NETWORK CAFAM

These notes have been written to help you set up a Network version of CAFAM. First and foremost, the issues involved in physically connecting and creating you Computer network is outside the scope of these notes. It is presumed that you already have the network installed by virtue of a File Server, Terminal Server(s) etc and that your PC workstations have access to the Server with permissions and User names already set.

1. CAFAM requires just one mapped drive folder to work from with full permissions granted to all Users who will be accessing CAFAM. A change in the Licence file will also be required if you are currently using a single user version

2. The program is meant to run on a LAN - Local Area Network. It will also work a remote access by using a Remote Desktop Connection (RDC) over the Internet connecting to a Terminal Server on your network. It presumes that Terminal Server session has full access and rights to the folder where the CAFAM program is located.

3. It also presumes the Local Workstation has no setting in the Anti-Virus, Firewall etc that checks ALL data flowing to and from the CAFAM folder on the Server. This can cause bottlenecks and will result in errors

4. It is also feasible to run CAFAM across the Internet by connecting to the Desktop of a computer that is connected to the network and using Third Party programs e.g. Citrix, VNC, LogMeIn, GoToMyPc, Teamviewer etc. (See Addendum 1 below for issues on this)

5. Unless you have hi-speed leased line, you cannot run the program purely from an Internet VPN connection. The reason being that in this configuration, the VPN would attempt to transmit the program and data across the Internet making the session impossibly slow, useless and likely prone to errors. As a Database application, the software can call and open several relational files all at the same time, create temporary files where required and expect to process this in a time frame where there is no data flow interruption. From our experience an Internet based VPN is simply not fast enough.

6. You can use the VPN to tunnel into your network for security, but thereafter it MUST be run from a hosted Desktop session where the process is done remotely and the only items being transmitted over the Internet are Screens images and Keyboard entries

7. The Multi-user network version does not use an SQL Server and is not Web-based. It is a LAN based program running using Microsoft Visual Foxpro as the Database Engine and runs on a Windows File Server 2003 upwards where the Executable, (.EXE), Link Library (.DLL), Report Templates (FRX), DataBase files and Indexes (DBF,CDX) all reside in the one single folder.

8. It uses very low resources and on a network the only issue that matters is an unimpeded access to the File Server. Thus, as stated above, aggressive Anti-virus programs and Firewalls should be set to allow the free flow of data from the Server to the Workstation PC's otherwise the program could cause you issues

9. With regard to Remote session we recommend separate Terminal Server(s) from the main File Server and duplex if connection is critical, each one equipped with the maximum amount of RAM memory possible so that RDC can work as efficiently as possible

10. So far as backing up the program, you need only back one single folder – the folder where the CAFAM program resided

Its simplicity makes the Software successful so far as reliability and speed goes !

<u>Setting up on the Local Area Network</u> :

1. Create a folder on your Server e.g. called CAFAM. Ensure that the folder is created so that names used in the <u>path do not contain any spaces</u>, i.e.

    > C:\APPS DATA\ALL USERS\CAFAM   will **not** work, you need to set it as
    > C:\APPSDATA\ALL_USERS\CAFAM   (note the words are joined up including the
    >   use of the underline "_")

2. Check that the Workstation which will run CAFAM can "see" the Server and this folder by virtue of a Network Drive letter, e.g. F: . It is not recommended to run the Program from a UNC share Network folder e.g. \\servername\folder. Check that you can "see" the Mapped Network Drive from "My Computer". It may require you to "Map Network Drive" from "Tools" in My Computer. You must have full permissions to this folder

3. Copy all the files from your current CAFAM folder into the new folder on the Server

4. Then create a shortcut to the CAFAMW.EXE program file on your Desktop

5. Go to the other Desktops and Map the Network Drive so that they can "see" the newly created CAFAM folder and create a shortcut to the CAFAMW.EXE on each Desktop

6. There is no install disk or process required. It is as simple as the above

A common error that occurs during Network upgrades is that CAFAM reports "FILE COULD NOT BE ACCESSED – Some has Data file in Use". The reason for this comes down to one of two causes:

1. Your Licence file is still at a Single User version – Check the Top Right Hand Corner for the Network status of CAFAM. It should say "NETWORK-Y".

