



► **Layout-8000** Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

OVERVIEW

Q. How long has Layout-8000 been on the market?

A. Over 20 years. During that time, Layout-8000 has gone through several complete rewrites, 10 major releases, over 50 upgrades and 39 platform ports.

Q. Is your organization in possession of the application's source code? If so, is there staff qualified to maintain it?

A. Yes, SCS developed, owns and maintains Layout-8000.

Q. Who should consider using Layout-8000?

A. Layout-8000 is used in production by newspapers large and small. Layout-8000 supports papers with multiple editions and multiple zones.

Q. How is training provided?

A. Training is separately priced and available both on-site and at SCS.

Q. How is Layout-8000 supported?

A. Emergency support is provided 24 hours a day seven days a week. For situations that are not critical to publishing, normal support is available via telephone, dial-up and e-mail from 8:15am to 4:45pm Eastern Time.

Q. What is needed to get support services?

A. There is a 90-day initial support period bundled with the purchase of Layout-8000. It goes into effect when you start producing live editions, or are capable of doing so. After the 90-day initial support period, there is a service contract available for 1.25% of the software price per month. As part of the service contract, new releases of the software are provided at no charge. Also, as part of the service agreement, sites are expected to keep their SCS value-added software, operating systems and equipment current.

Q. Is there an up-to-date manual released with each new release?

A. Yes, release notes are provided with each new upgrade. The manuals are located on our web site, www.newspapersystems.com. Go to Products, Layout-8000, FAQ and then Manuals. You will also find our Interfacing Guide there.

Platform

Q. What is the required operating system of the server?

A. Layout-8000 is platform independent. It can run on servers and be accessed from Windows® PCs, Macintosh®, Unix®, Linux®, thin clients, etc. It can also run on workstations running Windows, Linux, Unix, etc. We recommend Linux servers since Linux is now our reference platform for development. It is also available on Mac OS X®.

Q. What is/are the recommended platform(s) for Layout-8000?

A. We prefer to provide Red Hat Linux or SCO Unix for Layout-8000 servers.

Q. What are the minimum hardware configurations recommended?

A. Layout-8000 can run on any PC configured to meet the minimum requirements for running Windows NT/2000. The usual configuration is larger than this. (Smaller configurations will work for SCO Unix and Linux.) Layout-8000 is currently in production on Linux, SCO Unix, Windows NT/2000

"You're the only company I work with where I can call and get a human being on the telephone. We've always been happy with Layout-8000. Always. We wouldn't be staying with the product and vendor if we weren't happy."

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SCS BUILDS TRUSTED NEWSPAPER SYSTEMS.



and Sun Unix servers. The Linux, Windows and SCO Unix systems run on Dell/Intel computers. Upgrades that run on new operating systems and equipment are part of the support service.

Q. Does Layout-8000 run on the most current version of its operating system's platform(s)?

A. Layout-8000 runs on the most current version of Linux, Unix and Windows. When you purchase a system from SCS, we always provide the most recent version of all operating systems.

Q. Do all versions of Layout-8000 on different platforms have the same functionality?

A. Layout-8000 has the same functionality on all platforms.

Q. Was Layout-8000 developed as "cross platform"? If so, do the same input files work with each?

A. Layout-8000, like all SCS-developed products, is developed as "cross platform." It accepts the same input files with every operating system.

Q. Is the interface GUI?

A. Yes, its interface is X-Windows, just like other SCS products, with convenient command icons, drop-down menus and drag-and-drop functionality.

Cost Factors

Q. How much does a Layout-8000 system cost?

A. Site license prices depend on circulation.

Q. Why does SCS use site licenses and a price based on circulation rather than a price per seat like most other vendors?

A. The bigger the publication, the greater the benefit that Layout-8000 is likely to provide and the more specialized attention that is likely to be needed. Our pricing formula captures these notions. We like site licenses because they are convenient. We dislike per seat licenses for advertising systems because:

- they are inconvenient to administer
- fewer seats is better for achieving maximum ROI

Those that charge by the seat have their own ROI in mind, not yours.

Q. Is a service contract required for future service? If so, what are the terms and price of this contract?

A. There is a 90-day initial support period bundled with the purchase of Layout-8000. It goes into effect when you start producing live editions, or are capable of doing so. After the 90-day initial support period, there is a service contract available for 1.25% of the software price per month. As part of the service contract, new releases of the software are provided at no charge. Also, as part of the service agreement, sites are expected to keep their SCS value-added software, operating systems and equipment current.

