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Note: features mentioned in this newsletter are available in V4.2.4526

In the Know



Thank you to our clients who are following us on Twitter or reading our posting on Facebook or Google+. We welcome more of you as well as your comments!

To find us on Facebook and/or Google+, search for **Spitfire Project Management System**
To find us on Twitter, search for **sfPMS**

You can also click the buttons on the bottom of our website.



IT Tip: Instant File Initialization



We sometimes get questions related to SQL Server performance, particularly from clients who have virtualized their SQL Server. We would like to share a tip from Microsoft for improving SQL Server I/O performance: enable “instant file initialization.” First introduced with SQL Server 2005, this little-known option has become increasingly important as the industry has trended towards virtualization.

By default, every time SQL needs to allocate additional data storage space, it zero-fills the entire allocation. This means that SQL spends valuable time writing ‘blanks’ to all the storage space it was just assigned by the operating system, in case the previous owner’s data happens to still be there.

Despite a minor security risk (of someone with SQL Management Tools being able to access the previous owner’s data for a small window of time), we agree with database professionals that the increased performance far outweighs this small security risk, particularly in the A/E/C industry. When the I/O bottleneck caused by virtualization is factored in, instant file initialization becomes a practical necessity.


Consider the following: creating (or restoring) a 20GB database takes 21 minutes less time with instant file initialization on 142 GB SAS 15000RPM drives. Growing a database by 1GB to make room for added files takes less than a second with instant file initialization compared to 42 seconds without. That is the difference between a timeout and a happy user! And these examples are for physical SQL servers – statistics are more significant (and vary more greatly) for virtual deployments.

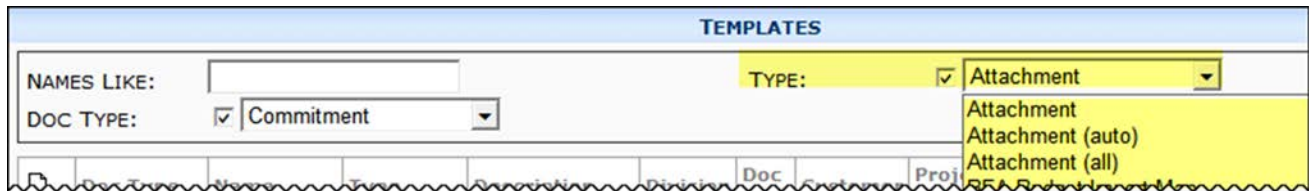
For more information, see [KBA-01515](#).

Here are some additional technical resources for the IT staff:




- [How and Why to Enable Instant File Initialization](#) (with many additional links)
- [Considerations for “autogrow” settings in SQL Server \(315512\)](#)

