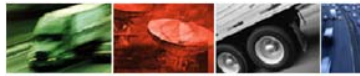




In Print

from



Web based Vehicle Tracking & Mobile Data Solutions

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welcome...

to what we're tentatively describing as our summer issue, although trading standards may be interested to read this. If anyone has seen any signs of summer, please feel free to report them to our help desk so we can all enjoy something other than drizzle! -rant over. In this issue we're looking at a new product offering from **Concepts-Online** to monitor the location of your trailers, and we're admiring the makeover our program underwent recently (its like Gok Wan's been in to visit!). We're also taking a closer look at how one of our recent developments, the fleet management tool, has been put into practice, and we'll be reviewing the topic of the moment: the smoking ban. All in all a packed issue, a perfect read when stuck inside on a rainy day - that would be everyday then!

new look

Those of you who log onto the system regularly, or ever for that matter, can't have failed to notice the new look that **Concepts-Online** is sporting lately. As part of our constant commitment to improve our software, we've given our program a bit of a makeover in

time for summer, to give it a cleaner, fresher feel. For anyone not yet familiar with the new icons take a look below and see what you think. As ever, any comments or suggestions would be more than welcome.

vehicles table



events table



ZOIs



reports



browser



alerts table

new map

history

drivers

texts

At **Concepts-Online** we're always looking at new technologies to bolster our portfolio of products. The latest addition to our line-up is a solar powered trailer tracking unit, designed to keep users aware of the location of their trailers when no longer connected to the tractor unit.

Anyone charged with looking after a number of trailers knows the complications involved with such a task. Trailer unit and contents theft are constant causes for concern, as well as misplacing a trailer when parking long-term.

Available with a number of additional options, such as wireless door sensors to detect unauthorised entry and internal temperature sensors,



the trailer tracking solution from **Concepts-Online** is an easy-to-install, low cost, low maintenance solution to the problems transport managers face on a day-to-day basis.

Incorporating a motion sensor to detect any movement from the unit, our new trailer tracking unit is the complete solution to increase fleet utilisation, plan and schedule services, and offer peace of mind for any security fears - want to see one working? Then please give our friendly office staff a call.

new
concepts
trailer tracking

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Knowledge is Power - Efficiency is Revenue - Control is Profit

case study: the Fleet Management tool in action

Thetford International -

Thetford International Compactors Ltd specialise in waste processing machinery, and have been **Concepts-Online** customers since 2006. As early adopters of the fleet management tool, the Thetford International Service Manager has had the chance to gain a good understanding of the capabilities of the program, and passed this on to us when speaking recently.

"I've found it so useful for organising our fleet and keeping us up-to-date with all the rules and regulations vehicles must adhere to, and for planning when and where our vehicles will need looking after. When you're not directly responsible for the day to day whereabouts of each vehicle, it's nice to know that the reminders keep popping up to let you know what's coming on the horizon for each vehicle. There's no excuse to be caught out without a vehicle because everything is planned for and taken care of in advance.

Bryen & Langley Andara -

Andara is a division of the Bryen Langley firm of building contractors, specialising in plant tool and hire, and a company that started using the fleet management tool a short time ago. As one of our smaller fleets, vehicles are managed by the Andara branch manager, as opposed to a dedicated transport manager.

"When you've got a hundred other things you're responsible for, you don't always have the time to be checking vehicle mileages each week to see when they need to be in for their next service. With this I know I don't have to worry about pestering drivers for their mileages, I can have a quick look on the system and then forget about it. The reminders pop up and tell me what needs doing and when, so I can concentrate on doing the other ninety-nine things I'm in charge of properly".



Fleet Management

Solaglas Windowcare-

Windowcare is one of our larger customers with in excess of 150 vehicles. In any fleet of that size vehicle maintenance is certainly an important issue, with scheduling servicing and ensuring the smooth operation of company practice a mammoth task, one which falls on the shoulders of Sharron Pearce, the Windowcare Transport Co-ordinator.

