

## STARTING IN 2008

Normally, the Omnibus approach to the festive period is one of making sure everyone is happy, tidying up odds and ends and getting ready for the start of the new year. The end of 2007/ start of 2008, however, ran against this with discussions and implementations happening across the UK. These included -

### Epsom Coaches - Surrey

Epsom Coaches have purchased the OmniTIMES, OmniBASE, CrewPLAN and OmniROTA modules for use by their Quality Line division, which operates tendered bus services for Transport for London (TfL) in South West London and Surrey. Operating these services requires around 50 vehicles. As well as this, Quality Line will be using our software to assist them in planning and submitting tenders for the operation of additional services.



Quality Line's purchase of software follows regular use of Omnibus Consultancy over the past four years to assist with scheduling. This has involved Omnibus assisting in the production of schedules for numerous tender bids as well as the re-scheduling of existing services.

### Tyrer Bus - Lancashire

Expanding independent operator Tyrer Bus of Nelson, Lancashire has recently joined the ranks of Omnibus customers. They have rented our OmniTIMES, OmniBASE, CrewPLAN and OmniROTA modules to assist with the scheduling of their increasingly comprehensive network of bus services across Lancashire, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester.

Omnibus have now completed implementation at their depot in Nelson, and the benefits of having automated the scheduling process are already filtering through the organisation.

Tyrer Bus has opted to rent the software rather than purchase it outright. This option was designed for customers who require the

benefits of computerised scheduling, but for whom outright purchase would not be a viable option. Our competitive rental packages include the cost of software support and maintenance for the duration of the rental period as well as use of the software itself.

### McGill's Bus Services - Inverclyde

McGill's Bus Services have purchased the OmniTIMES and OmniBASE modules to assist with the scheduling of their expanding network of services in the Inverclyde area. McGill's operate a wide variety of bus services on the Clyde Coast providing local services in the Gourock, Greenock, Largs, Port Glasgow and Wemyss Bay areas. In addition they also operate a network of longer distance services linking Balloch, Dumbarton, Gourock, Greenock, Kilmacolm, Helensburgh and Largs with Glasgow City Centre.

Omnibus software has been installed at their depot in Gourock and is now being used in the planning and implementation of further revisions to their network of services.

### Omnibus

Omnibus provides software to the passenger transport industry, to organisations of all shapes and sizes - both in the UK and across the world.

## ONE SIZE FITS ALL?

Whilst it can't be said 'one size fits all' in the bus industry - the list of modifications we have made to our products stands as testimony to that - the idea that one set of data (or timetables) can be used for many different applications is not only true, it can save significant time and money. From crewing buses, to advertising and managing services, Omnibus have designed software to get the most from OmniTIMES timetables.

### OmniSTOP

An obvious application for timetable data is bus stop displays. Normally, these are either exported (where double checking and alteration takes place) or else re-inputted into a 3rd party design package. OmniSTOP removes the need to do either - for each stop, or series of stops, users may simply let OmniSTOP generate times accurate for each, and display them in generated formats. In addition, OmniSTOP offers the option of batch printing generated stops all at once.

### OmniWEB

Another use made of OmniTIMES data is to produce HTML timetables, which can be placed onto a clients website. However, using OmniWEB turns a set of timetables into a dynamic environment for customers to search. OmniWEB pages are created dynamically as the user queries services, eliminating the need to create static web pages to link together.

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# C a s e S t u d y

## C A R D I F F B U S

Cardiff Bus (*Bws Caerdydd*) is the main operator in the Welsh capital. With a total fleet of 252 vehicles, including 19 articulated and 13 double-decker buses, they have been providing passenger services in and around Cardiff since 1902.

Although the future of Cardiff Bus' ownership has, more recently, fallen under the media microscope, the company is one of the few municipals to survive the effects of UK bus deregulation of the 80's. It has done this by ensuring that it maintained its competitive edge.

"To move Cardiff Bus from the 1970's to the present we wanted to improve efficiency and accuracy by changing from a manual to computer aided scheduling and timetabling system", commented Commercial Manager, Peter Heath. "We wanted a product which was produced by people who understood the way the bus industry works and its unique requirements and problems, and who were happy to tailor their product to our specific needs".

So, starting with OmniTIMES and OmniBASE, Cardiff Bus strategically (and over a period of time) put together Omnibus solutions that would maximise the efficient use of its timetable data, and bring further return on investment. "In a world where information on bus services has to be available in many forms – paper based timetable, real time shelter based sign, web, mobile phone, telephone enquiry service – the seamless interchange of data between the various Omnibus products and outside suppliers ensures Cardiff Bus can keep its customers informed with accurate and up to date information", added Peter.

Cardiff Bus now uses OmniTIMES, OmniBASE, OmniROTA, CrewPLAN, OmniSTOP and PocketBUS to assist in the management of operations. "The ease with which data can be extracted from Omnibus software and used in other applications assists us in the financial appraisal of not only current operations but also plans for the future.

Using Omnibus has enabled us to both improve the quality of the operation and deal with the unique challenges of the Cardiff operating environment. For example, we have recently completed a programme of ensuring every bus stop – that's over 1700 – has a timetable display listing all bus services using that stop. Such a project would be impossible without the integrated systems Omnibus provide in particular the powerful OmniSTOP product.

In addition to this, the presence of the Millennium Stadium in the heart of the city centre produces many one day only changes to operations which would be difficult to both schedule and link into our driver allocation process without Omnibus software."

"The relationship with Cardiff Bus has been very much a two way thing", Michael Meilton of Omnibus said. "We are keen to listen to our clients' stories, and adapt software to fit with their requirements. With Cardiff Bus, this has led to a firm partnership between us – a position that benefits everyone involved".

Is there one statement (that we can publish) that sums this up from Cardiff Bus? Peter Heath again, "It is a pleasure working with Omnibus. They are always keen to help with problems and queries and quick to respond to requests for changes to software, yet do not charge the king's ransom that some of their competitors seem to believe in"

We can't add to that!



## ONE SIZE FITS ALL?

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### PocketBUS

Other Omnibus products give more operational benefits to clients. PocketBUS, for example, enables mobile devices, such as PDA's, to display timetables, departure lists, and journey details, sent directly from OmniTIMES. Mobile staff can have all the information about your service network at their fingertips, allowing them to make service control decisions instantly and record information relating to services.

So, using OmniTIMES to record and manage timetable information is just the start. Speak to Omnibus to check that you are maximising the benefits of our software – from exporting to TransXChange and ATCO-CIF, to designing bus stop displays and leaflets.

## OMNIUPDATE

Those with an eye on OmniNEWS will have noticed that, over the last twelve months, we've been updating various functions within Omnibus - from online resources and support to new offices and training facilities.

These changes ensure that we are able to continue to deliver high standards to clients as we grow

And not to miss the opportunity – if you have new staff, or need to refresh existing personnel, we offer comprehensive training either at our head office, or at your premises. Contact us online, or call us on

**0161 683 3100.**