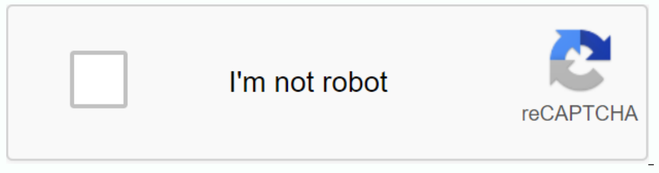

Continue

Mail.dat file layout

BCC Software's option for Mail.that functionality uses industry-standard USPS Qualification reports streamlined in ultra-compact, electronic data limiting electronic data to improve your business's efficiency. Transferable via email or disk, the files provide an easy PostalOne! Gateway. Increase mail flexibility dramatically by allowing for last-minute changes in pieceweight, work status details, or appointment information. BCC Mail Manager users can now submit the most up-to-date working details without expensive third-party Mail.that packages to use. * Mail.that is a trademark or registered trademark of IDEAlliance Key features New Update feature provides greater work-detail accuracy with no additional software packages required Replace versacial USPS® reports in paper form Maintain consistent data file formats Easily connect to PostalOne! System Supports First Class™, Standard Mail®, Package Services, and Time Rooms We often hear the term Mail.dat in the mail industry, but what exactly is it, and why is it important? Mail.dat is an industry standard database file set consisting of detailed preceding mail information based on specifications provided by the International Digital Enterprises Alliance (IDEAlliance) (. Mail.dat is a group of files that together represents virtually all detailed information regarding an email with the exception of the names and addresses of the recipients. It was created during the preceded process by the pre-made software or MLOCR (multiple line optical character browser) machines and consists of data elements in a readually comfortable format. Mail.that is the primary format of data files accepted by the Us Postal Service for exchange of electronic mail information. In order to use Mail.dat, you must apply for a user license code of IDEAlliance, which involves paying a nominal fee. Currently there are hundreds of licensed Mail.that users including mailers, software providers, service providers, publishers, systems integrators, and the USPS. The screen shot below shows a typical Mail.that file sets as viewed in Windows File Explorer.Listing from Unzipped Mail.that file sets. Each set of Mail.that may contain files up to 21 files. Each Mail.that set represents one post. When the ZIP file 0012811.zip (expanded in above screen shot), it contains the files 0012811.XXX with XXX which hdr, seg, mpu, mpu, mpa, cpt, csm, cqt, pqt, pdr. These cryptic file extensions represent the type of file:· HDR is the Header file, which contains basic information about the post.· SEG is the Segment file, describing the different segments of a postwork, such as different versions of the postpiece.) MPU is the Mail Piece Unit file, which is the mailpiece described.) MCR is the Mail Piece Unit/Component Relationship file, which of the different postal piece components relating to the postal piece units.· MPA is the Mailer Post accounting file, describing how the post office pays, permit numbers, etc. CPT is the component file, which describes each component containing the postal piece, e.g. statement, insert, envelope.· CSM is the Container Summary File that separates each container (e.g. bag, tray, palette) of mail generated during the pre-trespass process.· CQT is the container quantity file, which counts the piece within each container of mail.· PQT is the Package Quantity file, which counts the piece within each package or bundled from postage pieces.· PDR is the Piece Detail Record file, which includes specific identification data for each piece in the mail. Mail.that files must contain either a PDR file or a PBC file, which is the Piece Barcode file. The PBC files include the Intelligent Mail barcode data for each email piece. There are additional extension names that can be included if that post needed it. There are currently 10 files necessary for each Mail.dat file set, with up to 21 files available if necessary. The Mail.that set contains only the files needed to describe the mailing. For a full description of all the files, consult the IDEAlliance Mail.that provides specification to provides you and your mail partners with all the information needed to automate postal declaration preparation, improve transport planning, speed mail acceptance and verification, and manage postal advice data. Using Mail.that to create and exchange electronic documents with the USPS enables mailers to significantly benefit from streamlining production and optimization of mailage discounts such as drop shipping. Mail.that files also facilitate changes to the original mail plan as defined during the presort process. The prescribed process is often performed days or even weeks before the actual postal date. That original preort plan can change during that timeframe. Post-presort software allows email preparers to make edits to the Mail.that files to reflect those changes. For example, the weight of the mail pieces is estimated at the time of presort, and that data should change the to the actual weight of the pieces once they are prepared. Another common example divides a jobwork into smaller, more manageable portions. This can be done for production reasons, or perhaps to stagger the post work over several days to accommodate better control over the in-house delivery date. Regardless of the reason, these partial emails can be identified and read to PostalOne! to accurately reflect what is physically posted every day. These are just two examples; there are many edits and additional processes that can be performed using the Mail.dat file and post-presort software. Mail.that Among all parties involved in a MailingBecause Mail.that files standardized, mail owners, list processors, letter shops, and transport companies can – with the right Mail.dating software to read and manage these files – easily decode and send the mail production and postage information containing the files. When Mail.dating files are available, all parties involved in a mail preparation can pre-prepare and allocate the correct resources for each work. Mail.that connects the bridge that not only connects a variety of in-house lettershop/mail service provider applications, but also connects the lettershop to its customers and of course to the USPS. Jeff