Sharron informed us that since the introduction of the fleet management tool her job has certainly been made easier. "I would say that using fleet management saves me at least half a day to a day each month not having to chase mileages". "The readings are surprisingly accurate, and I no longer have to rely on others for the information I need... its ready waiting for me at the touch of a button."

Sharron prints her vehicle table fleet view on a regular basis to keep a hard copy of upcoming service requirements and payment schedules. She can plan and be ready for the maintenance program, and get on with running the fleet without worrying about any sudden surprises, such as a vehicle unexpectedly going off the road for an MOT.

How can you start using fleet management? -

The fleet management tool is one of the most useful additions we've made to our software. Whether

your company has a large fleet with a dedicated transport coordinator, or a smaller fleet with a greater need for hands on supervision, the fleet management tool can greatly reduce the stress and pitfalls of maintaining your fleet, and is available at no extra cost - in fact its there waiting to be used.

To look at your existing fleet data, left click the 'Fleet Mgt' tab in the vehicles table. The screen will refresh to show the information you've input regarding service dates, days to the next MOT and RFT payments, and lease expiry dates. To edit any of this information, all you need to do is right click on a vehicle and select the 'Details and Alerts' tab and the 'Configure Fleet Mgt' tab. What could be more simple?

If you would like any further help with how to make the most of Concepts-Online Fleet Management, have a look at our User Manual, by left clicking the 'Help' tab at the top of the screen, then the 'System Help' option. Alternatively you can always phone our help desk on 0871 7503004 to talk to our I.T support team, or to arrange an additional on-site training session.



meet the team

...the issue by issue guide to our essential personnel.

Allan Smith - Indirect Business Manager

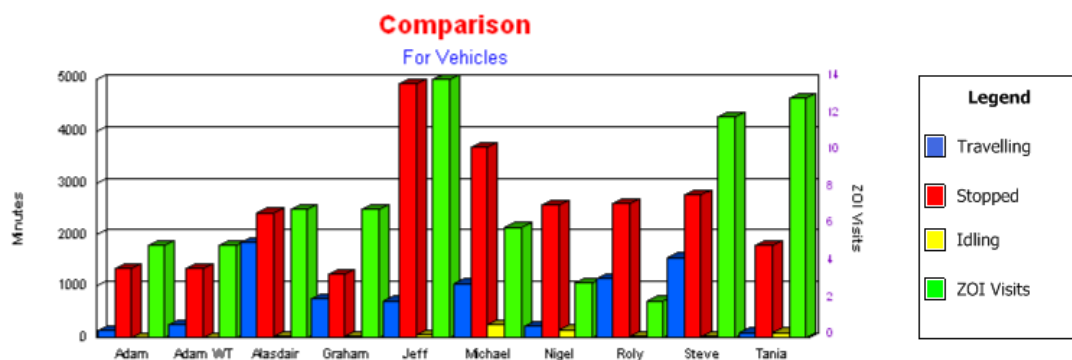
Biography: Allan began his career selling business equipment before moving firstly into communications, and then mobile comms, with the launch of cellular and band three radio. He moved into vehicle tracking in the early 90s, and has amassed a wealth of knowledge about the industry over the past 15+ years.

Aim: Allan (pictured right, with John Valentine left, and Dave Ward centre) aims to one day leave the hectic world of work and to enjoy a happy retirement. Perhaps then he'll have the time to ring ahead to see what his guests will be wearing, avoiding such colour clash mishaps as shown here!

Personal: Allan lives in Milton Keynes with his wife Chris and dog Smudger, where he manages to fit in the occasional game of squash, in between fulfilling his responsibilities a family baby-sitter and DIY master.



system update - a picture says a thousand words.



Everyone knows the old adage 'a picture says a thousand words' (just what the picture in meet the team is saying we'll leave to you to decide!), and this is something we've taken on board when creating our vehicle movement reports.

The daily summary and mileage summary reports now

include the option to display your vehicle information graphically as well as in the usual text format.

To access this option, select the 'Format' tab from the reporting criteria, and tick the 'include graph in report' option, to instantly add a splash of colour to your vehicle's journeys.

new customers

We would like to welcome...

