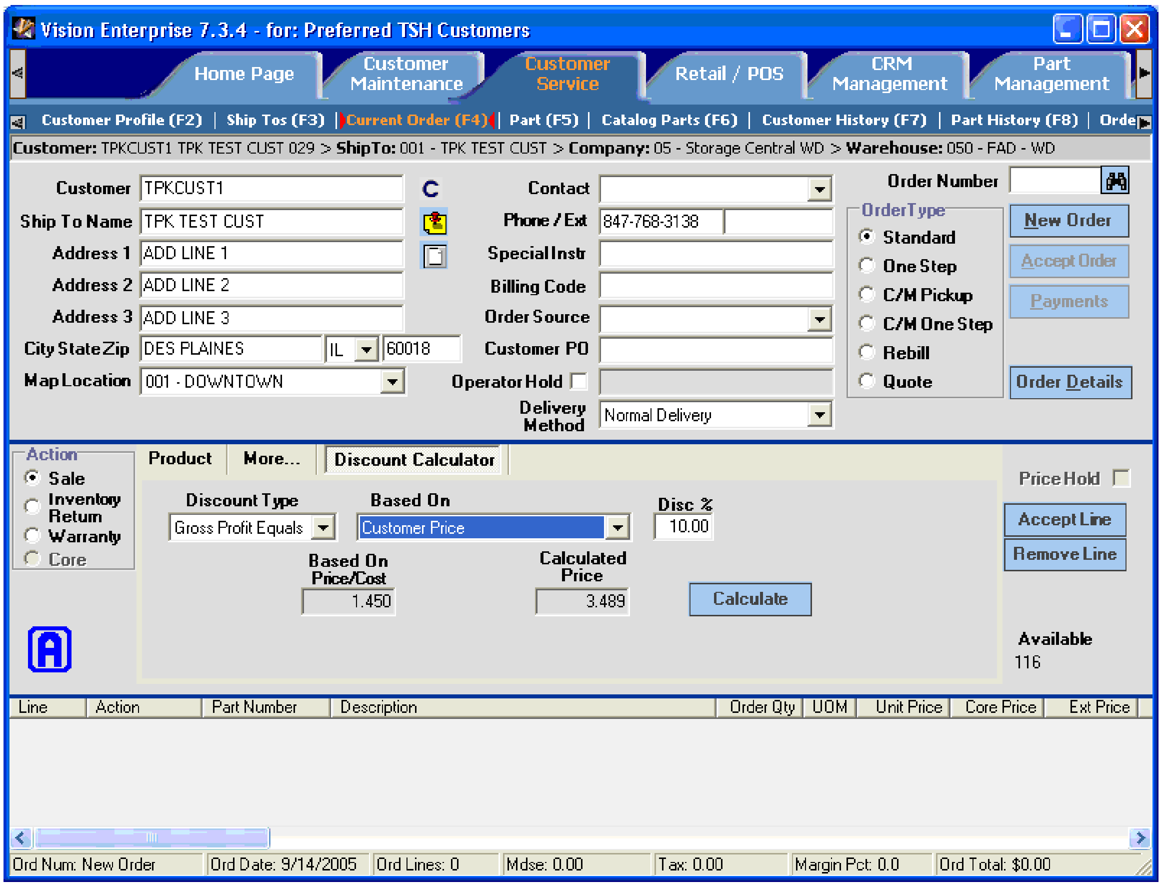
Telepricing

Telepricing is Activant's automatic price update service. At designated intervals, your Activant Vision™ system calls the update server, and receives price updates for your selected lines, calculated using your pricing schemes. The call is usually made on a weekend night, to assure low costs and minimal business interruption, but may be initiated manually.

Please contact your account representative for information on this time-saving service.

Line Item Discount Calculation

Price overrides can now be accurately calculated on the fly, reducing guesswork. A new "Discount Calculator" tab has been added to the line edit panel on the current order form.



The discount types available are

- Gross Profit Equals - Calculates a discount to leave a certain gross profit.
- Load - Calculates a discount on a cost-plus basis
- Discount - Simply discounts a certain percentage.

The discount calculator changes the price source of the line item to "Override".

To use the discount calculator, the user must have a job function of "PRODUCT PRICE OVERRIDE"

Activant AConneX

Activant's AConneX is an electronic exchange that allows the Enterprise Resource Planning systems of buyers and sellers in the automotive aftermarket to request information on part availability, to place orders, and to share “product line coverage” between trading partners.

