

Meal Accountability Information

eMeal POS and Coms-Pro Central Office Software
(On-Premise Deployment)

Overview Data Management and Synchronization MiChoice's Meal Accountability Architecture MiChoice Development Environment Technical Software Overview Application Customization: Interface Capabilities:



1. Do districts generally have access to both an administrative console and point-of-sale console from campus?

Yes. Our Point of Sale software includes a manager and a satellite component. The two can run on the same computer but it was designed to run across a traditional Windows Network as a Client/Server model. Multiple satellites can run from one manager. Our Back Office program can also be used to manage multiple schools as well.

2. Is data generally stored locally using a traditional client/server model or is the software offered as a service (Cloud Hosted) or a different configuration? Please explain or provide relevant documentation.

The POS data is stored locally in an Access database on the manager's machines. The Back Office components use a Microsoft SQL Server. The SQL Server need not be local and can be hosted on a cloud server.

3. If the application is cloud hosted, is some data cached locally to minimize the impact of internet outages (if a district lost internet connectivity would they still have access to information stored locally)?

The applications are not cloud hosted. However, with the current state of desktop virtualization, the programs can be installed and configured to run in a virtual desktop environment.

4. If the application is cloud hosted, where is the primary production data located, how often is data backed up, and where is data backed up to?

The applications are not cloud hosted. However in the instance where we are hosting the SQL database on the cloud we provide 5 days of backup and the Administrator of the host also provide a 5 backup of the server files.

5. Does the application include Security Configuration parameters allowing a local administrator to control such settings as:

- a. Passwords contain a minimum of 8 characters

YES

- b. Passwords be complex (contain at least one letter and one number)

YES

- c. Passwords be changed every 90 days and after initial logon (change temp password assigned)

YES

- d. Password history prevent at least the previous 5 passwords from being re-used

YES

- e. Accounts become locked after no more than 3 unsuccessful login attempts

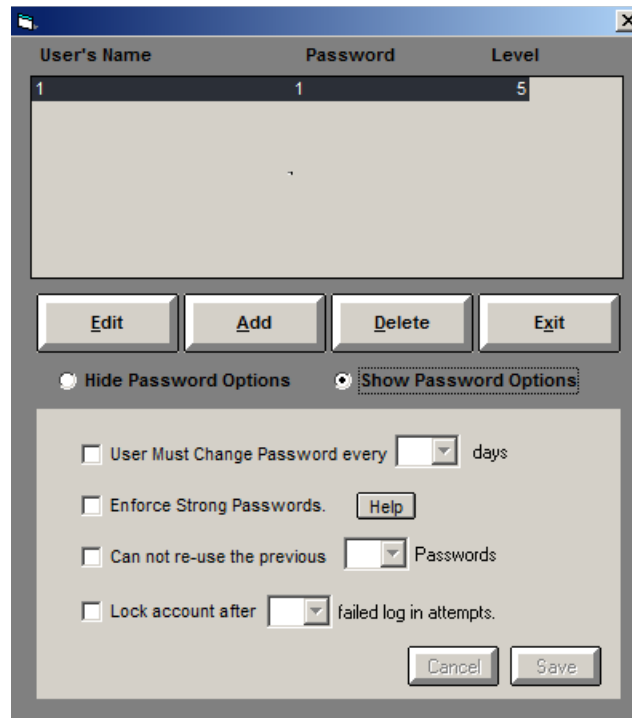
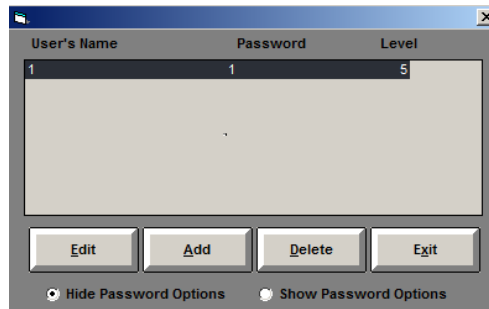
YES

- f. Accounts timeout after a reasonable period of inactivity (such as 30 minutes or less)

YES. Plus, our application rely on the local Windows network for additional security credentials

5. If so, is there a password setting screen like a Security Configuration screen and are settings applicable to all users (administration and point-of-sale logons)?

YES



6. Does the application allow each user to have a unique user ID and password or are users required to share a similar user ID and/or password?

Yes our POS Manager and Back office applications do allow for each user to have a unique User Name and Password.

7. Does the application include Security Configuration parameters allowing a local administrator to issue only those permissions within the system that a user needs to perform their job and restrict users from permissions not needed.

Yes

8. Does the application include security reports (events and/or static settings)?

Yes

9. Does the application include audit logging functionality? Are Audit log reports available?

Yes

10. Can you provide a brief history and future vision for the application? Is this a legacy application that will be supported until all customers can be migrated to more current software or is this a fully supported, patched and updated software with growing market share?

Our Meal Accountability Software modules are fully supported, patched, enhanced and continually updated.