Peoples is CEO Window Book.This article originally appeared in the March/April, 2020 issue of Mailing Systems Technology. License Code This is the IDEAlliance code provided by ACS Technology. It is a 4 character, alphanumeric code that always starts with a letter and is case sensitive. Contact Support at 1-800-669-2509 or via email to get this information. Contact Name, Telephone, and E-mail The name and contact information of the individual preparing this post. Contact the Post Office to get this information. Name The name of the post office where you will submit your post. Zip + 4 Code The Zip + 4 Code the post office where you will submit your post. This field must be a 9-digit, Zip +4 Code and may differ from the Mail Drop Zip Code. Version Select to either generate the 12-2 or 13-1 version of Mail.dating files to PostalOne!. Piece records Choose PBC (Piece of Barcode), PDR (Piece Detail Record), or both: PBC - The Piece of Barcode Record. Select this option to provide the barcode information used on each sorted postal piece. The PBC meets the requirements for Full Service, but is more streamlined than the PDR. The PBC option is selected by default when you create a new template. PDR - The piece of detail record. Select this option to produce a file (.pdr) when you generate the Mail.dat file. The .pdr file provides detailed information about each sorted postal piece, including any barcode on the piece, carrier route information, and more. This file is not required for USPS PostalOne! Submissions. PBC and PDR – Choose this option to produce both a PBC and a PDR file. What is Mail.that used for? Mail.that provides the most accurate basis of mail documentation and more. The information in the Mail.that files are extremely useful in mail document preparation, mail authentication and acceptance, electronic data storage, reporting, and transport planning. For example, the data can be used to create all the documentation required by the Postal Service™ for the mail, including: postal statements, PS-8125 drop-shipping forms, Qualification Manifest Postal System Reports, Reports, and tray labels, as well as palette posters. Mail.that facilitates electronic authentication and acceptance of the mail, as well as the electronic archive and retrieval of previous poststatements and data. Mail.that feeds sophisticated reporting to USPS, letter store clients, and internal departments. Mail.that also suggests more efficient transport planning. Why not just use the postal documents generated by the presort? Mailers use the Mail.that files generated by the presort as the basis for mail documentation, rather than the documentation generated by preceding software or equipment, for many reasons: To save on printing and shipping costs and avoid delays. Mailers can reduce costs and avoid releasing the mail when the presort is carried out at a different location than email preparation. A service bureau or email owner may manage the pre-crated software, while a letter shop or printing company can prepare and release the mail. Instead of printing out all the hardcopy documentation and sending it to the mail facility, the Mail.dat files can be shared electronically, and the documentation can then be printed on the remote site. To speed up acceptance and improve quality control when changes occur. Generate mail documentation from Mail.that data becomes even more useful when changes such as changes in pieceweights, advertising percentages and piece scores are required after a postwork. Changes can be made to the Mail.that files are made without leaving the pres. These changes can then be easily and accurately reflected in the mail documentation without performing handouts. For example, in order to use pre-chosen software, the weight of the postpiece should often be estimated; however, the actual weight of the final piece can then differ from the estimate. By editing the piece weight in the Mail.dat file before launching the documentation, the accurate weight is captured. Also, in Periodic mails, the ad percentage often requires similar, last-minute changes that can change the final mail calculations. These changed advertising percentages can be easily accommodated by editing the Mail.dat files before a generation of mail documentation. One last example is an unforeseen event on the production floor, such as piece spoils or from forms, after the preceding plan is complete. In these cases, piece scores can be changed in the Mail.dat file, in accordance with USPS rules and regulations, to accurately account for the changes. All of these examples clearly show how using Mail.that controls your email quality and speed acceptance of the mail can improve. To speed up delivery and/or save money via drop-sent. Another common change that after pres. The trays, bags and/or palettes in a postwork can be drop-ship in order to speed up delivery and receive additional postal discount. Mail.that files contain all the information necessary to determine which postal facilities the postal facilities the post is eligible to fall at. From the different entry points, mailers can choose which one preferably for their specific circumstances. The decision may be a desire to involve delivery, save postal costs or a combination of these factors. The entry points can be edited in the Mail.dat files so that the mail documentation reflects these changes, without re-suggesting the name and address files. Larger, more sophisticated mailers may even use the Mail.that data to automatically optimize the entry point choices by comparing shipping costs to postage savings and only select places where savings outweigh the cost of shipping. To take advantage of the flexibility to split and merge emails. Mailers often find it necessary to work with only part of a mail or with multiple mails at once. For example, a predetermined postal work may include more than a million pieces, but the printing facility may only produce 300,000 pieces per day, which requires the work to be released over a few days. Post Office statements and other documentation may be necessary for the mail released on every day, but the aforegoing software generates this information only for the whole work. Using the Mail.that files, the email preparer can choose only that section that is