Q. Why does SCS offer support on a subscription basis?

A. SCS's goal is to provide trusted newspaper systems. We want to keep system failures to a minimum. A subscription-based service for a reliable system gives customers the least headaches and SCS the least costly support effort. Per call based support is only profitable if it is costly and often needed. Because SCS's support is subscriber based, the revenue stream is predictable and so investments in the product can continue. Customers get new software releases for free, so support staff only need to learn the most recent releases. Further, SCS finds our orientation minimizes the negative impact of technology churn.

Q. Can hardware be purchased separately from the software? If so, how is support handled in this situation?

A. SCS takes responsibility for what it sells. We usually prefer to supply the servers. As Dell's first reseller, we prefer their equipment. We work with Dell to assure that your hardware support is effective. Dell now offers effective high-end server support for Linux.

Q. Is training included in the product purchase price?

A. Training is included in the purchase price as a separate line item and available both on-site and at SCS.

Q. Does SCS train all users or train the trainer?

A. Training is a separate line item on proposals. We train the trainer, but, with a limited number of users we also provide individual user instruction. Layout-8000 users are productive the week of training. Layout-8000 is very easy to learn and use.



Q. Is up-to-date documentation distributed with each new release?

A. Yes, there are release notes provided with each new upgrade. The manuals are located on our web site, www.newspapersystems.com.

Q. Is there a charge for future upgrades? If so, what is the current pricing for upgrades?

A. Upgrades are at no charge for software when a site is on maintenance/support.

Q. Is the customer required to keep current with the latest upgrade? If not, how many previous versions are supported?

A. Customers are not required, but are requested, to keep current with the latest upgrade. We recommend getting a new version at least once a year.

Q. Is the vendor required to be on-site for each upgrade?

A. SCS performs most upgrades remotely unless the site requests a support and installation person to be present for additional training, etc.

Q. How are application upgrades administered and would customization during the initial installation affect our ability to administer the upgrades in-house or require reconfiguration after each upgrade?

A. All Layout-8000 users have special requirements, most of which are covered by bundled developer services in the agreement. Almost everything that is site-specific is parameterized and stored in databases. Of course, you get to customize Layout-8000 using numerous set-up parameters and by supplementing the numerous built-in reports provided by the system with those you design with our functional report writer.

Q. Describe the process for managing support issues. Is web-based review of outstanding items available?

A. Layout-8000 emergency support is 24 hours a day, seven days a week. SCS maintains a web site for support. The Online Support Database is password-protected and enables sites to review the status of their outstanding issues.

Q. How many customers are currently live on the Layout-8000 system?

A. Over 250 publishing sites currently use Layout-

8000. Listed below is a diverse set of Layout-8000 system users:

Publication	Circ
The Allentown (PA) Morning Call	130,000
The Brockton (MA) Enterprise	61,000
The Biloxi (MS) Sun Herald	31,000
Buenos Aires (ARG) Clarín	700,000
Caracas (VZ) El Nacional	100,000
Charlotte (NC) Observer	294,000
Chicago (IL) Tribune	700,000
The Cleveland (OH) Plain Dealer	368,000
Escondido (CA) North County Times	91,000
Leesburg (VA) Times Community Newspapers	262,000
Longmont (CO) Daily Times-Call	40,000
Los Angeles (CA) Investor's Business Daily	235,000
Loveland (CO) Daily Reporter-Herald	35,000
Montevideo (UR) El País	100,000
The Munster (IN) Times	86,000
New York (NY) Daily News	734,000
New York (NY) El Diario La Prensa	53,000
Plymouth (MA) Memorial Press Group	50,000
Quincy (MA) Patriot Ledger	105,000
The Toronto (ON) Globe and Mail	320,000

Please contact SCS sales staff if you are interested in contact information.

Data Interfaces

Q. What order entry systems is Layout-8000 able to interface with?

A. Layout-8000 is able to interface with all front-end systems. In addition to the standard interfaces (cardex.txt and trans.dat), Layout-8000 accepts the following three files from the Collier Jackson Advertising System: FAIM2801, FAIM7105, or the file created for CJ's World Class Series Layout. Layout-8000-oriented order entry and scheduling subsystem is bundled with Layout-8000. Larger newspapers use Entry-8000 for back-up and as part of disaster recovery support.

Q. Can Layout-8000 import basic information with the ability to select or deselect fields as we find them relevant to the layout process?