ALP Scaffolding

Brewster Waste Management

Handy Man Pro

Professional Ventilation
Services

Rock Plate

...as some of the new members to join our growing community of **Concepts-Online** users since the last issue.

contact us: If you would like to comment on anything you've read in this issue, or wish to make a contribution towards future issues, please email: adrian.hallam@concepts-online.co.uk

Knowledge is **Power** - Efficiency is **Revenue** - Control is **Profit**



TOP 5

... unfortunate accidents with work vehicles.

Every manager knows that when one of their vehicles is off the road the costs soon begin to mount. Vehicle recovery, repair, lost job revenue, increased insurance premiums and replacement vehicle costs all add up, which makes it particularly frustrating when you log on to your [Concepts-Online](#) account and see a vehicle not moving because of an accident one of your employees has managed to get themselves into.

Here are the top five vehicular accidents we've heard of recently...

FIVE. One employee recently 'parked' his car through a 14' conifer hedge and into a farmer's back garden, leaving him stranded in the Lincolnshire countryside and vehicle-less for several weeks after.

Not only did the costs here involve replacing the car, but also a surprisingly expensive hedge. Thankfully the tracking unit showed exactly where to send the new trees!

FOUR. One of our construction firms recently reported an unfortunate incident whereby a digger slipped off a verge and down an embankment.

Thankfully the tracking unit showed where to send the recovery units to, where, ironically a bigger hole was required to get the digger back upright than it was originally hired to dig!

THREE. An employee of one of the firms we supply tracking to, recently experienced some of the problems our wet summer has brought. When travelling through a village ford, the higher than usual water levels clearly didn't help matters as the engine air intake flooded, stalling the vehicle in the middle of the river.

As embarrassing and costly as this incident was, nothing compared to swapping a luxury 4x4 for a courtesy

smart car!

TWO. A scaffolding company we have been tracking for some time inquired recently about de/reinstalling the tracking units, so that new vehicles could be fitted. It seems that two experienced drivers had managed to travel 100s of miles back from site to base, in perfect convoy, right until they crashed into one another whilst parking in the yard.

We imagine this incident would have been less frustrating had the accident involved a competitor's vehicle, rather than having to gift a rival firm with a contract that could no longer be completed!

ONE. The most unfortunate incident we've heard of lately involves a fleet of new vehicles parked on site, waiting to have their tracking units installed. The pristine vehicles sat one Friday afternoon with delivery mileage and barely dry signage, only for a JCB driver to take out the front headlights of 4 Ford Transits.

The JCB driver in question doesn't carry one of our personal tracking devices, but common sense and a £5 wager says he wouldn't be tracked turning up for work the following Monday morning!

Unless you've been hiding under a rock lately, or work from home, don't watch TV and don't venture out to your local pubs and restaurants (I believe these people are called hermits and count their mothers as their significant other!), you can't have failed to notice the smoking ban that's been introduced in England, bringing us into line with the rest of the UK and much of Europe. The massive advertising campaign has been in effect for several months now, and most people will be aware of the regulations the ban has brought in from seeing the law in practice during a visit to their local. It seems, however, that some confusion remains regarding the rules for smoking in company vehicles.

We all know that the smoking ban was introduced to protect people in enclosed public places and workplaces from the effects of second-hand smoke. But how does this apply to company vehicles? Well, to all intents and purposes company vehicles are registered as work premises and as such are covered by the smoking ban introduced on July 1st. As a result all company vehicles, be it a Mondeo, a van or a commercial vehicle, should

industry news

remain smoke-free, and display a 'NO SMOKING' sign. The only exemptions to the rule apply where the vehicle is used primarily for private use, and there is no chance that the vehicle will be used by someone else in future. Those lucky enough to have a convertible with the roof down are also exempt from the ban, but remain subjects of intense jealousy and hatred from fellow workers!

Following the ban on mobile phones and now smoking, it seems we're all set to face some kind of legislation governing the way we drive. Rumour has it that changing radio stations and sneezing are the next activities to face the chop when driving. That spells terrible news for all those that don't appreciate the brilliance of Radio 1 and suffer from hayfever!

Sources: NHS Direct, smokefreeengland.co.uk

