

Lodge-ical News – February 2008

We have just returned from two conventions where we were able to showcase Lodge-ical. What a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with current clients and meet new prospects. In this newsletter, we have included some of the most memorable quotes that we heard during these conventions.

Version 7.0 Maintenance Agreements

For the second year in a row, we will be sending out invoices to renew your support and maintenance agreement. You will receive your invoice depending upon the quarter in which you purchased Lodge-ical. Although it is required to renew this agreement, I think it is worthwhile to restate the purpose.

You are being billed 10% of your purchase price. Industry average for software maintenance agreements is 15%. This agreement allows you to continue to contact us on an unlimited basis via telephone or email with any questions or problems you may have. Additionally, you are entitled to receive enhancements and bug fixes that we work on throughout the year. However, it is YOUR responsibility to contact us to request these updates. You can contact us once a year or as much as every month, it is up to you. When you do request the update, we will put your name on a list and send you the update as soon as possible. Unless you still have a dial-up internet connection, we now send out updates using the internet.

User Tip: Setting a Default Calendar Start and End Date

There are a series of graphical calendars offered for those of you using version 7.0. When you open the calendar, Lodge-ical looks to the default start and end date to build the calendar. You can access these dates via the Maintenance menu. Select Maintenance/Business Information/press the SYSTEM DEFAULTS button. You will see two fields, Calendar Start Days and Calendar End Days. If the start day is set to 0 this means that the calendar start date will be today. If the end day is set to 100 this means that the calendar end date will be "today + 100" days. Once the calendar opens, you can change the start and end date as often as you'd like.

However, if you are a seasonal business, you might want to consider changing the start date to sometime in the future. For example, change the Calendar Start Days -180. This will set the start date to "today – (-180) days". Then you might select the Calendar End Days to be 220. As of February 1, 2008 using the example above, the default Start Date will be 7/30/2008 and the default End date will be 9/9/2008.

New Feature: Arrival/Departure Calendar

We have designed a new calendar that graphically shows you your upcoming arrivals and departures. A color code system also tells you whether or not a) rooms have been assigned, b) activities have been assigned, and c) money has been received. This is now a standard feature in version 7.0.

Soliciting Advice: Setting up an Online Store

We have a client who is interested in setting up an online store and she asked me if any of our clients already did this. So, if you have any experience in this as far as ease of set-up, upkeep of the site, whether or not it is/was profitable please let me know so that I can forward this along.

This newsletter reaches many people who, obviously, are using Lodge-ical, but are also just "in the business". If you have a question that you would like to pose to this audience, please let us know so that we can include it in the next newsletter. This could turn into a perfect forum for exchanging ideas on any aspect of your operation.