actually produced on any given day and produces the required forms. The Mail.that files can also be useful when almost the opposite situation occurs. Sometimes several pre-selected work is required for a single post because several versions need to be produced in separate production runs. If released on the same day with the same permit information, it can be beneficial to create consolidated documentation. Consolidation of various jobs can even involve co-palletization, where trays or bags from various jobs are combined on general pallets. This further increases the opportunity for drop-shipping eligibility, which could mean additional cost savings for you and your clients. To save space and money by reducing paper documentation and storage The Qualification Reports can be submitted electronically to the Postal Service, instead of in hardcopy form because Mail.that is recognised by the USPS as an approved format for the electronic submission of mail information via the USPS PostalOne!® programme. The PostalOne!® program also includes electronic mail payment for some classes of mail. As the USPS move forward with the PostalOne! Program, all email types will be available for electronic payment. This eliminates the need for printed post office statements. Postalone! also expect to mail tracking and drop-ship appointment scheduling. Can First Class First Class benefit from using Mail.that? First-class emails enjoy reduced paperwork and labor by Mail.that use. Mail.that provides a main way to access the USPS PostalOne! Program. While many realize that Mail.that offers significant benefits to people mailing Standard Mail™-especially drop-ship discounts and the ability to communicate electronically with supply chain partners—the Mail.dating file also provides those mail First-Class Mail™ an opportunity to exchange mail information electronically with the Mail service. First-class mailers – both manifest and communicated pre-added mails – can make use of the same benefits for email documentation and email that exist for Standard and Periodic mailers. (See below for a summary of Mail.that Benefits by class of mail.) Several large telecom and utility companies use Mail.dat to manage manifestation systems to document their first-class posts. At least two suppliers of Multi Line Optical Character Browser (MLOCR) ancestors have shown the ability to mail.that files that can be used to drive a number of programs. The Mail.that format is widely available for first-class mailers in both manifest and multi-line presort environments. Discuss these options with your software and pre-spirited varrors. The benefits of reduced paperwork and labour for electronic documentation and payment, coupled with the ability to know where your post is truly in the mailtream, provides considerable added value services for your clients. Summary of Mail.that Benefits by Class of Mail. First-class Periodic Standard Mail Package Services Manifest Mailings • • Constituent Pre-owned cells • • Save Documentation Printing & Shipping • • Reduce Paper & Storage costs • • • • Speed Acceptance • • • Ac Post-pre-record changes • • • Split and/or Merge postage • • Drop-Ship: Speed delivery • • Drop-Ship: Savings money • Integrate with PostalOne! • • • How can the use of Mail.that improve Surface and Aerial Visibility? In the future, Mail.will be used to provide greater surface and aerial visibility. Using Mail.that files, First-class mailers can exchange electronically mail information related to product visibility, including the PLANET Code/4CB, EDL (Improve/24 digit tray label), and MTEL (Mail Transport Equipment Label). This app, in some cases enhanced with PostalOne! Transport distribution and routing (D&R) labels will eventually offer end-to-end container visibility that includes surface and air transport scans. As the USPS increases these offers, Mail.that stands ready to support their extensive use by mailers. Do Manifest Mailers from Standard Mail and Package Services Need Mail.that? Yes. Mail.that makes it easier to manifest Standard Mail and Package Services. Participants in USPS Manifests Mailing System (MMS) that prepares classes of mail other than First Class, such as Standard Mail and Package Services, may also benefit from using Mail.that. The Mail.that supports the representation of fixed and floating batch of manifests, as well as itinemed manifests. How do I use Mail.dat data to perform the functions described above? Use post-presort software for Mail.that processing. Mail.that provides the information necessary to perform the functions discussed above, but Mail.that alone does not perform these functions. Post-presort software is needed to use the Mail.that information to its full extent. Packaged software applications are available from various vendors specializing in Mail.that functionality. Property applications developed in the house are also very useful. These applications usually allow you to do the following at least: Import Mail.dat files, Validate the information to ensure that it meets the basic industry-standard format specifications. View and edit the files in a more user-friendly environment. After any changes to the Mail.dat data is made, the post-presort software generates the required mail documentation to file the inbox. Why should presorters generate Mail.that files? As the industry standard, Mail.that enables individual mailers and the mailing community, at large, to function more efficiently and cost-effectively. When presorters generate Mail.dat files for their posts, they increase the opportunities for mailers and others in the production chain to take advantage of this highly useful information. As this data becomes more widely available, its use will continue to grow in letter stores, printing facilities, logistics companies and among mail owners themselves. Since greater efficiency is achieved by using Mail.that data, cost and processing time will be widely reduced, for the benefit of everyone participating in the mailing community. Idealliance 1600 Duke Street, Suite 420 Alexandria, VA 22314-2805 Tel: 703.837.1070 E-mail: info@idealliance.org www.idealliance.org Mail.that is a registered trademark of International Digital Enterprise Alliance, Inc. © 2001-2014 Idealance Incorporated. Recorded.