What's New in Dispatch Version 2.1?

There have been many minor changes. The more important changes are summarised below.

Until this version, the control software has enforced the use of red/blue/white priority codes and green to mark uncommitted resources. This was in accordance with St John Ambulance policy for whom the package was originally developed. Now that we have wider usage, the status colours may be any of red, blue, white, yellow, purple, amber and green with one of these (default green) reserved for uncommitted resources. This is selected using a drop down list of colours in the Options screen. As part of this change, menu items etc that referred to "green" in the previous version now refer to "clear".

Installation

The installer no longer installs version 1 as a fall back in case of errors. The move from version 1 to version 2 was a major step and it was felt appropriate to leave version 1 in place. Moving from version 2.0 to version 2.1 is a much less complex step and the previous version is no longer retained.

We have failed to find a work-around for the annoying prompt asking whether to repair or uninstall Microsoft VB PowerPacks version 10 if this is already installed. As in release 2.0, click on either "repair" or "cancel" to continue.

Main Screen

The call detail area now has two optional additional columns for the mobile time and handover time, both of which have a corresponding checkbox in the Options screen to select whether they are to be displayed. These times work slightly differently from the other call state times in that as well as allowing entry of the current time by double clicking on the cell, a subsequent double click allows the time to be amended.

Dispatch Menu

The Change Controller option now has a Logout button to logout the current controller, leaving the screen locked until a new controller logs on.

Units Menu

The sign-on screen and later use of Display Details from the units drop down menu now has the ability to use a user supplied list of event staff in place of the list of recent crew on that unit. The list is held in a simple text file named NAMES in the SJD directory of the server and may be updated using the Staff Names Maintenance screen from the Supervisor menu or with any convenient text editor such as Notepad. Display of the full staff name list must be enabled using the Show All Names item from the Options screen.

Log Menu

The Print Log option now allows the log data to be printed or saved in comma separated variable (CSV) form. A file saved in this way can be read directly into a spreadsheet such as Excel.

Maps Menu

The map configuration screen now separates the options to hide the grid and labels.

Supervisor Menu

The Special Log Messages screen has been modified to use X as the criteria code for "active" in place of A in previous versions. This change is needed to allow Amber as a call status colour. The installer will automatically modify any special log messages saved using an earlier version of the software.

A new Backup option has been added to this menu to create a backup of essential system data.