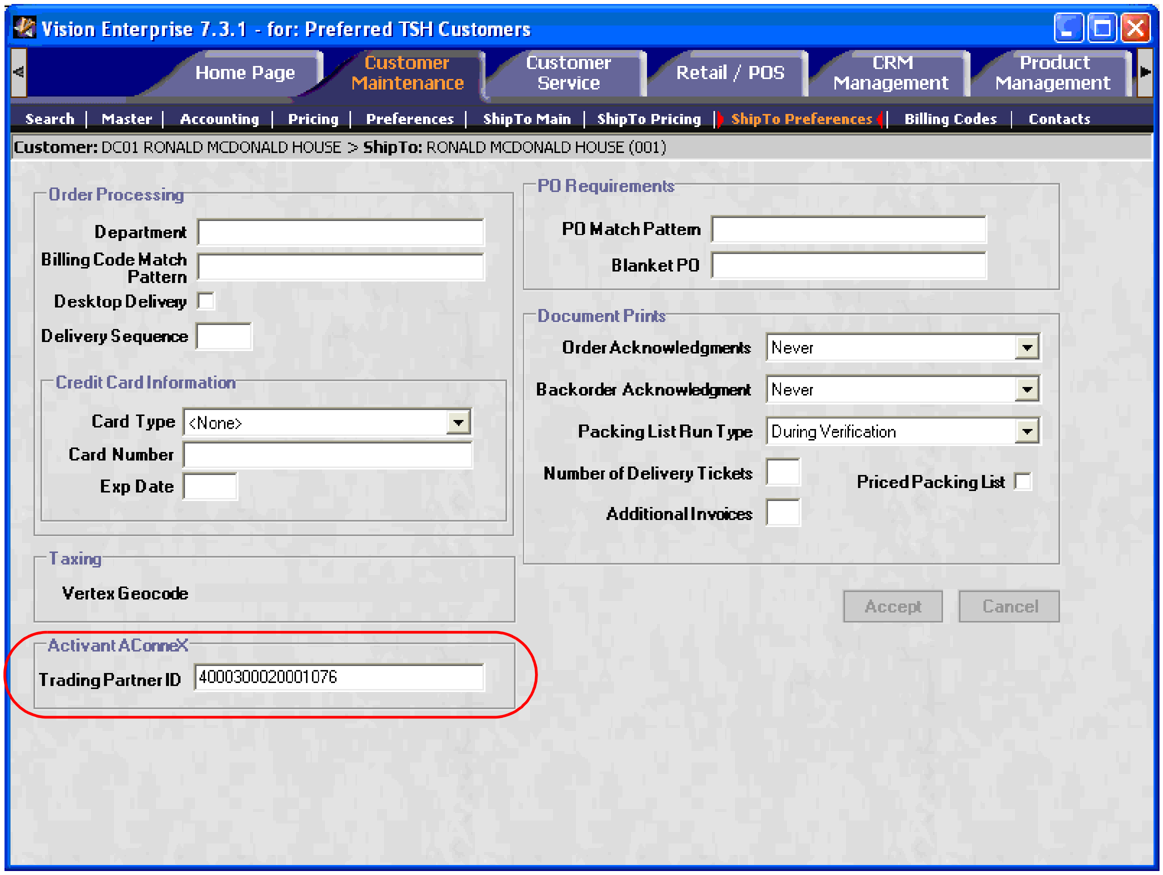
This enables buyers and sellers in the marketplace to trade “horizontally”, in addition to the normal “vertical” channel from manufacturers to WD to jobber to installer. Using AConneX, jobbers can buy and sell parts from one another, as can WDs.

The initial release of the AConneX interface only allows a Vision system to act as a seller, not a buyer on the network.

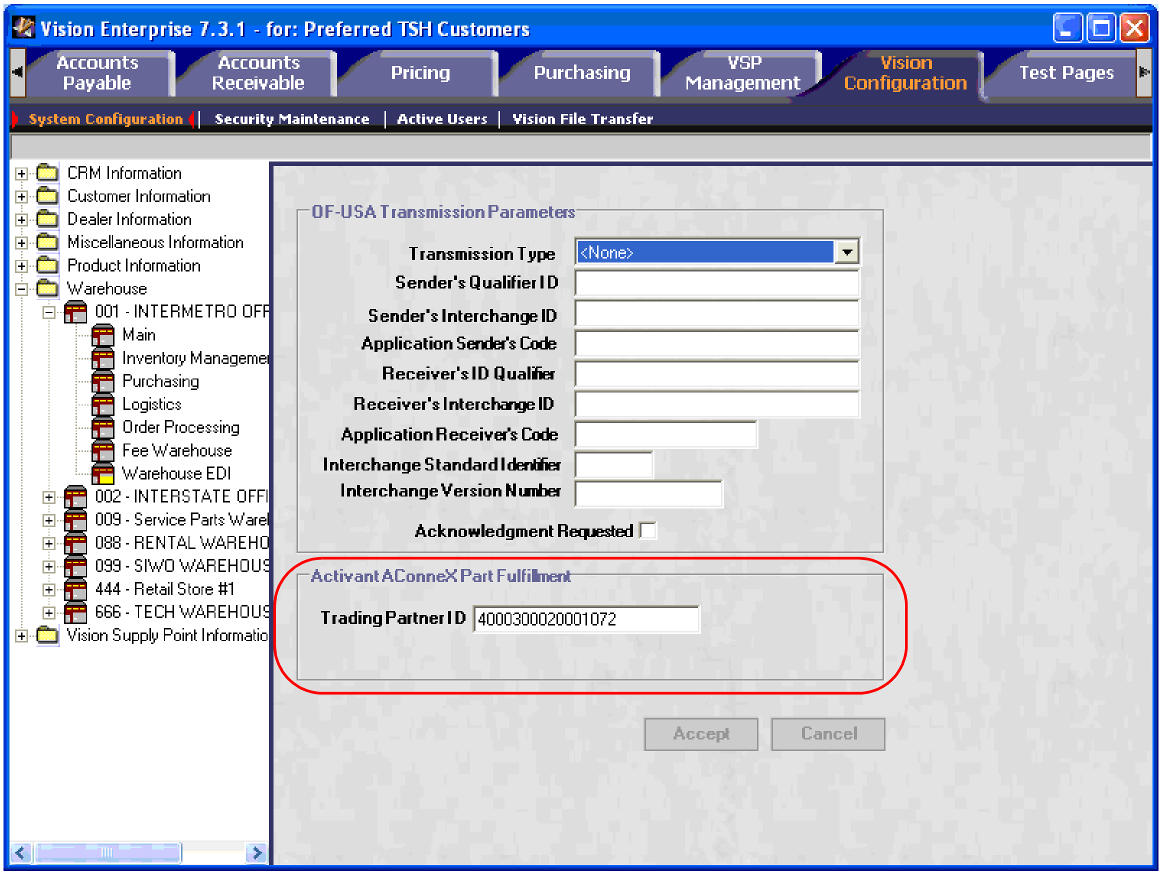
Each seller on the network establishes a full-time communications link between their system and the AConneX servers. As buyers connect and send requests, these messages are routed in real time to the seller's system, who then returns a response, routed to the buyer's system.

