



# connect

SPRING 2011

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## XML... The Next Phase

By **Chuck Carlson**  
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Last fall, Arlen Oakland wrote a newsletter article explaining XML capabilities within Thoroughbred version 8.7. Clients that made the commitment to Thoroughbred 8.7 and XML Development received our first XML project of the Long & Short Gauges. This XML Group of Oakland clients have been very patient in waiting for our Next Phase of XML Development.

**XML Group:** This XML Group has wanted access to information for management and decision makers, such as the GM, CFO, Controller, and Location and/or Department managers. Even though this process has taken longer than we had foreseen, we are making progress exposing the data to be used for XML within Thoroughbred 8.7.

**Manage Information:** There are hundreds of data files within the Oakland system, and exposing them all will take time. So, we are exposing data systematically in parts, and we are first exposing data from the General Ledger. Data from the GL can be used to monitor critical information such as cash flow, bank account activity, sales, margins, and expenses. This will also allow users the ability to compare current activity with

activity from the last several months and/or years of activity, with drilldowns to the detail. This access to your information can be used to make more-timely decisions, spot trends, assist in forecasting future needs, budgets, and timelines, as well as to manage risk.

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## Holiday Closings

- **Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 30
- **Independence Day**  
Monday, July 4
- **Labor Day**  
Monday, September 5

## Summer Seminars

New Features & Future Development

- **Thursday July 21th**
- **Wednesday July 27th**

## Premium Email



By **John Mogren** • IT Support / Sales Representative  
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Many clients that use Oakland Corporation for spam filtering and email service on the VPN server located in their office will be happy to hear that we are ready to implement an updated solution for you. Those clients not using these services may also be interested. The new Premium Email will no longer be hosted in your office, it will be moved off site to LightEdge, in Altoona, IA.

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**Flexibility:** One of the best features of exposing the data in this way is it provides the flexibility to customize the information based upon the needs of the end user. For example; the GM or CFO will likely want to see information based upon the total company, but yet drilldown to the information by department or location. On the other hand, a Department Manager only needs the information for his/her department. Most of this can be managed by the user-login.

**Excel Download:** Another Great Feature in exposing data in this format using Thoroughbred 8.7 is that the information can be transferred "Directly" to Excel. You don't need to transfer, or print, the information to a temporary file, it loads "Directly" to Excel.

**July Seminars:** We are planning seminars for late July to demonstrate these new features available within Thoroughbred 8.7 and the XML Development, which will be available for clients with Thoroughbred 8.7 for your Fall (September) Update.



**Future Phases:** Once the GL is exposed for client's use, we will move on to other data for you to use such as, Inventory, AR, AP, Bookings, or even a combination of data based upon what the XML Group would like to see.

Thank You for Your Business, and we look forward to showing you these New Features in July.

## Benefits

### Uptime

LightEdge's facility is a compound devoted to 24/7/365 uptime. The building's preventative measures are quite impressive and LightEdge manages email server equipment.

Your current email server solution is not immune to downtimes, VPN hard drives fail & main office internet/power can go down. This hosted solution can offer uptime that is difficult to match.

### Productivity

Remote access, ease of installation, shared information.

### Out of Office Responses

Users can easily set up temporarily responses to emails while they are on vacation or out of the office.

### AntiSpam Included

New pricing includes our AntiSpam product. Reduce the amount of spam emails you get.

### Continued Software Support

As new features arrive, they can easily be implemented.

## New Features

### Calendars

Personal and Shared Calendars. Schedule meetings with invites & see schedule openings.

### Contacts

Personal contacts can be accessed from multiple devices or computers.

**Tasks** - Create simple To Do lists.



### New Webmail

Access to your emails, contacts, tasks, and calendars, via any web browser.

### SmartPhone Support

Most major smartphones can quickly be configured to access your emails, contacts, tasks, and calendars.

### Outlook Integration

Quick installation to access your emails, contacts, tasks, and calendars



### Anti-Virus

Inbound and Outbound emails are scanned by the server for viruses.

### Admin Features

Create email groups, client mailing lists, create new users.

For more information or details on the costs of this service, please give me a call.

# I Didn't Know We Could Do That!

**Warven DeJong** • Support Representative  
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I had been a client of Oakland Corporation for eight years before coming to work for the company in 1994. And I knew nearly all the accounting modules, all the maintenance and all the features and options. That was nearly seventeen years ago.



Most of our clients have been on the Oakland system for several years. And have been doing things the same way for a long time. So maybe it's time to look at taking advantage of some added features that are now available. You may find lots of things that you have overlooked that could be of benefit to you.

