

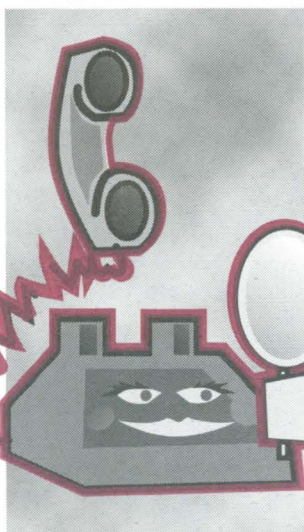


ELECTRONIC CURRENTS

September 1995

News and Views
on
Electronic Services

EDITH Gets a Facelift



Elizabeth Taylor did it, Phyllis Diller did it (lots of times), and now EDITH, the Eighth District Interactive Telephone Helpline, will be getting a facelift, too. What will the new EDITH look like? One of the most attractive features will be improved levels of security. Users will have the ability to change passwords, and the new system will verify the users' names against their passwords.

In the next several weeks, we will send letters to every financial institution that uses any of

the EDITH services. Each letter will include a list of all the current EDITH users at your institution and the services they use. When you receive the letter, you should CAREFULLY check that:

- Every EDITH user has his/her OWN personal identification number (PIN);
- Each user has proper access; and
- The spelling of each user's name is correct.

To ensure a smooth transition to the new EDITH, you should

carefully review your financial institution's EDITH access reports and promptly return them to Data Security. Later, you'll receive detailed instructions explaining the procedures for changes, additions or deletions.

Watch your mailbox and future issues of *Electronic Currents* for more information about the new face of EDITH.

FEDNET Conversion Complete

Eighth District electronic connection customers are now enjoying the benefits of FEDNET, the Federal Reserve's national communications network. Thanks to our customers, we successfully completed equipment installations, testing and live FEDNET conversions by our target date of July 31, 1995.

Fedline and FLASHLight customers began the conversion to FEDNET in the fourth quarter of 1994 with the introduction of a new 800 number that connects directly to the National Dial Center. The initial dial

conversion was immediately followed by the high-speed multi-point and dedicated leased-line connections. Leased-line customers participated in FEDNET Transition Forums during which the conversion process, time frames and customer requirements were explained. Customers received new FEDNET-owned equipment, including a digital circuit, an analog dial backup line, digital sending units and link encryptors.

With your cooperation, our support staff quickly and efficiently resolved all start-up

problems and questions during the conversion. As we continue to learn about the new communications network, we will be able to more effectively respond to your future FEDNET questions and problems. The St. Louis Customer Access Support Unit and the St. Louis Help Desk will remain your primary contacts for supporting your new FEDNET connection.

We appreciate your time, patience and endurance during the FEDNET conversion process.

Fedline Training Schedule

The following training sessions are scheduled for the remainder of 1995.

Date	Class	Location
Sept. 26-28	Fedline Training	St. Louis
Oct. 17	Fedline ACH Origination Training	St. Louis
Oct. 18-20	Fedline Training	St. Louis
Oct. 24-26	Fedline Training	Memphis
Nov. 14-16	Fedline Training	St. Louis
Dec. 5-7	Fedline Training	St. Louis
Dec. 12	Fedline ACH Origination Training	Memphis
Dec. 13-15	Fedline Training	Memphis

As a reminder, the introductory Fedline training sessions last three days—a half day for Local Security Administration (LSA) training and two-and-a-half days for Fedline training. The ACH Origination sessions are one-day sessions for current Fedline customers. Each financial institution may send two staff members to a training session.

For pricing or registration information, please contact Customer Access Support at (314) 444-8680 or toll-free at 1-800-333-0869.

Getting More from Fedline Dial-Out

As you know, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis offers a dial-out service to Fedline customers. This service automatically delivers Fed files and messages to depository institutions during the day and throughout the night.

These guidelines will help you receive the greatest benefit from Fedline and the dial-out service.

Leave your terminal ON during the night – For overnight data delivery, leave your Fedline terminal with the sign-on screen displayed. The Fedline security features and control guidelines will minimize the risk of unauthorized

PC use during this period. If the terminal is turned off, the Fed continues to attempt transmission.

Let us dial out to you during the day – This feature helps you avoid early morning data traffic jams. You won't have to dial into the Fed because our dial-out system monitors the message and file queues for automatic delivery 24 hours a day.

Give Fedline an exclusive telephone number – If your Fedline telephone number is shared with another device, the Fed transmission can be delayed by the busy signal.