A. SCS development tools are maintained for product enhancement. Layout-8000 does include the SpiceRAQ customizable report writer for sites to add additional functionality. Sites may request enhancements that can be applied to Layout-8000 as needed.



Ad Data

Q. Can we rename column headings so that we can use terms that are familiar to us?

A. Layout-8000 includes various standard reports. Users also have the ability to write custom reports with SpiceRAQ, the SCS report writer.

Q. Can Layout-8000 selectively sort, view and place ads based on user-defined attributes?

A. All columns in the Layout program are sortable on the screen by clicking on the column heading. Clicking again will change ascending to descending and vice versa. While Dummying pages a user can choose to do the entire paper, by section, by group/location, or by ad.

Q. Does Layout-8000 include ad search capability to list only ads that meet user-defined criteria?

A. Yes, Layout-8000 includes search functionality that will allow you to list ads by specific criteria.

Edition Design

Q. Does Layout-8000 import news space reservations from external systems and distinguish them by type (i.e., advertorial, news)?

A. Layout-8000's Edition Design File (EDF) has a division for news space reservations. The EDF is a text file which is used directly by the dummyming programs. Along with the dummyming programs comes a data management tool, the Edition Design Database (EDDB), which saves information about space reservations and is used to generate EDFs for products as they are ready to be dummied. Newshole space reservations can be fed in from external systems into the EDDB as the data becomes available for current or future publications. External updates to this database are provided in ASCII files in record (or fixed field) format. Data about news space reservations for all future editions is maintained within this Edition Design database.

Each EDF has a division for news space reservations. News space can be reserved as fixed size rectangular areas or floatable column inches. Floatable areas can also have a rectangular shape which is optionally mutable during the dummyming process.

News space reservations can be made for individual pages, the physical sections of the paper and related groups of pages (such as sports, main news,

life styles, etc.). Page-specific reservations can be designated either as a particular absolute page number like A-1, or relative to some other named collection of pages, such as Sports-2.

Q. Does Layout-8000 import advertising space reservations and distinguish them by type (i.e., display ad black, display ad color, coupon, house, etc.)?

A. You can import advertising space reservations into Layout-8000. Such space reservations can be passed similarly to the news space reservations described above. Further, during edition design, ads can be placed either on a specific page or a page relative to a section or a group.

While inputting advertising space reservation is one aspect of sending data to Layout-8000, the primary interfacing issue is sending the advertising insertion orders from an order entry system to Layout-8000. Layout-8000 comes supporting several interfacing file formats. You choose among the interfacing modes based on whether you will use Layout-8000 to manage and dummy current editions or if you wish to use it to manage the information regarding current and future publications.

Since Layout-8000 is the premier dummyming system on the planet, the file formats that we use are regarded as industry-standard. AdMarc and other retail advertising order entry systems generate files appropriate for Layout-8000.

Larger newspapers ordinarily send what we refer to in our interfacing guide as "trans.dat" insertion order data records. Such records will be used to update Layout-8000 databases and, if sent as order entry takes place, provide a production-oriented database management facility which can be used not only to front end Layout-8000 but also provide scheduling data to SCS's ad tracking system.

Q. Does Layout-8000 give you the ability to define your own "types"?

A. You can create your own types with Layout-8000. The precise notion of types used within Layout-8000 and all other dummyming systems is that attribute of an ad indicating its content. This attribute is used for content-oriented exclusionary rules. With these rules you can specify rules to, for example, keep cigarette and airline ads off of obituary pages and prevent two tire ads from automatically dummyming to the same page.



You can also use types to specify inclusionary rules based on editorial content. With these rules, you might specify "place this ad in sports" or "put this ad in entertainment." You can, for example, use types to place all the restaurant ads in the Entertainment section.

Q. Do users have the ability to link multiple jumps for news packages that cross over more than one page?

A. With Layout-8000, any set of pages can be linked together and given a name. These pages don't need to be contiguous. A collection of pages provides a "group" which can be used for assigning ads.

Suppose you have an edition design which joins a front page, say A-1, and two jump pages, say A-5 and A-7. Pages A-5 and A-7 could be your "front jumps" pages. An amount of newshole can be reserved for the front jump pages as an aggregate. The entire front page could be reserved for news. Ads assigned to the front jump pages would then end up on either page A-5 or A-7.

