



Promotion Manager

Release Notes

Version 4.2
June 28, 2007

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1 AMP Performance Series 4.2

With Release 4.2, Connect3 introduces a simplification of Price Formats, designed to streamline their installation, creation, and maintenance. When viewing an Offer in the **Execute** workspace or a Version Report, the display of pricing and layout is improved, and export of data to page-layout applications is more straightforward.

- Calculations are now separated from Price Formats and managed with Calculation Sets.
- Formatting tags are specified by name in Price Formats.
- In Price Formats, elements are flagged as color or black and white to control base calculations.
- Child Product elements can be combined with parent product elements in the same element.
- Images can be attached to Price Formats.

2 Java Runtime Environment

With this release of Promotion Manager, Connect3 no longer supports versions of the JDBC driver for Microsoft SQL older than the **Microsoft SQL 2005** driver.

3 Upgrade Steps

Follow the steps below to upgrade your current Connect3 AMP Performance Series software.

NOTE: .Net Framework is a set of files that support the Microsoft development environment. It is required for newer Connect3 modules and features.

3.1 Amp Core Database

1. The Connect3 AMP Core Database is updated by the 4.2 release.
2. Back up your Database and Application files (Precautionary and highly recommended).
3. Run the database script **4_2_SQLSrv.SQL** (For Microsoft SQL databases) or **4_2_ORA.SQL** (for Oracle databases).

NOTE: To improve performance, this script rebuilds indexes for the “CustomPrice” and “StorePrice” tables. This causes the script to run significantly longer than usual, depending on the size of these tables.

4. Run **Promotion Manager 4.2 Server.MSI** to update the server.
5. Run **Promotion Manager 4.2 Client.MSI** to update each workstation.

NOTE: See the “Promotion Manager– Installation” document.

6. Run **VPMConfig.EXE** to update all tables and recognize schema changes.
7. Run Conversion.EXE, once only, to convert data to the “Simplified Price Format” requirements. See [Price Format Conversion](#) in this document.

3.2 Integration Manager

There is a new version of **ImportApp.JAR**, to update Connect3 Integration Manager. Relocate or rename the current version in case a backup is needed, then replace it with the new version in the appropriate folder.

3.3 Program Help Files

The **VPMHelp.CHM** and **VPMConfigHelp.CHM** files included with this release, which provide help topics for viewing while using Promotion Manager and Configuration Manager, have not been updated with the enhancements and changes discussed here. Revised versions will be issued shortly after the main release of version 4.2.

4 Database Changes

4.1 Database Schema Changes

Table	Type	Size	Description	Changes
ApprovalGroups				
ApprovalGroupID	int	4	Unique ID identifying approval groups.	New
ApprovalGroupName	varchar	35	Descriptive name for approval groups.	
BookVersions				
EventID	int	4	Unique ID identifying individual Events.	New
BookVersionID	int	4	Unique ID identifying book versions.	
NumPages	int	4	Number of pages in the book.	
ZoneListID	int	4	Unique ID identifying a list of Zones.	
IsDeleted	int	4	If set to "1," the book version is no longer used.	
Calculation				
IsDeactivated	int	4	If set to "1," the calculation is deactivated.	Modified
CalculationSet				
CalculationSetID	int	4	Unique ID identifying calculation sets.	Added
CalculationSetDetail				
CalculationSetID	int	4	Unique ID identifying calculation sets.	New
ItemClassID	int	4	Unique ID identifying individual Item classes. 1 = Item 2 = Retail 6 = Style 11 = Equal Price 12 = Cross Merchandise 13 = Package 15 = Category	
Seqno	int	4	The row number identifying the order of the calculations.	
CalculationID	int	4	Unique ID identifying calculations.	
CalcSettings	int	4	Identifies the calculation setting, such as "Required" or "Read Only."	
ColumnID	int	4	Identifies the Pricing table column.	
CouponApprovalAccess				
ApprovalGroupID	int	4	Unique ID identifying approval groups.	Modified
DealApprovalAccess				
ApprovalGroupID	int	4	Unique ID identifying approval groups.	Added
EventZoneStores				
FinanceApprovalAccess				
ApprovalGroupID	int	4	Unique ID identifying approval groups.	Modified
FormField				
FieldSize	int	4	The maximum number of characters that can be typed into a sign data field.	Added
HQSignBatch				
			A table with a field structure that matches the target table in the sign publishing application.	New
PageTemplate				
IsDeactivated	int	4	If set to "1," the page template is deactivated.	Modified
PriceFormat				
CalculationSetID	int	4	Unique ID identifying calculation sets.	Added
IsDeactivated	int	4	If set to "1," the price format is deactivated.	Added