Another thing to consider is if your company has had personnel turnover. Give them an opportunity to fill in the blanks since a lot of knowledge does not get passed on.

I invite all of our clients, who wish the system could do something, or are looking for information from the system, or want to do something and don't know how to do it to CALL US. We can line up demos and online training when ever you like.

Since then our accounting system has evolved so much that my 'expert' comfort level has diminished to only a few of the modules. It is unbelievable the expansion. But fortunately if I can't help you someone else here can.

## Getting to Know Us

### Aaron Shaw

Aaron Shaw started working at Oakland Corporation in 2003, while finishing up his Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Information Systems at Iowa State University.



He is the director of the Information Technology Department. Some of his duties include scheduling, special project management, network security, and research & development, as well as managing the day-to-day activities in the I.T. Department.

Aaron is very familiar with the Agricultural Industry, having grown up in southwest Iowa, as the son of a Co-op manager.

He is also an avid ISU sports fan, having season tickets for both the football and basketball games.



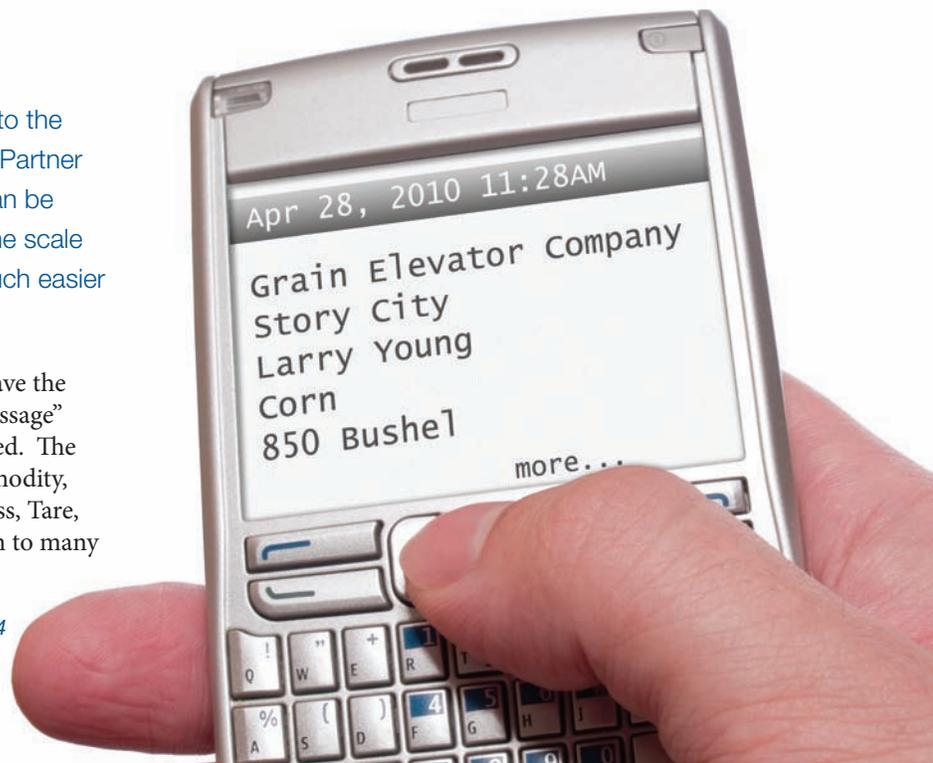
## Are You Ready for Harvest?

**Arlen Oakland** • Sales Representative  
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Many of our clients have been installing or upgrading to the new "Touch Screen" version of the Vande Berg Scale Partner system to automate the scale. The moisture tester can be interfaced also for increased efficiency. Automating the scale will increase productivity, and makes reconciliation much easier at the end of the day.

In the new version, Vande Berg has added the ability to have the system automatically send the customer either a "Text Message", an "Email", or both once the Scale Ticket has been printed. The Grain Company Name, Location, Customer Name, Commodity, Bushels, Moisture, Test Weight, Grades, Memo Field, Gross, Tare, and Net could be sent. This should be helpful information to many of your customers.

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"Are You Ready For Harvest" - continued from page 3

By sending the "Memo" field, we feel that it could be an excellent way for you to communicate on a timely basis to the customer if something is of concern, or in the event that the FM or something else is excessive.



Some of our clients are taking things a step further by adding a remote printer to improve the efficiency and flow at the scale even more.

This allows the customer to pick up the ticket at the end of the scale without the need to park and exit the vehicle to come and get the ticket.

Please call or email with your questions concerning these or other Oakland products.

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