Q. Can users change record format as needed?

A. SCS offers a report writer which can be used to easily reformat both input and output records used with Layout-8000. The internal record format for Layout-8000's computer aided design dummyming algorithms is changeable by SCS's programmers.

Q. Are multiple import and export filters supported in Layout-8000?

A. Nearly 50 import and export filters are or have been used with Layout-8000.

Q. Does Layout-8000 have the ability to reserve space directly through dummyming application for ads or news?

A. With Layout-8000 you can reserve news space in the dummyming application and enter sufficient insertion order data to be able to dummy late ads. You can also import late ads during the dummyming sessions and even re-architect the entire publication to account for changes in edition design. This may happen, for instance, when the valid decisions of a dummyming session are preserved in new edition design iterations.

Q. Does Layout-8000 have the ability to record, report, and account for news and advertising space by columns, inches, percentages, etc.?

A. Layout-8000 has reports that summarize a

publication's requirements for news and advertising by columns, inches and percentages prior to dummyming and report post-dummyming how all the space in an edition is utilized in terms of columns, inches, percentages, centimeters, etc.

Q. Can Layout-8000 measure ad and news ratios as needed, reflecting continuing changes to assist in budget planning?

A. If you use the trans.dat interface to Layout-8000 and send ad insertions contemporaneously with the order entry process, Layout-8000 will report on space requirements for future editions, thus aiding budget planning.

Layout-8000 has a particular role in the dummyming process. With Layout-8000 you produce an optimal edition for a given instance in time. This edition solution reflects the advertising department's best judgment on how the edition should be designed. One uses this design as a starting point for the editorial layout process. If, for example, a late-breaking world-changing news story were to come up during the production of an edition, the editorial department is likely to want to replace and redo the front page and perhaps add several pages to the front section. This might happen even after several pages of the front section were already imaged. We would expect the news environment to be the one that dealt with the replanning of such edition. When such news events happen, producing an optimal advertising edition is usually no longer a priority.

Q. Can you define each edition's characteristics regarding page sizes, margins, pages that accept ads or are editorial only? Does Layout-8000 estimate an edition's advertising/ editorial ratios before layout of ads?

A. You can set up product templates for your standard page sizes, margins, sections, etc. Layout-8000 also allows you to tailor an edition, groups of pages and individual pages during the layout process.

Layout-8000's Ad Distribution report helps you design the product you are about to dummy. It includes a summary page which lists the total ad area, newshole and ad percentage based on a wide range of total pages. It also sorts all of the display ads by position request, giving subtotals of the ad area and minimum newshole request for each position. Other subreports include lists of killed ads, series ads, color ads, tearsheet requests and page killer ads.



While you are dummifying the ads, Layout-8000 can provide you with the advertising/editorial ratio at any given time.

Q. Does Layout-8000 provide tools to help calculate the number of pages needed to meet a particular advertising to news ratio?

A. Layout-8000's Ad Distribution report (see the previous question) helps you plan the size of the paper by editorial requests or by advertising percentage. This report also determines the space required for each group/location.

Q. Does Layout-8000 support multiple products?

A. Layout-8000 supports up to 99 products, each with 99 editions and each of those with 75 zones, per data management environment.

Q. Does Layout-8000 support multiple zones?

A. Within each of 99 products and each of the 99 editions for each product, you may have up to 75 zones.

Q. Can Layout-8000 break publication out by physical and logical section?

A. With Layout-8000 you can design an edition and name, size, order, and position both physical and logical sections. We call the collections of pages grouped together by the presses folder "sections." We call the collections of pages grouped together by their content "groups." Thus you might have the "C" (physical) section and the "Entertainment" (content-based) group.

Q. Does Layout-8000 support standing reservations (i.e. banners for certain sections, weather page, etc.)?

A. Yes, Layout-8000 supports standing reservations.

Q. Can Layout-8000 incorporate "late ads" without importing entire ad insertion list?

A. Layout-8000 supports importing late ads, either individually or as a set of insertion records. The new insertion orders can add to or replace an insertion set. In such cases, what's the same will stay the same and what's different will be accommodated.

Q. Does Layout-8000 have the ability to have default rules-based dummifying on the edition, section, and page level?

A. Layout-8000's dummifying process is completely parameterized. It has extensive facilities for defining the rules to facilitate the dummifying of editions.

Default and specific publication rules are available at the edition, section, group and page level.