PriceFormatDetail				Modified
TagType	int	4	Identifies the type of tag for purposes of calculating printing plate changes (Black Text, Color Text, Black Graphic, Color Graphic, Black Rebate, Color Rebate).	Added
TagName	varchar	50	Descriptive name of the tag.	Added
Separator	int	4	The value to end or separate the defined parameter (space, return, tab, or none).	Added
DetailLevel	int	4	The detail level of the Price Format, such as "Price," "Every Item in the Group," "Item Position," and "Last Item Position."	Added
ChildItemPos	int	4	The position of the child product.	Added
Table	Type	Size	Description	Changes
ProcessLog				Modified
UserID	int	4	Unique ID identifying the User.	Added
ProofingAdmin				Modified
Version	varchar	10	Number of times comment has been revised.	Added
ProofingComment				Modified
DealListID	int	4	Unique ID identifying Deal List.	Added
ProofingCommentType				Obsolete
ProofingDealList				Modified
CommentType	varchar	25	Descriptive name for comment type, such as "Price," "Copy," and "Other."	Added
CommentTypeID				Deleted
ProofingEventComments				New
EventID	int	4	Unique ID identifying individual Events.	
UserID	int	4	Unique ID identifying individual Users.	
CommentID	int	4	Unique ID identifying comments.	
CommentDate	varchar	10	Date when comment was entered.	
Notes	varchar	500	Text description field.	
BookVersionID	int	4	Unique ID identifying book versions.	
Approval	varchar	25	Identifies if Event is approved.	
ProofingTabAccess				New
UserGroupID	int	4	Unique ID identifying User groups.	
TabID	int	4	Unique ID identifying individual tabs.	
RebateApprovalAccess				Modified
ApprovalGroupID	int	4	Unique ID identifying approval groups.	Added
SignageOutput				Modified
StoreSetName	varchar	50	A descriptive name for the Store Set that will receive the signs.	Added
SignagePropertyOutput				Modified
ItemName	varchar	50	A descriptive name for the Product.	Added
SignProperties				Modified
ItemName	varchar	50	A descriptive name for the Product.	Added
SignTemplate				Modified
IsDefault	int	4		Deleted
SignTemplateMap				Modified
SignTemplateMapID	int	4	Unique ID identifying the template assigned to a sign type-price format pair.	Added
IsDefault	int	4	Indicates whether a sign template is the default.	Added
SignType				Modified
FormAreaID	int	4	Unique ID identifying the Form Area.	Added
SignTypeDetail				Modified
ItemName	varchar	50	A descriptive name for the Product.	Added
SignTypePFMap				New
SignTypeID	int	4	Unique ID identifying the sign type.	
PriceFormatID	int	4	Unique ID identifying price format assigned to the sign type.	
SignTemplateMapID	int	4	Unique ID identifying the template assigned to a sign type-price format pair.	
StoreSetStores				Obsolete

Users				Modified
ApprovalGroupID	int	4	Unique ID identifying approval groups.	Added
VItemtype				Modified
IsDeactivated	int	4	If set to "1," the item type format is deactivated.	Added
Table	Type	Size	Description	Changes
VItemtypePF				New
VItemTypeID	int	4	Unique ID identifying individual visual item type definitions. Links to the "VItemtype" table.	
PriceFormatID	int	4	Unique ID identifying individual formatting for prices. Links to the "PriceFormat" table.	
ItemClassID	int	4	Unique ID identifying individual Item classes. 1 = Item 2 = Retail 6 = Style 11 = Equal Price 12 = Cross Merchandise 13 = Package 15 = Category	
PFBoxNum	int	4	Identifies the Price Format box number.	
Rtop	int	4	The vertical starting position of the Price Format element.	
Rbottom	int	4	The vertical ending position of the Price Format element.	
Rleft	int	4	The horizontal starting position of the Price Format element.	
RRight	int	4	The horizontal ending position of the Price Format element.	

