Why Aspect Software?

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These are the questions most commonly asked when people consider using Aspect. If you do not find an answer to your question here or if you would like further information, please call 800-454-3280 or send an email to info@aspect-software.net. You may also download a copy of the software from www.aspect-software.net.

What is Aspect Software?

Aspect is what is commonly referred to as 'back-office' software for restaurants. It has several purposes:

Aspect acts as an enhancement to your POS system giving you greater flexibility in managing your sales and labor information. You can modify any report in Aspect to produce just the information you need. If you already have reports that you are accustomed to, perhaps in a spreadsheet, chances are that you can create those reports in Aspect.

Aspect helps you manage your labor cost by calculating the cost of schedules you enter and by comparing actual labor against scheduled labor each day. You can export schedules from Aspect to some POS systems to ensure that employees clock in/out within specified grace periods.

Aspect helps you manage your inventory cost by calculating your actual inventory usage/cost and comparing it to the calculated legitimate usage/cost. It tells you when your cost is above the ideal and which items are causing the problem.

Aspect eliminates redundant data entry by exporting to many popular accounting packages and payroll services. For example, you can open a payroll timesheet at the end of a pay period and export the information to a payroll service. In a similar fashion, you can export your food invoices and sales information to an accounting package.

Aspect helps you manage information from multiple stores by automatically transferring data from each store to a central office at the end of each day. Using a copy of Aspect at your central office, you can review sales, labor and inventory information for any store.

How is Aspect different from other 'back-office' packages?

Most people find that Aspect is easier to use, more flexible and more feature-rich than other comparable packages. It is also less expensive.

On the other hand, Aspect is not designed for a situation like a hotel in which you have several restaurants with a central commissary. If you need to track the movement of inventory from one outlet to another, you may be better served by another package.

Please download a copy, take a look around, try it out, ask questions and decide for yourself.

Which point-of-sale systems does Aspect work with?

Turn-key interfaces are currently included for Aloha, HSI, Digital Dining, ElectroLogix, OnePOS, PosiTouch, Restaurant Manager, RCS and Twenty20. Partial interfaces or interfaces that require some assistance from your POS vendor are included for Micros, Panasonic, TEC, and several other POS systems. For a complete list, open a copy of Aspect and select POS Definitions from the Settings menu.

Will Aspect run under Windows 95/98, NT, 2000, XP, ME?

Yes. Aspect will run under all versions of Windows. If you have a computer that is running Windows, you can use Aspect. Period.

How do I get a copy of Aspect?

Aspect can be downloaded from www.aspect-software.net. This is a complete and fully functional copy of the software. However, you will only be able to work with the sample data provided. To begin working with actual information for your store, call to obtain a temporary license.

Can I get a free trial?

No, but you do get a guarantee.

If you are considering purchasing back-office software for your store, please download a copy of Aspect and call to have someone give you a brief tour. If you choose to look through the software on your own, be sure to read some of the documentation provided here. There are a lot of features that you will miss with just a cursory look. If there is something you are trying to accomplish, chances are that you can do it with Aspect.

If you've shopped around and decided that Aspect appears to be the best tool for the job, the only

remaining question should be "can Aspect really do everything it says it can?" At this point, you are ready to call to obtain a temporary license so you can begin using Aspect in your store. When the license is entered, an invoice will be sent and you will begin receiving telephone support.

The temporary license will be good for forty days. During this time, you should begin using the software and verify that it meets your needs. When the invoice is paid, you will receive a permanent license. Here's the guarantee - if you are dissatisfied with the program for any reason, simply discard the invoice. The license will expire and you can select another software package.

Can Aspect send information from multiple stores back to a central office each night?

Yes. Scripts are included in Aspect that can be used to send selected information to a central office automatically at the end of each day. This information is imported into a copy of Aspect at the central office where it may be viewed and exported to an accounting package or payroll service.

To use these routines, you will need an internet connection and an FTP site. An FTP site is nothing more than some space on your internet provider's computer where you can put files like a web page. If you have an internet connection, you almost certainly have an FTP site.

Does Aspect do menu costing?

Yes. Menu items and the number of each menu item sold are imported from your POS system every day. If you enter the ingredients used to create each menu item, Aspect will calculate the amount of inventory that should have been used and the amount that should be on hand at the end of each day.

Which accounting packages does Aspect export to?

Aspect currently exports invoices (accounts payable) to: BusinessWorks, Great Plains, MAS 90, Navision, Peachtree, Quickbooks and Solomon.

Aspect currently exports sales information to: Great Plains, Quickbooks, Peachtree and MAS 90

Which payroll companies/packages does Aspect export to?

Aspect currently exports payroll to the following payroll services: ADP, Heartland, Intuit, Paychex, PcPayroll, PrimePay, RapidPay, Topps, Millenium, OneSource, Extra Pay, Pay Systems of America, and Heartland / Paychoice. And we are adding new exports all the time.

Aspect currently exports payroll to the following accounting packages: AG Edwards, BusinessWorks, Great Plains, Intuit, and MAS 90. And we are adding new exports all the time.

Can I import electronic invoices from my vendors instead of entering them manually?

Yes. Aspect currently imports electronic invoices supplied by: Sysco, PYA, Alliant, Gordon's, Milton's, Abbot, Nicholas, and US Food Service.   And we are adding new imports all the time

Does Aspect handle semi-monthly payrolls?

Semi-monthly payrolls begin on the 1st and the 16th of each month. Aspect correctly calculates weekly, bi-weekly and semi-monthly payrolls.

How long does Aspect maintain historical sales and labor information?

The limit is set by the amount of space available on your disk. Expect to use 5 to 10MB of disk space per month of data.

Can I use Aspect to manage a retail inventory?

Yes, with a caveat. Aspect is designed for restaurants where several inventory items (beef, lettuce, tomatoes) are generally combined to produce a menu item (hamburger). In a retail environment, it is not necessary to combine inventory items like this, but you must still tell Aspect how to make each menu item. So for example, you would need to tell Aspect that it takes one hat to make a hat even if it seems redundant.

Accounting packages like Peachtree or Quickbooks will handle retail inventory, but they will not import data from your POS system. This means that you cannot compare actual usages against legitimate usages. If this is your goal, then Aspect is probably the way to go.