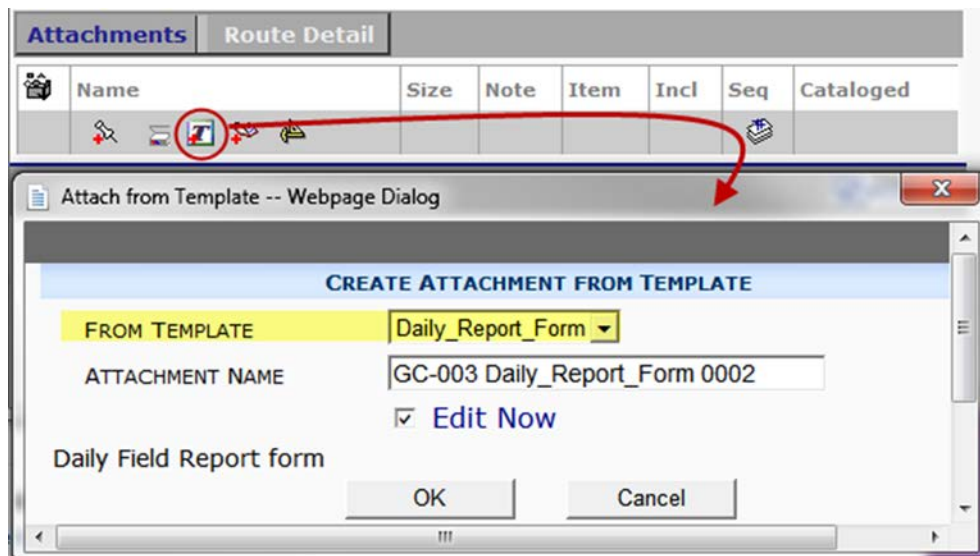
Feature Spotlight: Attachment Templates

In sfPMS V4.2, the “Doc Templates” that were accessed through the  icon on the mid-section tab of a document were replaced by Attachment-type templates. In both cases, bookmarks in Microsoft Word allow you to merge data from a document or project into the template to generate a Microsoft Word file. Files created through Attachment templates are included on the document’s Attachment tab (and are, therefore, included in the Spitfire Catalog and can be edited like any other Microsoft file). There are three variations of Attachment-type templates. Templates are added to the template library through the Templates tool on either the Manage or System Admin Dashboard.



Attachment

When a Doc type has one or more Attachment templates in the template library, the  icon appears on the Attachments tab of documents of that Doc type. Clicking on  generates a file using whichever template is selected. The  icon can be used as often as needed to generate different files (perhaps using different templates).



Attachment (auto)

A Doc type can make use of one and only one **Attachment (auto)** template in the template library per unique options. sfPMS creates a file from this template only if


- The document has no manually created file from an Attachment template (as described above).
- Only one Attachment (auto) template criteria matches the document. In other words, if Spitfire can tell which template to use, based on options in the Template Tool, it will use it. Otherwise, no file will be created.

Attachment (all)

A Doc type can have any number of **Attachment (all)** templates in the template library. Spitfire creates a file from an Attachment (all) template only if

- The document has no manually created file from an Attachment template.

Spitfire creates files from **Attachment (auto)** and **Attachment (all)** templates when

- The document leaves Seq 1 of the route (i.e., when the document is first routed) or
- The preview routed content icon  is clicked for a routee.

For more information, see the [Focus on Files, Attachments and the Catalog Dashboard](#) guide.

You Asked For It, You Got It: Totals on Pay Applications

Request: Can the Pay Application list some total amounts, such as are found on the Details tab of Project Setups, Commitments and CCOs?

Yes, now in V4.2, the Pay Application Doc type displays the following information by default:

Pay Application 0002

DOCUMENT HEADER

DOC# 0002 INVOICE# 000707

PROJECT GC-003 Northern Lights Office Bldg

DESCRIPTION Pay Application 0002

RESPONSIBLE Elizabeth Keyser-Rubble

STATUS In Process

DATE 4/23/2012

Details Notes Addr Dates

REV NUMBER 0: Current Revision

REV DESCRIPTION Initial Document

ARCH PROJECT 9812345-1987

GROSS AMOUNT	\$14,250.00
LESS RETENTION	\$1,425.00
NET DUE	\$12,825.00
PLUS TAXES	\$0.00

In addition, new DocFormula rules allow you to customize the summary calculations for any Doc type's Detail tab.

Note: these are advanced rules. Formulas and filters follow .NET Data Expression syntax.

RULE MAINTENANCE

GROUP: SHOW CODE SET

Rule Group	Filter Info	Type	Description
DocFormula	DocTypeKey	String	This advanced rule defines computations for the Document Detail part.

RULE ENTRIES

RULE NAME DOC TYPE Pay Application

SITE ONLY

Rule	Filter Value	Result Value
cmpExpenseAmount	Pay Application	(SUM(ExpenseAmount) + Sum(StoredAmount)) - (SUM(RetentionAmount) + Sum(SMRetentionAmount))
cmpExpenseAmount:Filter	Pay Application	PARENT.DocItemNumber <> '999998'
cmpOriginalEstimate	Pay Application	SUM(ExpenseAmount) + Sum(StoredAmount)
cmpOriginalEstimate:Filter	Pay Application	PARENT.DocItemNumber <> '999998'
cmpOriginalEstimate:Using	Pay Application	DocItemTask
cmpOriginalQuote	Pay Application	SUM(RetentionAmount) * Sum(SMRetentionAmount)
cmpOriginalQuote:Filter	Pay Application	PARENT.DocItemNumber <> '999998'
cmpOriginalQuote:Using	Pay Application	DocItemTask
cmpRevenueAmount	Pay Application	SUM(ExpenseAmount)

1 2

For more information, see [KBA-01521](#) and/or consult your implementation specialist.

Have You Read?

The following guides and white papers have been updated for sfPMS V4.2 since May 1.