5 Form Changes

Form Area ID	Form Area Name	Table	Column	Changes
302	Add / View Comment Event			New
		ProofingEventComments	Various, site-defined	
44	Select Child Product	[Former ID: 216]		Different Form Area ID
		Products	Various, site-defined	
		SignTypeDetail	ItemName	Required; added automatically
214	Signage			Modified
		Field Size		New
		<p>NOTE: The initial size of fields in Forms 200-299 is set to zero (0), so if reusing Form Area ID 214 from previous Signage Manager versions, no fields are visible until this form's Field Sizes are changed.</p>		

6 Enhancements

6.1 Administration

6.1.1 Hiding Unused Elements

Item Formats, Price Formats, Calculations and Templates must be retained in Promotion Manager after they are no longer used in new AMP material, because they were employed in archived data and may be needed for history and trend reporting. However, they can be “deactivated,” so they no longer are visible, and do not clutter menus and selections used to modify current ads. This is performed in the Setup / Admin Navigation Tree.

6.1.2 Approval Groups

If the optional **Deals / Offers** modules are activated, an Approval Group is now assigned to a User separately from other User Group assignments, in a new panel in the **Users** workspace.

6.2 InDesign Plugin

6.2.1 Available for CS2 Version

Publishing Manager for InDesign CS2 is available for sites upgrading to the CS2 version of Adobe InDesign. The file's name is “Connect3CS2,” version 2.0.1.

6.3 Integration Manager

6.3.1 Batch Price Update

A new parameter, “/updatestart,” is now available for the batch run line. When included, it restricts the update to Offers that have a start date equal to or greater than the “/update” setting.

6.4 Layout

6.4.1 Available Offers Window

The process for loading the “Available Offers” window has been streamlined so the data is displayed more quickly.

6.5 Proofing Manager

6.5.1 Event Proofs Added

In Proofing Manager, all Event Pages in an Event now can be viewed at once, and the pages can be viewed by flipping, much as pages would be turned in a real flyer. Also, comments can be added to the Event as a whole.

6.6 Publishing Manager

6.6.1 Support for Quark 7.2

A version of Publishing Manager that is compatible with QuarkXPress version 7.2 is now available. Contact your Connect3 sales representative for ordering information.

6.7 Signage Manager

6.7.1 Direct Transfer to Sign Database

Signage Manager now can be configured for “Custom Export,” so when signs are generated, data is written directly to the database of the third-party sign application. A success or error message is returned immediately.

7 Core Software Changes

- ImportApp.JAR
- VPMConfig.EXE
- VPM.EXE

8 Resolved Issues

CONFIGURATION MANAGER

INAPPROPRIATE DROP-DOWN FIELDS: When configuring form fields, if a field was initially defined as a droplist and then changed to another input type, it could still look like a drop-down menu item. This has been resolved, and can be corrected by using Configuration Manager (VPMConfig) to open the form and adjust the problem field. [CIS 12292](#)

COUPONS

COUPON CODES DISPLAYED IMMEDIATELY: When generating Coupon codes, the codes now appear immediately in the Coupon Details workspace. [CIS 11954](#)

BARCODE COPY / PASTE: Barcode code strings now can be copied to the clipboard and pasted into other fields. [CIS 11955](#)

INTERNAL FUNDING DEFAULT VALUE: A new Coupon now initially displays "Internal Funding" with the default value defined in Configuration Manager. [CIS 12274](#)

EXECUTE

OUTPUT OF GRID GROUP PRICE FORMATS: When Grid Groups are output, Price Formats with multiple string configurations are now tagged correctly. [CIS 11488](#)

ITEM VALIDATION STATUS REPORT: This report now includes Grid Group child Products [CIS 11940](#)

FINANCIAL PROMOTIONS

"PROGRAMID" FIELD NOT COPIED IN "SAVE AS...": When a new Financial Promotion is created using the "Save As..." process, The "ProgramID" field is no longer copied to the new Financial Promotion. [CIS 11878](#)

ITEM VALIDATION STATUS REPORT: This report now includes Grid Group child Products [CIS 11940](#)

GENERAL / SETUP / ADMINISTRATION

PRICING GRID INPUT: Pricing Grids now accept the manual input of more than seven Products [CIS 11972](#)

SWITCHING WINDOWS WITH ALT-TAB: When the cursor is in a numeric field, using the ALT-Tab keys to switch to another application window no longer displays an error message. [CIS 11984](#)

DEFAULT SETTING FOR FUND TYPE: The "Fund Type" fields in the **Rebates** and **Financial Promotions** workspaces now initially are set to a default value of 100 and the fields no longer display a "Please Select" message. [CIS 12028](#)

FONT SETTINGS SAVED: When changing font settings in Item Formats, the changes are now preserved when Promotion Manager is stopped and restarted. [CIS 12039](#)