The AConneX system requires buyers and sellers to “register” (and receive a unique “partner ID”) and to establish “trading relationships” between one another.   The Partner IDs are associated with a specific location - each buyer has a separate Partner ID for each of their shipping addresses, and a seller has a separate Partner ID for each of their shipping locations.

On Vision's Account Management Tab, the Ship-To Preferences form allows the customer's AConneX partner ID to be specified. Note the new group box and text field in the lower left:



Vision's Warehouse Maintenance screen has also been modified, The “Warehouse EDI” form for each warehouse will include a new group-box and text field below the OF-USA parameters:



These two steps are the only setup actions required on the Vision system.

To join AConneX, please speak with your Activant sales representative.

Part Sequencing

Part Sequencing, is a sorting strategy that enables the Vision System Manager to specify specific rules that govern how a list of parts is sorted. Part Sequencing allows you much greater flexibility to dictate how a list of parts is sorted. The part number can be logically broken into units that are independently evaluated to determine the proper sort sequence for the part.

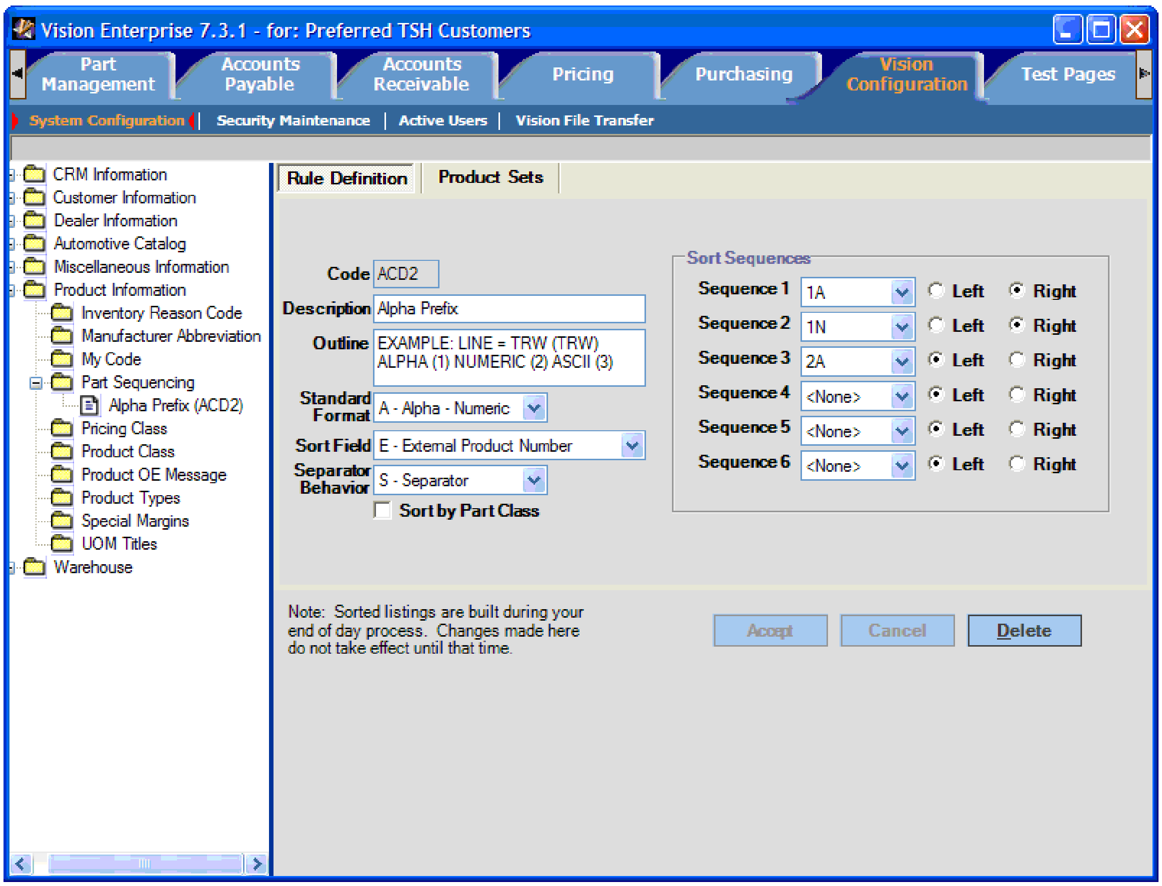
Part Sequencing adds the following features to Activant Vision:

- The ability to describe a part pattern at the manufacturer, class or part level. From this pattern at part/price load time, a part sequence will be assigned.
- Individual maintenance of part sequences
- Printing of warehouse labels by part sequence
- Immediate access to the “Next” part in the part sequence, in any set of sorted parts on the screen.