Overview of our data management and synchronization

MiChoice software allows for:

- Activity data to be updated on a transactional basis. Updates to master data must be able to be merged from various sources without overwriting or loss of pertinent data. Replication management through Sql.
- Record updates are available at the field level, allowing individual fields to be updated from various sources, without overwriting entire records.
- The system does provide for necessary data exchange between the Central Site and satellite schools electronically by the Wide Area Network (WAN). Database updates are done in real-time. System is able to report data transfer status.
- The system maintaining transaction audit checks and records to prevent accidental duplicate transfer of information and allow for review of transaction activity.
- MiChoice Technology software utilizes both MS SQL and MS ACCESS to store and maintain data. Account information is always updated and available instantly at all locations running all software modules via "Linked Tables". Accrued meal service data, however, is not available until after a meal service has been completed at any one location. The data can, however, be viewed in "real-time" while it is being accrued. It cannot be reported on until after the service is complete.

MiChoice's Meal Accountability Architecture

MiChoice software utilizes a Hybrid Solution for running decentralized meal accountability applications and databases while providing the benefits of a centralized database and real time processing.

MiChoice meal accountability software modules utilize a multiple database (Microsoft's© SQL Server and Access) approach rather than a single master centralized database. Our Hybrid Solution allows for "Real Time" or Batch connectivity between multiple databases for exchanging data, providing the data retrieval, and reporting features of a master centralized database.

What are the benefits of decentralizing applications and databases?

A major benefit is speed. In the school cafeteria environment, fast, reliable applications and fast, reliable service is critical. With a typical centralized application, if the connection is slow, or if there is a technical issue – or even a power outage – at the central office, that can mean major trouble. By using our

solution of a integrated software module approach, with each software module bi-directionally exchanging data in a “Real Time” or batch process, the information is literally right at the fingertips of employees at all times, because all applications and data are local.

Furthermore, decentralized operations provide a valuable layer of redundancy. The school sites in decentralized systems can operate efficiently whether or not the central site is operational, and whether or not the communication lines to the central office are functional. MiChoice’s Hybrid Solution can be configured to automatically keep all school sites synchronized on a regular basis, or perform On Demand “Real Time” data retrieval. This MiChoice Hybrid solution is tolerant of failures at the central office primary server or even in communications with the central office primary server.

How does the size of the school district operation impact benefits?

The data demands of individual schools are growing rapidly. Point of Sale systems are no longer just for sales, for instance. They also function as general computing devices for a range of applications, such as inventory management, menu planning, production records, time clocks, and so on. Thus, there is an ever-increasing reliance on an ever-broader range of business functions. If any of those applications are slow or off-line, it affects productivity. Decentralization means employees have access to all their applications, all the time, even if the district’s wide-area-network goes down completely. This decentralized software module approach eliminates centralized information systems as a point of failure in school district operations.

Does decentralizing make the solution more susceptible to security problems?

Not at all. Our Coms-Pro Central Office Management Software provides a unique data slicing technology that lets school districts distribute in “Real Time” or in a batch process, only the data that each school needs, as opposed to just shipping the entire database everywhere. This intelligent data distribution limits the amount of data that is exposed during the replication process. Also the Coms-Pro Central Office Management Software provides centralized control over all distributed data. So even though the data itself is distributed, the central office still controls the data as a single, logical centralized database.

MiChoice Development Environment

MiChoice Technology, Inc. software components are all developed via Microsoft’s ® Visual Studio and utilize both MS Access and MS SQL databases to maintain all data. As such, a network running Microsoft Windows operating systems and utilizing standard TCP/IP protocol is required.

Technical Software Overview

MiChoice’s ComsPro (central office software), FARApps (free and reduced processing) and EZTask (Inventory control) software packages all utilize a MS SQL database for data housing. This requires MS SQL Server to be installed and running on a server in the district hosting an MS Server Platform. The hardware specifications of the server should meet or exceed those outlined via Microsoft for the various operating systems.

MiChoice’s EMeal (POS system) software utilizes an MS Access database for data housing. The necessary operating systems for both the manager’s machine and each POS terminal (PC) require that

Windows 2000 Professional or higher OS be installed. The hardware specifications for these machines should meet or exceed those outlined via Microsoft for the various operating systems. An ODBC connection back to the main MS SQL server will need to be established in order to take advantage of our “Global Operating Mode”. The manager’s computer does require a static IP address to be assigned to it. Each POS PC terminal can be assigned an IP address via DHCP.

Security:

All MiChoice’s software is MS Windows compatible and therefore takes advantage of Microsoft’s network security protocols for accessing databases. Connections to MiChoice’s MS SQL Server databases are controlled completely via Windows Authentication.

Within each of MiChoice’s software products, individual users and passwords can be assigned. To each of these user profiles, individual, customizable security levels can be assigned. The customizable security levels can be used to either allow or deny the user to different functions within each respected software package.

Application Customization:

All MiChoice’s software packages are customizable to meet each district’s individual needs. From K-12 Reporting to Individual Account Credit Limits to Customizable Graphical Menus to User Definable Reports and Letters, each package contains numerous customizable features. All MiChoice’s software modules utilize Crystal Decisions Crystal Reports, the industry leader in software for designing custom reports. This allows the experienced user to design their own templates and present the data in various formats.

Any State Specific reports can always be created and incorporated into the software packages either via the district’s IT department or MiChoice Technology, Inc.’s knowledgeable staff.

Interface Capabilities:

MiChoice Technology, Inc.’s software has been interfaced with numerous Student Information Systems and third party vendors. We provide for a generic import to be performed to populate and update student data. Custom imports for many various systems have also been created and are included. Such software packages include, but not limited to: CIMS, Skyward, RSCCC, SASSI, State of Texas TNUPs, State of New York (Data Warehousing and Vendu-cation (Vending), RevTrak (Online Credit Card Processing).