PRICE FORMATS SAVE FASTER: The response time for saving changes to Price Formats has been reduced dramatically. [CIS 12078](#)

PRICING GRIDS ACCEPT "&" SYMBOL: In Pricing Grids in the **Deals** and **Offers** modules, symbols such as "&" and "\$" no longer generate extra characters following the "Calculate" action. [CIS 12181](#)

"EQUAL TO" FIELDS INCLUDED IN FIND: When a field in Configuration Manager is defined only with the "Equal To" option for "Find," the field is now included in the "Find" choices. [CIS 12469](#)

InDESIGN

OPENING ADOBE INDESIGN CS DOCUMENTS: InDesign CS2, with the Connect3 InDesign CS2 plugin, can now open documents that were created with InDesign CS but without the Connect3 plugin. [CIS 12162](#)

INTEGRATION MANAGER

SUPPRESS_CAT_DETAIL SETTINGS: In the StagingImport_VPM.INI file, the options for the "Suppress_Cat_Detail" setting are now defined as follows:

- If set to "Y," a Category Group Product is output by itself. No child Product pricing nor parent Product pricing is output.
- If set to "N," a Category Group Product is output by itself. Parent Product pricing is output, but no child Product pricing is output.
- If set to "B," a Category Group Product is output as well as both parent and child Product pricing. The default setting is "N." [CIS 11983](#)

IMPORT SPEED IMPROVEMENT: Import processing times for Promotion Manager 4.x versions running the 2005 JDBC driver have been improved more than tenfold by a change in the JDBC connection parameters. [CIS 12089](#)

CATEGORY GROUP EXPORT: Setting the "SuppressCatDetail" parameter to "Y" no longer erroneously exports child Products. [CIS 12096](#)

IMPORT BY STORE GROUP VALIDATION: Price Formats now correctly validate when importing by Store Group Series and an imported Offer has different Price Formats by Store Group [CIS 12163](#)

LAYOUT

SCORECARD REPORT SORTED: The Scorecard Report now lists Pages in alphabetical order, which matches the order of the Pages in the Navigation Tree. [CIS 11356](#)

EVENT COPIES INCLUDE CUSTOM FIELDS: When duplicating an Event using the "Save As..." function, site defined fields included in the source Event record are now included in the record's copy. [CIS 11996](#)

"ADD OFFER" DISPLAYED IN LIST VIEW: When adding an Offer to a Page, the "Conflicting Zones" and "Add Offer" windows now appear in the same way in both "Page" and "List" views. [CIS 12097](#)

MANAGE CONTENT

SORTING OF GRID GROUP ZONES: The sort order of Zones in the "Zones" window—displayed when clicking the "Zones" field in the "Grid" view of a Grid Group Product—now matches the order in the "Grid" view itself. [CIS 11974](#)

PRODUCTS ALWAYS VALIDATED FOR GRID GROUPS: When Products are added to Grid Groups in an Event, their Zone assignments are validated against the Event's Zones. This now occurs not only when the Grid Group is first added to the Event, but now also when the Grid Group is modified, such as by replacing or adding Products. [CIS 11979](#)

"HEADING" COLUMN ADDED: In the Grid Group list view, the default Copy Card heading is now displayed in the "Heading" column. [CIS 12076](#)

MORE ZONES DISPLAYED: In the Grid Group list view, the “Zones” column automatically resizes to display as many Zones as possible. When there are too many Zones, “...” displays, and clicking the field displays a scrollable list of all Zones. [CIS 12077](#)

GRID GROUPS CREATED IN CORRECT PAGE POSITION: Under some circumstances, a newly created Grid Group could be placed in the same Page position as an existing Grid Group. This has been resolved. [CIS 12094](#)

INVALID PRODUCTS NO LONGER LOADED: Products with an “ItemClassID” value of “0” are no longer displayed. [CIS 12166](#)

OFFERS

CHILD PRICE GRID: When entering Products into the Child Price Grid, the Store Group Series window no longer opens when each entry is completed. [CIS 11430](#)

NEW LOOKUP CRITERIA: An empty row now is always available at the bottom of the “Lookup Criteria” panel to enter a new lookup term. [CIS 11845](#)

“SAVE AS...” RESETS OFFER STEPS, STATUS: When a new Product is created using “Save As...”, the new Product’s Process Step is now reset to the first step, and its Export Status is set to the default value. [CIS 11966](#)