Q. Does Layout-8000 have the ability to open multiple publications on the desktop simultaneously?

A. A computer can be both a workstation and a server simultaneously. Layout-8000 runs on X-Server software talking to an application server. X-Server environments allow operators to see multiple windows on the screen, each of which may contain its own X-Server session. Each of these sections can be used for a dummifying session that runs concurrently with all the others.

Furthermore, Layout-8000 enables operators in the middle of dummifying a product to select and work on a different product, if necessary, and then return to the initial product to complete dummifying.

Q. Can Layout-8000 add or remove a page or range of pages within a publication?

A. With Layout-8000 you can add or remove a page or a range of pages within a publication.

Q. Does Layout-8000 have the ability to group and move items between pages?

A. Yes, with Layout-8000 you can move items among pages and even move entire pages.

Q. Does Layout-8000 have the ability to view page ranges from one page to an entire publication?

A. Yes, with Layout-8000 you can view page ranges from one page to an entire publication.

Q. Can Layout-8000 quickly zoom in and out for different views (any size and combination)?

A. Yes, with Layout-8000 you can quickly change between the number and size of page dummies that you view at one time.

Q. Does Layout-8000 provide automatic alerts and notification of any conflicts or rules being violated?

A. Normally Layout-8000 dummifying sessions involve a series of steps designed to avoid introducing conflicts and errors. It's much easier to manage the dummifying process going from correct step to next correct step rather than recovering from errors made by either automated or manual procedures.

Of course, Layout-8000 alerts operators if they, for example, attempt to place coupons back to back



or violate an ad's position request or place an ad conflicting with type rules. Layout-8000 does an amazingly good job of dummyping products in nearly an entirely automatic fashion while satisfying nearly all requests, even when such requests are likely to yield conflicts.

Q. Does Layout-8000 override, with proper authority, any rules or notification?

A. With Layout-8000, operators can choose a solution that violates ad or edition constraints. The system, of course, provides a report listing all the conflicts so that management can review the report and decide if any remedial action is appropriate.

Q. Does Layout-8000 manage and administer editions without the threat of inadvertently overwriting or deleting viable ones?

A. Layout-8000 has extensive tools for managing editions. By default, we keep edition designs for an extended period of time, usually from a month up to a year. Each such saved edition is easily identifiable using its date, paper, edition, etc. You can even save an edition in process using a name you choose. You can then go back to it as you wish.

Ad Placement

Q. Does Layout-8000 support color-coding of page components to represent different types (i.e., process color ad, spot color ad, black ad, news graphic, etc.)?

A. With Layout-8000, you get to define how the page components are color-coded. You also get to define the relationships between ad attributes, news attributes, etc. and colors. Such color templates can be user specific.

Q. Does Layout-8000 support site-defined rules for advertising (i.e., to avoid placement of certain customers next to each other or within a certain page proximity)?

A. Yes, Layout-8000 enables you to identify advertisers by type and restrict competitive advertisers from appearing on the same page, as well as facing pages. You can also use advertiser types to prevent certain advertisers from appearing within a specific group/section (i.e., no airline ads on the obits page) and to group similar advertisers within a specific section (i.e. all restaurant ads onto a dining page).

Q. Does Layout-8000 prevent coupons from printing back-to-back? How?

A. Layout-8000 accepts coupon information when importing ads and differentiates coupon ads onscreen with color-coding. If the edition designer attempts to place a coupon on the back of an existing coupon, Layout-8000 displays a conflict color code. Based on space limitations, coupon placement algorithms consider first not putting coupons on back to back pages, then not backing up coupon ads and finally not backing up just the coupon area.

Q. How Layout-8000 avoid placement of reverse ads adjacent to each other?

A. Layout-8000 identifies reverse ads with color-coding. The system is engineered to prevent placement of reverse ads touching.

Q. Does Layout-8000 include tools to manage the location of color? Management (coding) of the different options available on those pages - process, spot, custom mixed colors? Can our basic press color configurations be saved into Layout-8000 so that the color locations flow in based on the number of pages in the paper and in a section?

A. Layout-8000 includes a press configuration module. This module allows users to enter and store a library of the press configurations utilized at the site. Once the library is complete, users may choose the best matching configuration for the day or select a specific configuration. The color pages are clearly marked and any user attempting to move a color ad, on a non-color page receives a clear warning.

Q. Does Layout-8000 code ads to indicate what type of ad is on the color page - process ad, spot ad, etc. - and recognize if a designer attempts to place the wrong type of color ad on a page?