Customize your delivery time – Tell us when you would like your data delivered, and we'll tailor the dial-out service to fit your schedule. For example, you can request a scheduled data delivery between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

To customize your dial-out schedule or ask questions about this service, please call Customer Access Support at (314) 444-8711 or 1-800-333-0861.

Centennial Bank Moves Ahead with Electronics

SPOTLIGHT



When Patty Lynch first came to the Fed 12 years ago, she worked in the Check Processing Unit, where payments are mostly paper. But for the last six years, she's been a "convert" to the electronic method of payments. As a senior bank clerk in ACH, Patty balances ACH items and responds to requests for tracing items. She also researches rejected items and processes return items. Patty is excited about the new software—Fed ACH—which is due in the Eighth District early next year. After all Feds have converted by mid-1996, she thinks, "Customers will see some great new online features that will make our response time to their needs even faster."

Time is at a premium in today's financial industry. One of the best ways to make the most of yours is an investment in the Fed's Electronic Check Presentment Services. This month, we spotlight a customer that takes advantage of the benefits of electronics, Centennial Bank in St. Ann, Mo.

Centennial has \$57 million in deposits and just opened a St. Charles branch this month. It has been using the Fed's Presentment MICR Line service since January 1994. With this service, the entire MICR line is captured from all low- and high-speed items and delivered to the bank via Fedline. The receipt of the data becomes the customer's legal presentment, and the physical items arrive later in the day.

Centennial reports quality service and increased efficiency in its daily check operation. Linda Novak, vice president of operations says:

"Our files from the Fed are very clean. Problems are rare, and the Fed staff is very timely and responsive." Linda estimates that Centennial saves at least an hour a day on processing time alone by using the payor bank service. Adds her colleague Carolyn Howell, processing officer: "We save time since we don't



Processing officer Carolyn Howell (left) and vice president of operations, Linda Novak, credit electronics with Centennial's success.

need to manually post our cash letters. Fedline lets us post directly from the file transmission."

In addition to Presentment MICR Line, the Fed offers two other Electronic Check services: MICR Plus™ and CheckKeeper®. These products are designed to enhance and automate processing of the Fed's cash letters by offering machine-readable MICR files,

early information on check details, and reduced dependence on paper check handling. For CheckKeeper customers, the Fed also offers archival research and retrieval services for seven years.

With an asset pool of nearly \$62 million, Centennial understands the merits of effective cash management tools. In addition to the Presentment MICR Line service, Centennial also uses several other Fedline applications, including ACH, TT&L, Check Adjustments and Wire Transfer.

If you have questions about our Electronic Check Presentment Services, please contact your account executive or Customer Access Support locally at (314) 444-8680, or toll-free at 1-800-333-0869.



Electronic check processing allows Centennial to devote more time to customer service.

ELECTRONIC News Briefs

DI Test Dates Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 1995

Sept. 30	Saturday 1
Oct. 14	Saturday 2 (CC 3 pre-test in morning, DI testing in afternoon)
Oct. 21	Saturday 1
Nov. 4	Saturday 2
Nov. 18	Saturday 1
Dec. 16	Saturday 1
Dec. 30	Saturday 2

Saturday 1 test times are from 8 a.m. CST to 2 p.m. CST.

Saturday 2 test times are from 3 p.m. CST to 9 p.m. CST.

Saturday 2 test times may be moved to the Saturday 1 test time frame as long as no one has requested the earlier morning

testing time two weeks before the actual test date.

Test requests should be made no later than two weeks prior to the required test date. To request a test date, contact Kathy Kennerly or Max Butler at (314) 444-8711.

At the time of the request, please be prepared to

discuss system date requirements, application(s) required, contact telephone numbers and any special test requirements.

Fed ACH

Have you heard the good news? Fed ACH is steadily

progressing toward implementation. As we move closer to conversion, you will receive additional details in bulletins we will mail on specific issues about the new software. Please refer to the Fed ACH article in the March 1995 issue of *Electronic Currents* for more information. If you have questions, contact Langston Scott at (314) 444-8461 or 1-800-333-0869.

New Fedline Patch

On Sept. 5, we introduced Fedline patch, version 2.40.60. This patch contains minor changes to the Check and TT&L applications.

- The Fedline multiple choice list of offices and ABA numbers has been revised to

include the new Chicago satellite check processing facility in Peoria, Ill.

- An edit change to the IRS Branch field in the (TT&L) application will now allow alphanumeric characters for all three spaces.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Customer Access Support Unit at 1-800-333-0861.

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