

A Progress Report to our Customers. . . The RedBat Sybase® Version . . . Please review for budgeting purposes

As announced earlier this year, ICPA is developing a new version of RedBat (Version 4.0) with the Sybase engine, a powerful platform that will replace MS Access®. This new version is coming soon, so we've answered the FAQs here.

Q: What are the advantages of Version 4.0?

A: It will import, export, and merge records faster and have the capacity to handle millions of records, so there is no need to archive your data frequently. This change is also necessary to meet the HIPAA 2005 Security requirements.

Sybase also will allow us to provide many powerful enhancements in the future, such as automated Export & Merge of data from hospital to health department.

Q: Is there a charge for Version 4.0?

A: Since this is a platform change, there is a one-time charge of \$480 per facility (hospital or health department). Platform changes in ICPA software represent a major change in technology or operating system and are infrequent. (The only other platform change made in ICPA software was the change from DOS to the Windows operating system!) All same-platform upgrades of RedBat have and will be included in the cost of the Annual Maintenance and Support Agreement (AMSA).

Q: Since this is a major change, what will installing Version 4 require?

A: For the user, the installation will be no different than any upgrade. However, if you are running RedBat on an old computer (more than 5 years old), you should probably invest in a newer Pentium 4 computer running Windows 2000 or later. For health departments, speed will be optimized if the RedBat database is installed on a brand new dedicated server. (Updated hardware specs for hospitals and health departments will be provided later).

Q: What about the user interface?

A: The user interface will stay essentially the same. There will be minor menu or dialog box changes, mostly to incorporate new features.

Q: What about our data?

A: The change will not affect your data. The installation will convert your data to the new platform. The only items that will not convert are Auto Reports--they will have to be recreated.

Q: When will RedBat Version 4.0 be released?

A: The projected release date is January 1, 2005.