A. Color information received from the advertising system, used in conjunction with the Press Configuration library, will allow Layout-8000 to place color ads automatically on the corresponding color page. A user attempting to move a full color ad to a spot color page will receive a clear warning.

Press Layout

Q. Does Layout-8000 optimize page count based on press configurations?

A. SCS provides a number of tools for taking into consideration press configurations when dummyping editions. The base system comes with a



database for defining a library of press impositions. The Layout operator can use these during the edition design process. Upon selection of a press configuration, the color placement options for the edition are inserted into the EDF and Layout's automatic dummyming algorithms will observe color restrictions as placement rules.

SCS also has an optional product called WebPresser which works in conjunction with Layout-8000. Using a rough edition plan (i.e., defined section sizes), advertising insertion orders and a press description, WebPresser computes all valid press impositions which might satisfy an edition's requirements. This is done quickly and automatically. WebPresser also supports interactive direct manipulation of the imposition selection process. WebPresser solutions are directly applied and used within dummyming sessions.

Q. Does Layout-8000 have the ability to layout, move and adjust spot and process color assignments for press configuration?

A. The imposition library associates spot and process color availability with a given imposition solution. The library of valid imposition for your press can be entered into Layout-8000's imposition database.

Q. Can Layout-8000 insert "what if" pages to determine impact on press layouts, section sizes, etc.?

A. Because of publisher policy, most layout designers are charged with meeting a certain required ad/news ratio. There are judgment calls required. Designers who use Layout-8000 are aware that they can produce valid edition designs quickly. Because of this, the usual iterative process is to pick an edition size which is tight and expand the edition if too many conflicts arise. Since Layout-8000 dummies over 1,000 pages a second, it is easy to reconfigure an edition. For example, you might include additional pages by using the imposition library to find an alternative press imposition solution, and redummyming the edition. Layout-8000 automatically uses information from past dummyming sessions.

Exporting Page Dummies

Q. Can Layout-8000 provide geometry for our editorial and classified pagination systems?

A. Layout-8000 produces two files for pagination, the outtext.txt and edf.txt file. All viable newsroom

pagination products that we know of can import Layout-8000 data.

SCS also develops products that use data from Layout-8000 to build your publication in either QuarkXPress (SCS/LinX) or InDesign (InLay).

Q. Does Layout-8000 export dummied records to the pagination system or interface directly to a pagination system? Does it have the ability to export an entire edition or range of page(s) to a pagination system?

A. Layout-8000 has export filters which are used to send data to all known pagination systems (even closed proprietary systems like the legacy SII systems). With these tools, you can export entire editions or selected pages one or more at a time.

Q. Does Layout-8000 allow the flexibility to export information to multiple systems using multiple filters?

A. Many Layout-8000 sites use multiple pagination tools which receive page dummies from Layout-8000. Such interfaces are also available for SCS-supplied news pagination environments, including our SCOOP editorial and news pagination system and SCS/LinX, our interface to QuarkXPress (SCS/LinX was the first QuarkXTensions® system). SCS's InLay interfaces to InDesign.

Security

Q. Does Layout-8000 have the ability to lock a publication while in use to prevent changes from more than one user?

A. Editions are locked against being changed by more than one user at once.

Q. How does Layout-8000 manage and secure templates, rules, etc. from inadvertent changes by users?

A. Layout-8000's functions are selected from menu items. The menu items are each associated with a security level. Each user is given a security level permission on login. You have the ability to define security levels for the menu items as well as for your users. By doing so you can prevent the inadvertent changing of templates, rules, etc. by unauthorized users.



Reports and Statistics

Q. What reports are available in Layout-8000?

A. Layout-8000 contains various standard reports, including the Ad List, Ad Distribution List and Final reports. Users also have the ability to write custom reports with SpiceRAQ, the SCS report writer.

Q. Are users able to create custom queries from within the Layout-8000?

A. In addition to its variety of standard reports, Layout-8000 also comes with an optional general purpose report writing tool, SpiceRAQ, enabling users to create ad hoc reports through queries and sorts. SpiceRAQ is configured with a data dictionary for Layout-8000.

Q. Are the reports accessible via a web browser?

A. Yes, the reports and the application itself can be accessed through the Web. You would use an X-term session in a standard web browser. For efficient remote access to Layout-8000, Secure Shell (ssh), VNC, or Citrix work well.

Miscellaneous

Q. Do you have user group meetings for customer feedback?

A. Yes, we have an annual User Group Meeting.