- Printing of invoices in part# sequence or original entry order
- Printing of pick tickets in part# sequence; zone/aisle/bin; or original entry order
- Printing by sequence as an option to all reports that print by zone, bin or part

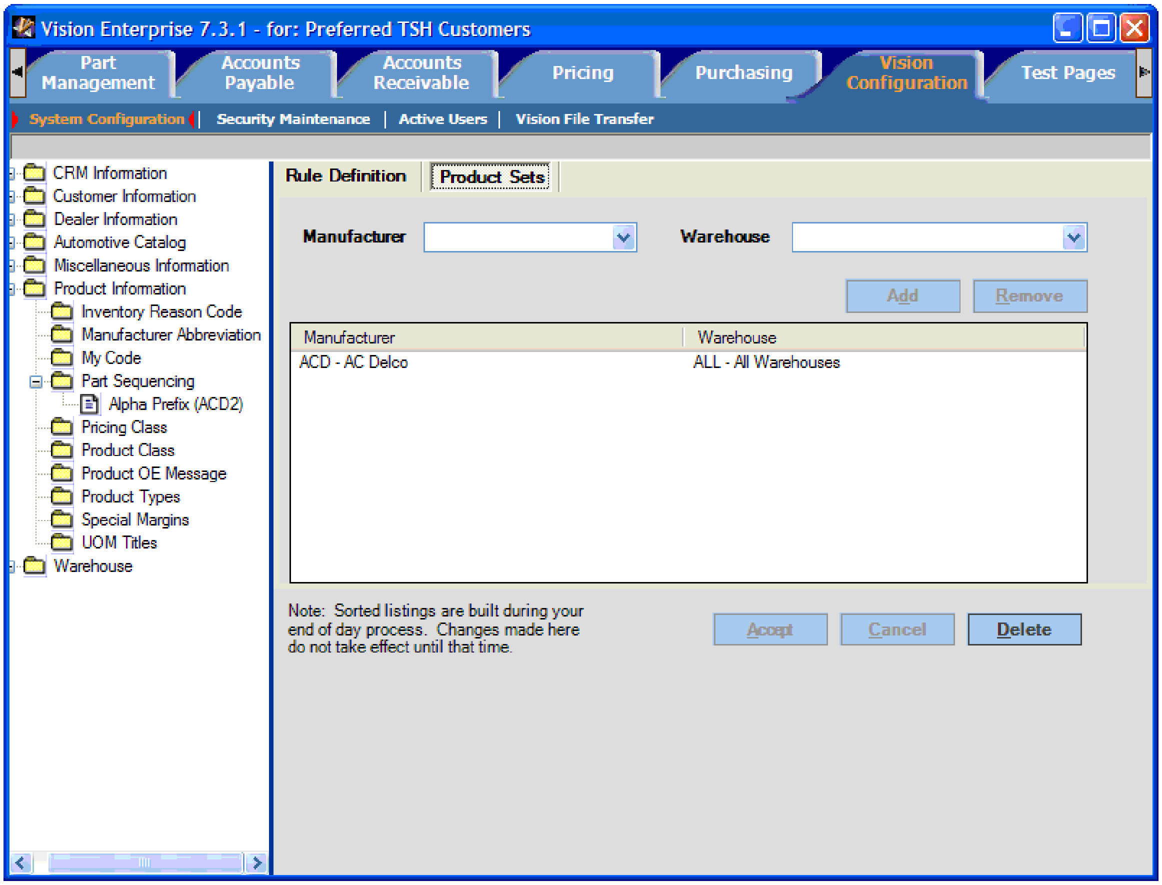
There are two Part Sequence maintenance screens, one to create, modify and delete part sequence rules, and one to assign a part sequence rule to a set of products:

Sequence Maintenance Screen

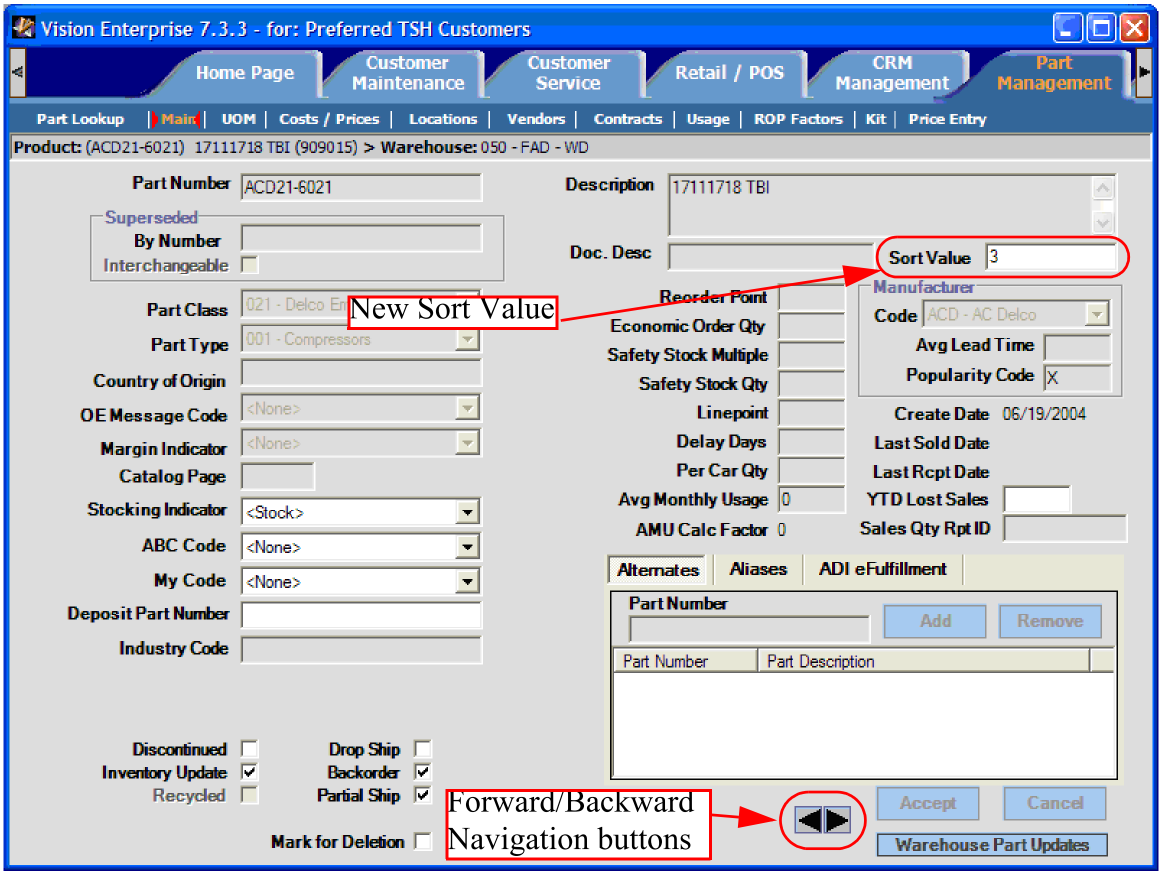


Part Sequencing

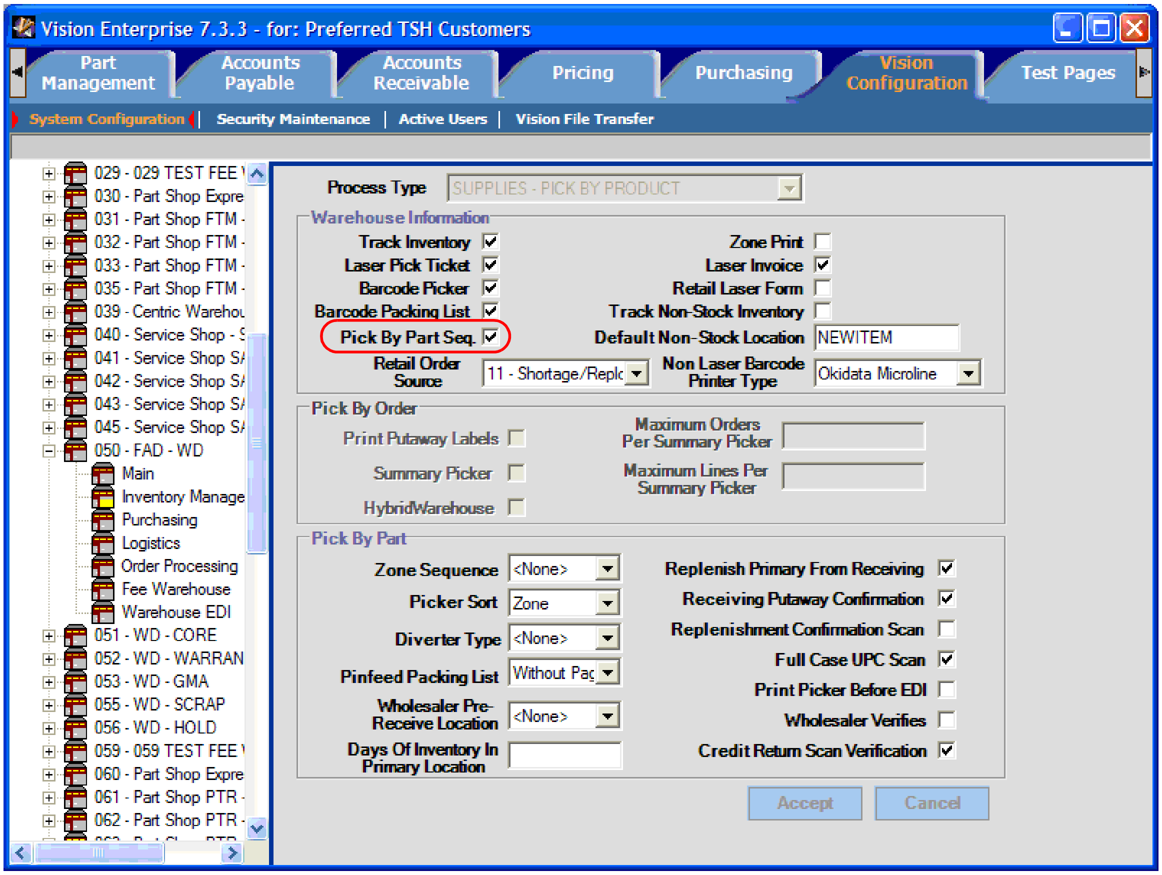
Set Maintenance



There are several changes to the user interface.



This is how you print pick tickets by sequence order:



