ENPS RELEASE NOTICE

IDENTIFIER: Version 6.0

DATE: November 16, 2011

DESCRIPTION:

This is an update to various ENPS server and client components versioned 6.00.0055 from November 2011, as explained below. Some elements are unchanged and retain earlier version/build numbers. Download access is available to registered system administrators via a private website.

Releases are numbered in the following format:

> x.yy.zzzz
>
> x = Major version number
> yy = Minor version number
> zzzz = Build number

Major and minor version numbers of client and server components in use must match for compatibility. Build numbers are incremented only when significant new features are added, need not necessarily match for all components, and may not be sequential, as some internal updates may not be publicly released. Formal release notices will coincide with changes in the major and/or minor version numbers.

Help, About for executables will also show an appended build date in the format YYYYMMDD, as will the Comments area of an executable component's properties.

OPERATING SYSTEM NOTES:

ENPS system managers planning future PC/server upgrades, new MOS integration projects, and equipment replacement budgets often request operating system guidance. Summarizing current compatibility, recommendations, and requirements:

- For ENPS server installations, Windows 2000 Server (32-bit), Windows 2003 Server (32-bit), or Windows 2008 Server (32-bit) with the latest service packs is required.

- For ENPS client installations, Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP Professional, Windows Vista, or Windows 7 is required; "Home" versions are not compatible.

- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later is required on both servers and clients; Internet Explorer 7.0 or later is recommended.

- The full version (not the client version) of Microsoft .Net Framework 4 Extended is required on all ENPS servers. It is available here:

    http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=9cfb2d51-5ff4-4491-b0e5-b386f32c0992&displaylang=en or http://goo.gl/BwWje

- Use of ENPS clients on either Vista or Windows 7 requires DHTML editing components originally provided as part of Vista and Internet Explorer but now optional. The DHTML editing control enables rich-text editing capabilities through a WYSIWYG ActiveX (DHTMLEd.ocx) and related DLL (Triedit.dll). System administrators should install the required DHTML control package on each client PC, and it is available here:

  http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=b769a4b8-48ed-41a1-8095-5a086d1937cb&displaylang=en or http://goo.gl/nKQQv

  Microsoft does not permit redistribution of this control as part of ENPS installers.

Future ENPS enhancements/upgrades may require functionality not available in legacy operating systems. Sites using ENPS with third-party devices and systems should contact their vendor(s) to confirm compatibility.

LANGUAGES NOTES:

- A Windows XP client platform is specifically required for Azeri, Kazak, Uzbek and Kyrgiz support. Earlier versions of Windows lack proper locale, codepage and character set/font support for these languages.
- Some characters from the ANSI 1250 codepage such as the Polish "ń", Slovak "ò" and Czech "ì", as well as other characters following them on the same line, may be displayed in an incorrect SimSun font after a script containing such characters is saved and reopened. This is due to a Microsoft limitation of the presentation of these Unicode characters.
- In a right-to-left language environment, titles which include a number (e.g. "500 News") may sometimes display in the List Window in an incorrect sequence. This is due to a limitation of the Windows right-to-left conversion process.

NEW NWP FEATURES

1. A number of changes have been made to the News Wire Profiler (NWP) so that functionality already available for serial and FTP wires is now also available for content delivered via AP WebFeeds. (7908)

   This includes the items pictured below:

2. Previously, if a WebFeeds story contained multiple categories only one instance of the story was being saved. Now, by default, a separate version of the story will be saved for each included category (e.g. sports, business, general news). However, if DupeStoryThreshhold is set to a value of 2 or higher in the [NWP] section of NWP.INI, then only a single version – for the first referenced

category – will be saved. This is identical to the behavior of serial wires, where a story may come in several times in succession – each with a different category. (7908, 9562)

Note: Regardless of the value of DupeStoryThreshold, a single version of each story will always appear in the appropriate WebFeeds custom categories created by checking the "Custom Category" box in the WebFeeds wire in the NWP. These custom categories appear under the AP WebFeeds entry on the Wires folder rover menu.