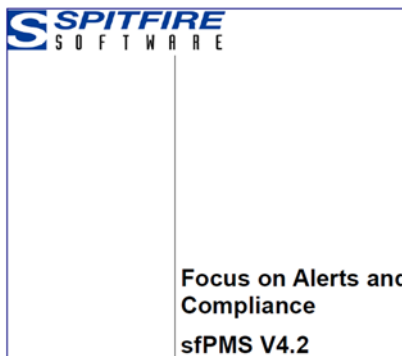
[Focus on Routes](#)

[Focus on Alerts and Compliance](#)

TWP: [Spitfire Reports](#)

The following article has recently been added to the Knowledgebase:

[KBA-01525](#) – Division Filter on Reports



Contact Us

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support@spitfiremanagement.com

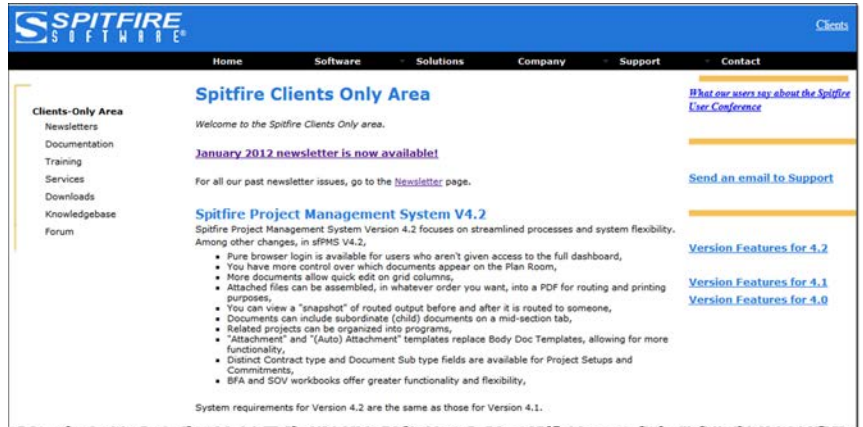
Training:
training@spitfiremanagement.com

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Your Clients Area



The Clients area on our website includes links to our [documentation](#), our [Knowledgebase](#), our [forum](#), our [downloads](#), and a list of what's new in versions [4.0](#), [4.1](#) and [4.2](#):



You will need your login and password to get to the Clients area. If you need or have forgotten your login and password, contact support@spitfiremanagement.com.

Training Classes and Videos

We offer live training classes by appointment for those who request them. Training class descriptions are available from the Clients area of our [website](#).

We also offer training videos from [the client area of our website](#) for those who want to review various topics.

Training Video Library

Aside from, and corresponding with, our live training, we offer a series of training videos that can be accessed 24/7. These videos are particularly useful for those who need to refresh their memory about a specific topic, or for new employees at companies that are already using the Spitfire Project Management System and who need general instruction before learning the specifics at their site.

There is no limit to how many people can access or view any video at one time, nor is there a limit to how many times any video can be viewed. Click on a header tab below to select a video in that series.

Basic Navigation Series [Foundation]

This series is a must for anyone who has not yet used or seen the Spitfire Project Management System (sfPMS).

- **101A - Basic Navigation Part 1**, [6:08 min]
How to log in to Spitfire, change your password and access written documentation.
- **101B - Basic Navigation Part 2**, [2:56 min]
An introduction to the Watchdog Alerts part of the Home Dashboard.
- **101C - Basic Navigation Part 3**, [6:59 min]
An introduction to the Inbox and to Spitfire documents, and how to open a document and remove it from the Inbox.
- **101D - Basic Navigation Part 4**, [9:21 min]
How to get to a Project Dashboard and create a new document. Also, an introduction to fields (look-ups, drop-downs and dates) and popEdit.
- **101E - Basic Navigation Part 5**, [5:25 min]
An introduction to the Add Files tool and how to attach files to a document. Also, how to log out.
- **101F - Basic Navigation Part 6**, [7:29 min]
How to create a new Project Setup document from the Home Dashboard and an introduction to the Addr, Dates and Items tabs.
- **101G - Basic Navigation Part 7**, [7:14 min]
An introduction to the Team Contact part of the Project Dashboard including how to add new team members to the project.
- **101H - Basic Navigation Part 8**, [7:11 min]
An introduction to the parts of the Project Dashboard: Conditions, Remarks, Photo, KPI, Cost Analysis Details and Files.

Documents, Items and Route Series [Foundation]