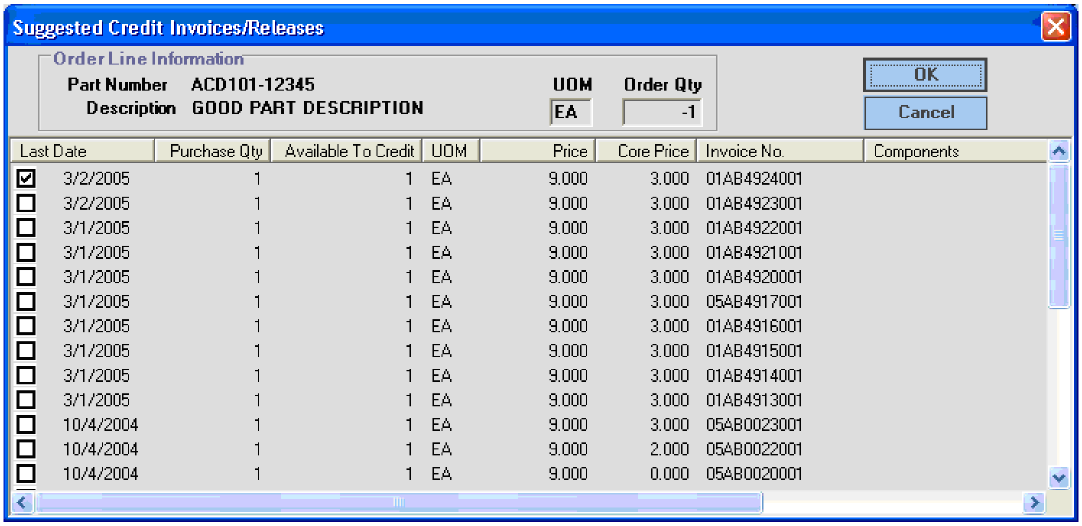
Streamlined Credit Memo Processing

Activant Vision™ 7.3 has the ability to link credit memos to a previous invoice at the line item level. You can link the entire C/M to an invoice or individual line items to separate invoices.

Upon entry of each new line item on a credit memo, if the entire C/M is not linked to a prior invoice (in the order details section) or the line item has not been linked to a previous invoice, the system will suggest prior invoices to link to.

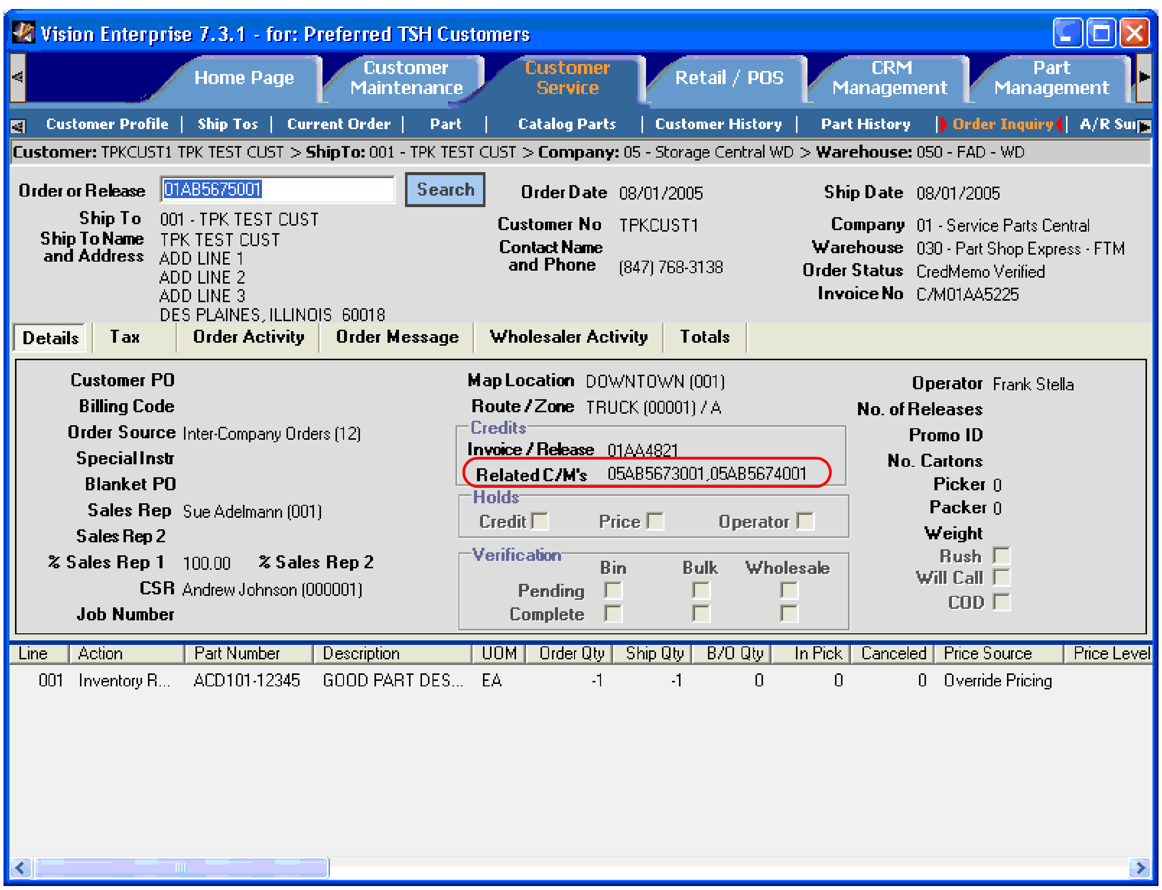
Only users with the job function “C/M LINK OVERRIDE” can link C/Ms or their line items to invoices.

This is what the new credit memo link suggestion box looks like, for a single part:



To link the line item to a suggested invoice, check the box in front of your choice, and click "OK".

