This release addresses Error Report 1647, which states that several campuses encountered problems when executing program PPP620 (Personnel Action Notices) at the end of October 1999. The problem encountered was that when producing notices 3 and 4 (Distribution Expiring Within Two Months and Appointment Expiring Within Two Months, respectively), appointments and distributions with indefinite end dates were appearing on the report.

This is not a Y2K problem. Rather, it is a Y1999 problem. In determining whether an appointment or distribution expires within two months, the program calculates the difference between the expiration date of the appointment or distribution and the “as of” date for the report. This calculated difference is moved to a working storage field that was inadequately sized to hold the entire difference. The result is that the high order digits are truncated, making the difference between the two dates appear less than it actually is. October 1999, was the first time that the truncation would cause indefinite end dates to appear as if they were about to expire.

**Programs**

**PPP620**

The reported problem has been corrected by expanding the size of the working storage field used to store the difference between the two dates, to prevent truncation of the high-order digits of the result.

While correcting this problem, other working storage fields used for similar calculations were examined. A few such fields were found to be unused at this time. Those have been deleted. A few others were found to be inadequately sized, at least technically, and have been resized to avoid the potential of truncation. An example of such a field would be the working storage field used to determine if a visa end date (work permit) has an impending expiration. The field would exhibit similar truncation problems if work permit end dates were allowed to be either indefinite, or at least very far in the future. Since this is not the usual practice, the problem should not manifest itself in production. Nonetheless, the working storage field has been expanded.
Test Plan

The existence of this problem and its subsequent correction may be shown by doing a “before and after” test.

To begin with, execute the current production PPP620 against a test or production database having appointments and distributions with a mixture of end dates, including indefinite ones. It is sufficient to set the Run Specification Record to request only Department Action Notices 3 and 4. Use “103199” as the Reporting Period. WARNING: If a full-sized production database is used, the volume of output will be very large! Note that appointments and distributions with indefinite end dates (12/31/9999) are being incorrectly reported as expiring within two months.

Once the “before” test has been run, repeat the exact same sequence of operations, but use the modified version of PPP620 from this release. The reports should no longer contain appointments and distributions with indefinite end dates. Only those appointments and distributions that truly do expire within the next two months should be shown on the reports now.

Installation Instructions

1. Perform “before” testing, as described above.
2. Install, DB2 pre-compile, compile, and link-edit modified program PPP620.
3. Bind the plan for program PPP620.
4. Perform “after” testing, as described above.
5. Perform any desired additional local testing.
6. Install the modified program into production.

Timing of Installation

The installation of this release is urgent. Campuses executing PPP620 as part of their month-end production stream, particularly if Department Action Notices 3 and/or 4 are produced, are encouraged to install this release as soon as possible to prevent the inclusion of indefinite appointments and distributions on those Action Notices.

As usual, campuses are encouraged to install this release in as timely a fashion as possible and in the normal numeric sequence.

If there are any questions, please send electronic mail to Jerry.Wilcox@ucop.edu, or call at (510) 987-0516.

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