2. If the Network status is correct, then the other reason is the permissions and file access have not bee set correctly by your Network Administrator. To prove this, go to MY Computer and to the Network Drive that contains CAFAM. Open it to view all the files. Make an attempt to rename any file there, e.g, a file called BCONSUM.DBF. You will likely find your are denied access rights to rename the file. Contact your IT Support Company to correct the rights of access and permissions

ADDENDDUM 1 – Issues that need to be considered if CAFAM is to be run remotely in "the Cloud" e.g using a Remote Desktop Connection over a Terminal Service

(a) <u>The local folder</u> creation for XLS output reports. Currently by default these write to the Users own local drive in a folder called C:\CAFAMDBF - these will have to be pointed some where else for each User where they can be retrieved and read in Excel

(b) <u>Print Label Templates</u>. The mix versions of Op systems has meant in the past that this folder C:\CAFAMDBF above can and has been used to hold local versions of the print template for labels. It now means that Workstations printing Labels may need identical Printer Settings and Drivers for the Label Printer. This is because the WorkStation will use the default template as found on the Server unless theses templates can be re-located and set in the "local folder" above

(c) <u>When printing PDF</u> files from the Program - these would need to be accessible from whatever folder they get written into for sending on as attachments etc

(d) <u>Scanning Incoming GRN</u> of Certs as PDF images that can be read directly in CAFAM has to be considered, i.e. the scanner would be connected to the Workstation, but the scanned file will need to be transported across to the folder that can be read by the Program

(e) The Program works best where the folder containing CAFAM is *mapped* as a Drive Letter visible in My Computer with full permissions accorded to the User. We assume that this will be the case

(f) Since all the data will be in the cloud, will it be reliant totally on Internet connection for access in which case we are not sure how it will be possible to maintain the mirror copy of the program locally on a local drive. We have

in the past recommend this local backup be maintained by the CAFAM Administrators and is intended for that occasion if the network ever goes down. At least here Parts can be looked up for bin location, receipts, issues, status etc as a look-up system until the Network is restored. Clearly this Backup will no longer be available.

(g) To migrate the program, all you would need to do is copy the entire current folder and re-locate it in the new server. Then create a shortcut to point to the application CAFAMW.EXE. All data and program files reside in this one folder

FAQ's
* What are your thoughts about bringing CAFAM to a new platform ?
We've moved the program to Visual FoxPro (VFP) - a 32-bit platform that works on all versions of Windows including Win7-64, Win8.1 and Windows 10. Using this version has eliminated the clarity problems in the preview of reports, and has made the Program faster and stable especially on Remote Desktop Connections. For the sake of continuity and need for no re-training, the original programming appearance, screen, flow has been adopted with no change. VFP is extremely widely in use with software developers, the exact numbers unknown, but runs into millions when you do a Google search. Although Microsoft say they will not support it after the year 2015, they also admit the previous older versions continue in use even though they discontinued the support for these versions some many years ago. Just to clarify this point further, VFP is not designed as an end-use product. It is a compiler that allows Developers like ourselves to create and write Programs creating an EXE (Executable Program). These in conjunction with some DLL's (Dynamic Link Library files) make programs like CAFAM work. You do not have VFP loaded or installed on your system. You just have the CAFAMW.EXE (which we support and will continue to support) and the accompanying DLLs. Together they form the core Program. Thus your installed program has no reliance on VFP or for it to need support. The Program will continue to work as was first installed

* What are your plans for the next few years in regard of how shall CAFAM keep being supported ?
Support will continue as per the past. As we always say, the Program is like a book. Once written, it does not change. The source coding has always been backed up our Web Server and by Agreement (there is admin cost) we could give you access to this should the Company be unable to provide you with further support. We are continually adding to the Program in response to User requests. It serves two purposes: (a) it makes the Program better and (b) it provides us with a revenue stream

* Since CAFAM is a file based system, it could be hard to get it through an IT security audit
All systems are ultimately file based in that the data and programs have to be stored somewhere. The question is User access to these files via the folder in which they are stored. Under a Windows Server platform, it is not realistically possible to lock this down. However, under a Citrix Platform it is. We have Users who have deployed CAFAM over a Citrix Platform. All that the User has is a connect DeskTop Icon. The connection then routes itself to the program with no direct access to the folder itself. The security is 100%. The challenges the IT Dept faced and overcame was the collection of PDF files, XLS Report Files and scanning of Certificates of PDFs as described in Addendum 1 above. However because of the way Citrix works this was dealt with within the framework

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