The Order Inquiry screen now displays the related credit memos:

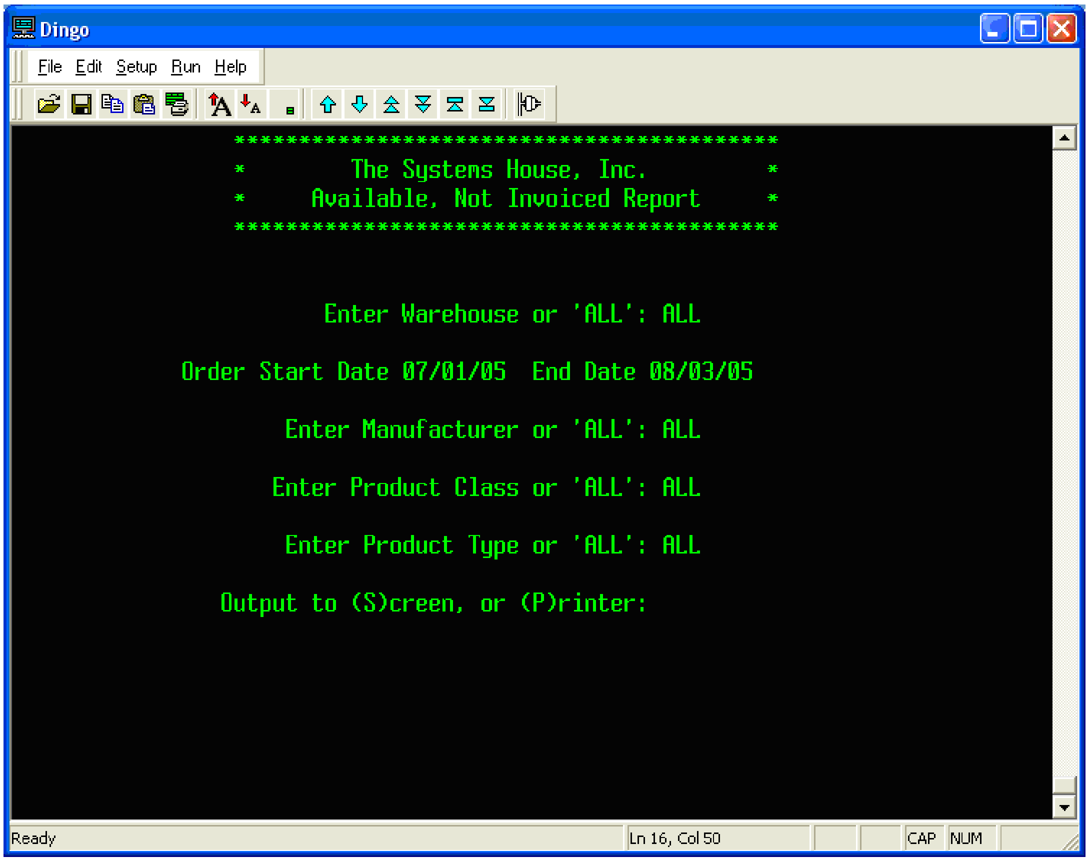


Available, Not Invoiced Report

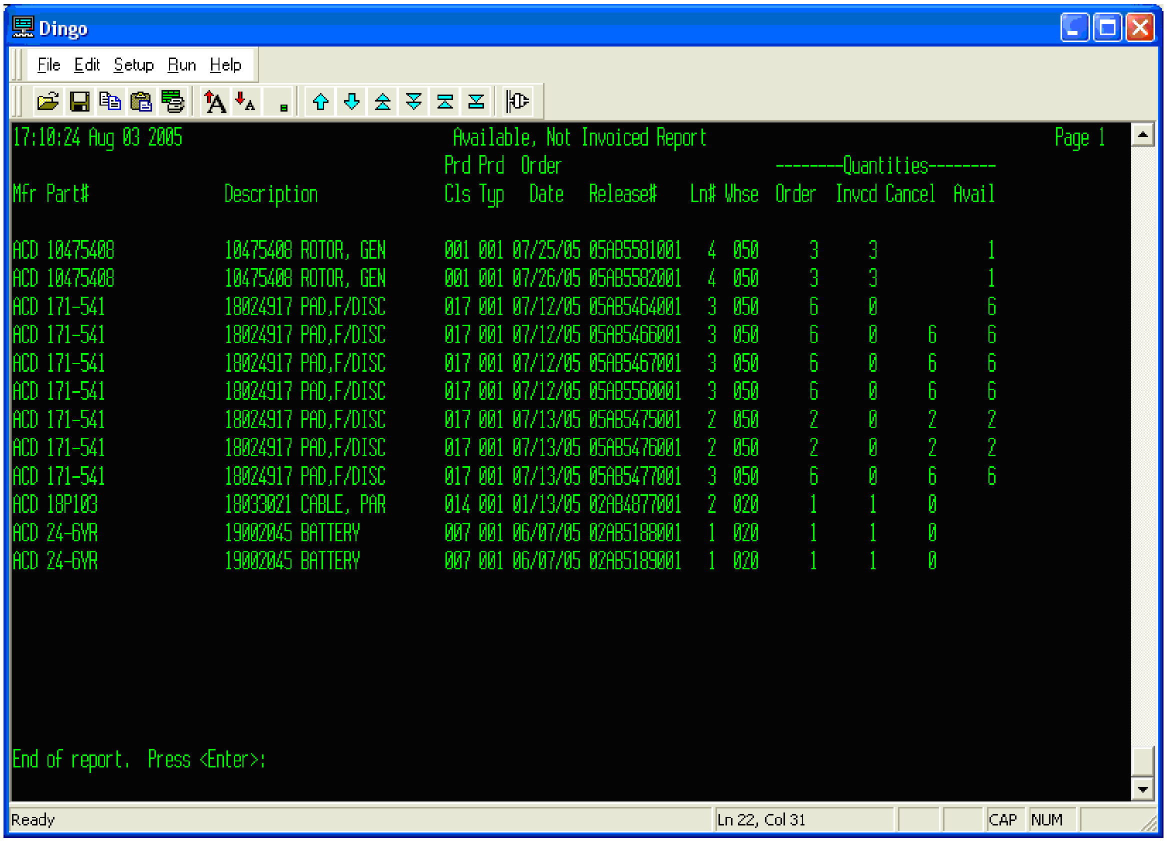
To better highlight "short-ship" situations, Activant Vision™ 7.3 includes a new report showing Invoices released with quantities release lines having a invoiced quantity that was less than the quantity available at the time the pick ticket was created.