3. All WebFeeds content is now correctly processed as UTF-8. (7908)

4. AP election results received via WebFeeds can now be processed through ENPS Stats. (7908)

5. Saved searches created via the AP Exchange website and configured to be available via WebFeeds will appear alongside your other Webfeeds entitlements in the NWP and can now be ingested into ENPS along with other WebFeeds content. Note: It may take several minutes between the time the search is configured in AP Exchange and when it is available in the NWP. (9608)

6. To avoid URL length restrictions in the query the NWP sends to the AP WebFeeds server, a warning message will be displayed if too many products are included in a single WebFeeds wire. If this occurs, you will either need to remove some products or create a second WebFeeds wire in the NWP. Since the length of the request URL is determined by several variable factors (length of the WebFeeds account name and password, certain optional settings in the NWP, and the length of the specific product codes), it is not possible to provide an absolute maximum number of products per WebFeeds wire. Instead, the URL length is calculated dynamically as settings are changed or products added and removed. (9635)

7. For sites pulling in Internet-based wire feeds (i.e. AP WebFeeds, YouTube, Twitter, etc.) and who must connect via a proxy server, the NWP can now piggyback off the proxy settings in IE. To enable, first configure your proxy server in IE on your ENPS server, then check "Use IE Proxy Settings for web based wires" in the General tab of the NWP's Configuration window. (7908)

8. For diagnostic purposes, it is now possible to re-ingest previously captured WebFeeds data from a text file by hitting Ctrl+T from within an inactive WebFeeds wire in the NWP. This can also be used for pre-election testing with ENPS Stats.

NWP CHANGES

1. If a WebFeeds wire was configured with a wire-based kill time expressed only in days (not hours), this kill time may have reverted to a category-based kill time when the NWP was restarted. This has been corrected. (9544)

2. If a WebFeeds wire story did not contain a priority value, as expected, the NWP previously ignored the story and logged it as an error. This was corrected and the NWP will now ingest the story without error. This is typically only seen in feeds which contain primarily graphics or other images, not text, and which would not routinely be ingested into ENPS. (9642)

3. Changes were made to ensure all WebFeeds content – including state and weather stories – is ingested into the categories defined by the WebFeeds category data. (7908)

GENERAL CHANGES

1. When running ENPS in a Far East locale such as Chinese or Korean question marks (?) in story slugs or in story text could have been improperly converted to spaces or ellipses (…) when a story was saved. This was typically only seen when running the ENPS client on a Vista or Windows 7 workstation and/or when running the client against a Windows 2008 server. This has been corrected and question marks are properly preserved in all cases when operating in a Far East locale. (9560)

MOS CHANGES

1. The setting UseMOSStartTime=1 in global configuration options allows users to specify when a rundown should begin communicating with a particular MOS Story Send device by providing an offset value from the rundown's start date and time. However, when this was used in a rundown template set for autocreate the MOS start time would be incorrectly set based on the date the rundown template was created, not the rundown's start date. This has now been corrected and the offset is now correctly applied to the start date and time of the rundown instance, not the template. (5540)

2. A change was made to ensure MOS object updates are correctly reflected to an appropriate MOS item reference under the following scenario:

   1. A MOS placeholder is created in a story that has never contained any text (i.e. one created from the default Blank Story template) or has been most-recently saved on a workstation where the ENPS rich-text editor is not enabled. This placeholder request results in a MOS item reference to object A being inserted in the story.
   2. A mosItemReplace message is sent to the ENPS server replacing the item reference for object A with an item reference to object B. This would typically be seen as part of a MOS re-direction operation.
   3. A mosObj message is sent to the ENPS server updating information in object B.

Previously, the updated information in step 3 was not reflected in the item reference created for object B. This has been corrected, and the update will now be seen as expected. (8806)

3. With more than one ActiveX control running in detached mode, if any single ActiveX issued an ncsReqAppClose message, ENPS would incorrectly close all of the detached controls. This was corrected. (9718)

STATS CHANGES

1. When exporting election data to a SQL database, ENPS Stats would incorrectly add a new row to the database every time results were updated for races where at least one candidate had an apostrophe in their name (e.g. John O'Day). This has been corrected. The update requires manually replacing the file C:\PROGRAM FILES\ENPS\ELECTIONDBAX.EXE on the ENPS workstation used to feed the database with the updated file found in the ENPS client installation directory on the ENPS server. (9639)