PLAN

SKU, DESCRIPTION FIELDS REPEAT: In Pricing Grid displays, such as in the “Offers/Pricing” workspace and the “Product Detail Pricing” window, “SKU” and “Description” fields are repeated for all Store Group records (rows), so they are always visible even if the grid is scrolled down. [CIS 11511](#)

PROCESS STEP AND EXPORT STATUS RESET: When a new Offer is created using the “Save As...” process, its Process Step and Export Status now are initially set to the defaults, the same as when Coupons and Financial Promotions are created with “Save As...” [CIS 11966](#)

“SAVE AS...” NOT BLOCKED BY PROCESS ACCESS: Users no longer require User Group “write” access at an Offer or Entity’s process step to use the “Save As...” function. [CIS 12087](#)

OFFERS CAN HAVE SAME NAME, DATE: Offers with identical names and date ranges, but with other differences such as “Offer Valid” rules, no longer cause errors. [CIS 12161](#)

PROOFING MANAGER

COMMENT VISIBILITY: Comment visibility is no longer restricted to the user that made the comment and with administration or supervisory permissions, a user can see all comments. [CIS 11768](#)

EVENT VIEWER VISIBILITY: On the “Select Event to Proof” window, the displayed Event is now fully visible without scrolling when screen resolution is set to 1024X768. [CIS 12244](#)

REBATES

PRICING AND STORE GROUP GRID NOT COPIED: When creating a Rebate using the “Save As...” method, if “Copy Pricing” is not selected, then both the pricing fields and the Store Grid Group fields are empty in the new Rebate. [CIS 11249](#)

REBATE THIRD-LEVEL PRODUCTS NOW EXPORTED: When a Rebate with a Product Group Type of “Package” contains third-level Products, the Products at this level are now exported. [CIS 11880](#)

MODIFIED LOOKUPS SAVE CORRECTLY: If an existing lookup is modified or renamed, clicking the **Save** button no longer displays an erroneous error message. [CIS 11956, 11957](#)

POSTMARK DATE, POSTMARK DAYS FROM PURCHASE ARE NOW INDEPENDENT: Calculations for Postmark Date and Postmark Days From Purchase are no longer linked, and only one of the two fields can have a value, otherwise a warning is displayed. [CIS 11958](#)

EXCLUDE FLAG SET CORRECTLY: Setting locations to be excluded from a Rebate that was created using “Save As...” now exports correctly. [CIS 11987](#)

LIABILITY TAB LOCKING: The **Liability** tab workspace is no longer locked from editing for users with read-write access. [CIS 12009](#)

“SAVE AS...” RESETS “QUALIFYING OPTIONS”: When a Rebate is created using “Save As...”, the new Rebate’s “Qualifying Options” are now reset to its default value. [CIS 12063](#)

START, END DATE SAVE CORRECTLY: Under some circumstances, adding a Product to a Rebate could cause the Start Date and End Date selections to revert to their defaults. This has been resolved. [CIS 12072](#)

BLANK SELECTION STORES NULL VALUE: When a blank value is selected from a Rebate Copy field’s drop-down menu, the database now correctly stores the value as “NULL.” [CIS 12151](#)

WARNING FOR DATE MISMATCH: If a Rebate is associated with an Offer, and the Rebate’s dates are modified so they fall outside the Offer’s dates, a warning message is now displayed. [CIS 12573](#)

WORKBENCH

EXCLUDE STORES SHOWS ALL STORE SETS: When managing Store Group Series, the “Exclude Stores” list now displays all Store Sets available. [CIS 12109](#)

9 Price Format Conversion

The **Conversion.EXE** utility converts a database so it conforms to the "Simplified Price Format" requirements. The utility must be run only once against a database; rerunning it may corrupt data.

CAUTION: Create a backup of your database before proceeding.

In this process, Calculation Sets are created from Price Formats, using the same name as the Price Format, and the Calculation Set is associated with the Price Format of the same name. Every element of the Price Format that has a calculation assigned to it is added to the calculation set, as well as any Price Format elements marked "required" or "read only."

Upon launch, a prompt appears requiring a login name and password. If more than one database is available, click on the "Database" field to display a drop-down menu and click on a choice to select it.

In the workspace, click on the **Update** button. A progress bar is displayed for monitoring.

Only Price Format data marked "Display" is copied to the new Price Formats, even if it is copied into a Calculation Set. Data not marked "Display" is deleted from the Price Format.

CAUTION: Any Price Formats designed for use with group-type Products that contain settings for child Products must be carefully reviewed and verified following the conversion.