This is a terminal-based report.

There are six report creation questions:



Here is a sample of the report output:



17:10:24 Aug 03 2005 Available, Not Invoiced Report Page 1

Mfr	Part#	Description	Prd Cls	Prd Typ	Order Date	Release#	Ln#	Whse	Order	Invcd	Cancel	Avail
ACD	10475408	10475408 ROTOR, GEN	001	001	07/25/05	05AB5581001	4	050	3	3		1
ACD	10475408	10475408 ROTOR, GEN	001	001	07/26/05	05AB5582001	4	050	3	3		1
ACD	171-541	18024917 PAD,F/DISC	017	001	07/12/05	05AB5464001	3	050	6	0		6
ACD	171-541	18024917 PAD,F/DISC	017	001	07/12/05	05AB5466001	3	050	6	0	6	6
ACD	171-541	18024917 PAD,F/DISC	017	001	07/12/05	05AB5467001	3	050	6	0	6	6
ACD	171-541	18024917 PAD,F/DISC	017	001	07/12/05	05AB5560001	3	050	6	0	6	6
ACD	171-541	18024917 PAD,F/DISC	017	001	07/13/05	05AB5475001	2	050	2	0	2	2
ACD	171-541	18024917 PAD,F/DISC	017	001	07/13/05	05AB5476001	2	050	2	0	2	2
ACD	171-541	18024917 PAD,F/DISC	017	001	07/13/05	05AB5477001	3	050	6	0	6	6
ACD	18P103	18033021 CABLE, PAR	014	001	01/13/05	02AB4877001	2	020	1	1	0	
ACD	24-6YR	19002045 BATTERY	007	001	06/07/05	02AB5188001	1	020	1	1	0	
ACD	24-6YR	19002045 BATTERY	007	001	06/07/05	02AB5189001	1	020	1	1	0	

End of report. Press <Enter>:

Daily Warehouse Operations Report

The end-of-day process now generates a single-page Daily Warehouse Operations report for each warehouse. This report shows key aspects of the warehouse's financial, inventory, and cash flow situation.

Sample:

```
08/22/05     11:07:02                    MANAGEMENT OPERATING STATEMENT FOR 08/11/05
                                   050 - CHUCK'S - WD
                                FISCAL PERIOD: 200412

                                                      Today  Month To Date   Year To Date
Released Orders:
Dollars Ordered                                    6,127.48       6,724.08   6,724.08
Dollars Shipped                                    6,019.34       6,615.94   6,615.94
Lost Sales ($)
Backorders ($)                                       108.14         108.14     108.14
     Service Level Percent ($)                        98.24          98.39      98.39
Pieces Ordered                                          147            159        159
Pieces Shipped                                          146            158        158
     Service Level Percent (Pieces)                   99.32          99.37      99.37
Lines Ordered                                            55             59         59
Lines Shipped Complete                                   50             54         54
     Service Level Percent (Lines)                    90.91          91.53      91.53

Merchandise Sales                                  5,692.34       6,252.94   6,252.94
Core Sales                                           327.00         363.00     363.00
     Gross Sales                                   6,019.34       6,615.94   6,615.94

New Returns                                            1.95           1.95       1.95
Defective Returns
Core Returns
Changeover Returns
     Less Returns                                      1.95           1.95       1.95
     Returns Percent                                   0.03           0.03       0.03

     Net Sales                                     6,017.39       6,613.99   6,613.99
     Cost of Sales                                 4,517.81       5,023.44   5,023.44
     Gross Profit                                  1,499.58       1,590.55   1,590.55
     Gross Profit Percent                             24.92          24.05      24.05

Sales Tax                                          1,523.48       1,695.32   1,695.32
Miscellaneous Charges                              1,509.97       1,629.77   1,629.77
Freight Charges
Cash Received                                                       544.14     544.14
Cash Discount Taken                                                   1.00       1.00

A/R Balance                                       33,588.11
Value of Open Orders                              59,269.81
Value of Open Credit Memos                        -2,044.44
A/P Balance                                          114.87
Inventory Values
     Our Merchandise                          11,941,644.59
     Our Core                                  3,698,994.56
          Our Total                           15,640,639.15

Value of Open Stock Purchase Orders               58,665.07
Value of Open SO Purchase Orders                 167,687.51
     Total Value of Open Purchase Orders         226,352.58
Value of Outstanding Stock Receipts               21,837.17

Value of Core QOH as of 08/11/05
Value of Defect QOH as of 08/11/05
Value of Outstanding Vendor Returns
```

A/P Terms Consolidated with A/R Terms

Accounts Payable Terms are now entered in Customer Terms maintenance instead of Vendor Detail.

Once the Terms Maintenance is done the Vendor can be set up to use that Terms code, instead of having to enter each detail setup on the Vendor Detail screen.

Note: Terms Maintenance only applies for GUI use, Green Screen vouchering will continue to use the Vendor Detail Setup.

In Customer Service Current Order Details - the Credit Terms drop down box will only show terms codes with a type of null/blank or 'P' (prox). In Accounts Payable - the Payment Terms drop down box will show all terms codes.

Changes to Terms Information

While merging the Vendor Detail Terms setup with the Customer Terms Maintenance Activant has added an additional capability to the Terms Type definition.

An additional field # 6 “NoPayPer#” is also available for Accounts Payable only. This field sets the number of months until due date. Whole numbers from 0 to 11 are valid. This field is only honored with term types 'P' and 'T'.

Here is the new Term Code Maintenance screen: