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Dear Tplan customer

This school year there is much to tell.

We have been working on several fronts at the same time since autumn -08. We decided that we needed a complete redesign of Tplan for 2 major reasons:


- We needed to redefine the internal data structure to ease communication between Wintp and Hmtp (the 2 program parts of Tplan). This does not concern the user directly, but we saw that a number of new facilities could be added to Tplan. We saw that we could improve performance and speed of Tplan; in particular in the final adjustment phase.
- We detected that we could have a floating grid for the kickout list (meaning that this could be on screen or turned off while working with the table). That meant that we could allow a complete drag/drop technique in the adjustment phase; a facility we had been yearning for quite a number of years. Drag/drop in itself is quite a simple procedure but when that shall be combined with the underlying logic of the table in such a way that Tplan tells you the consequences of various actions, this turned out to be a formidable task going on for almost two years now.

Then in December -09 we saw the need for a brand new FORTRAN compiler. So what has that to do with Tplan? The fact is that Tplan consists of two program files that interact during the timetabling process. Wintp.exe is the front end where the user enters the timetable data and instructs Tplan to lay out the timetable. The back end, HMTP.EXE, is the FORTRAN based program that has been improved over quite a number of years. Up till now we have used an NDP-FORTRAN-compiler that in fact did produce 32-bit code, but not genuine windows 32-bit code. Due to that fact Windows treated HMTP as a 16-bit dos program preventing it from being run under any Windows 64-bit OS either it being XP, VISTA or 7. Therefore we started the search for a new compiler that could at least produce genuine Windows 32-bit code thereby allowing HMTP.EXE to be executed on Windows 32-bit systems and on Windows 64-bit systems. The fact is that more and more new laptops arrive with Windows 64-bit. Therefore it has been of utmost importance to get a new compiler and we have selected the ABsoft compiler.

There are several improvements from using this new compiler. First of all the new HMTP runs much faster in the Windows environment due to the fact that the code is genuine. Therefore your timetable will be done much faster than you have seen before. The older compiler generated ASCII text. Therefore Wintp had to translate all received texts from ASCII to Windows ANSI texts. When Wintp sends back information to HMTP, Wintp had to translate back from ANSI to ASCII. In the English environment this is no big deal – but in the Scandinavian environment this IS a big deal! All this is now history and we are very happy with the new compiler.

We were already working on a brand new version of Tplan – the version 29. We have overhauled Tplan to get a unified user interface i.e. we have made the mouse interface the same in compressed table and in the full text timetable. We are pretty much done with the product but the compiler business was time consuming and therefore we are not quite ready to release the new version. Right now we expect to release the new version on June 1st.

To make sure you can do your timetabling, we are releasing version 28.6 now. This version is pretty much the same as the former version 28.5 but you get a version running app. twice as fast as

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previous version. Some improvements have been made though. Minor errors are corrected and a brand new remote support added. We have acquired the Team Viewer which enables you to ask for remote support. Under the menu help you can select remote support.

A little program runs and generates some digits. If you phone and tell the digits we can connect directly to your computer and see a copy of your screen. Thereby we can help you directly.

We are looking forward to work together with you in the coming school year.

Kind regards from

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