

# Foy's EPICS Events

Extrusion Production Information and Control System

January 2012 \* Volume 16, Issue 1



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## 2012 EPICS USER CONFERENCE



The annual EPICS User Conference is rapidly approaching. This year's session, with a theme of **Focus on the Future**, will be held on April 15-18, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The *New York – New York Hotel* will be the site of this popular gathering.

As the extrusion market starts to recover, it is critical that extruders prepare for the recovery by increasing their efficiency and enhancing their customer service. The EPICS User Conference will concentrate on these two aspects of the business.



One of the greatest values of the EPICS User Conference is the opportunity to network with other EPICS users. You will almost certainly find someone who has already solved the problem you have. Conference attendees always take home numerous tips from the dozens of other EPICS users present. Last year we set aside time

in each day's proceedings to divide into discussion groups, each addressing specific topics. We will repeat these very popular sessions this year.

Detailed information about the EPICS User Conference, including a registration page, can be found on the Foy Inc website, [www.foyinc.com](http://www.foyinc.com). The full conference brochure can be downloaded [here](#). And be sure to book your hotel reservations at [this special site](#).

## EPICS V8.18 UPDATE FEATURES MANY ENHANCEMENTS

The EPICS V8.18 update will be released next week. It includes ten items that were requested by users on the 2011 Wishlist, along with numerous other enhancements. The major changes are summarized in the following article. Detailed information about these changes can be found in the EPICS Help file that will be installed with the V8.18 update.

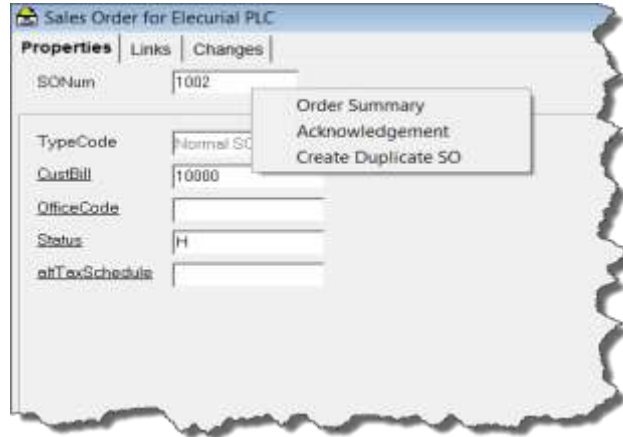
Here are the items contained in this update. Numbers refer to ranking on the 2011 Wishlist:

**#4 – Copy Routings**

You can now use the Copy and Paste functions to duplicate a routing. This will be most valuable when creating a routing that is similar to another one, since you can copy/paste, then enter the differences prior to executing the change.

**#5 – Duplicate Orders**

A new option when right-clicking on a Sales Order number takes you to a screen that allows duplicating that Sales Order. This feature is a great time-saver when entering reoccurring large orders from major customers.



**#7 – Display Total Days on Routings**

When displaying the Routings after right-clicking on a routing name, two new columns now show the number of days for each routing, both normal and rush.

Routing	Category	Days	Rush	Dept01	Dept02	Dept
TYPEXTRUSION	ANODIZING	9	4	ORDER	EXTRUDE-FAR	AGE
COM PAINT	COM	9	8	ORDER	RECEIVE	PAIK
RECUT	CUTBACK	12	6	ORDER	EXTRUDE-FAR	AGE
CHAMFER	FAB	14	9	ORDER	EXTRUDE-FAR	AGE
CUT+DEBUR	FAB	17	11	ORDER	EXTRUDE-FAR	AGE
CUT/DEBUR/ASSY	FAB	22	16	ORDER	EXTRUDE-FAR	AGE
DEBUR/ASSY	FAB	19	14	ORDER	EXTRUDE-FAR	AGE
TUMBLE	FAB	17	11	ORDER	EXTRUDE-FAR	AGE
KIT	KIT	3	2	ORDER	KIT-FAR	PAK
MILL	MILL	9	4	ORDER	EXTRUDE-FAR	AGE

**#8 – Additional “Print Manifest” buttons**

For ease of navigation, Print Manifest buttons have been added to the Maintain Manifests, Post Shipments, and Enhanced Shipping screens.

**#9 – Right-click to display production postings**

Just by right-clicking on an SOItem number, you can now choose to display all production postings that have been entered against that item.

**#10 – Change Log report**

This new standard report lists all changes made to a record. You can select the changes to be listed by a wide range of criteria.

**#14 – Longer Routing names**

Routing names had previously been limited to 16 characters. This update increased the names to 24 characters. (We considered longer names, but numerous screens and reports precluded more characters.)

**#15 – Allow packing even when weight appears to be dramatically off.**

In some cases, such as when packing fill-and-debridge products or fabricated parts, you may want to ship items even when EPICS thinks the weight is substantially wrong. You can now allow such cases if the proper password is entered.

**#18 – Find Routings using QBE**

From the Routing screen, you can now enter one or more departments and then display all routings that include those departments.

**#56 – More User Fields**

User fields have been added to the PickList table in the Enhanced Shipping Module.

**“EPICS Mobile” screens available for Enhanced Shipping Module**

New scanner-aware screens can now be utilized by wireless smart scanners used in Shipping. If you connect to EPICS as a Windows Terminal, these screens will be automatically utilized. This feature eliminates the need to custom-design screens for each brand of scanner.

**Improved EPICS performance on low-bandwidth networks**

Remote terminals, especially those running on low-bandwidth networks, should see a performance increase using V8.18. Please contact Foy Inc for more information on this feature.

**OPTALEX Enhancement**

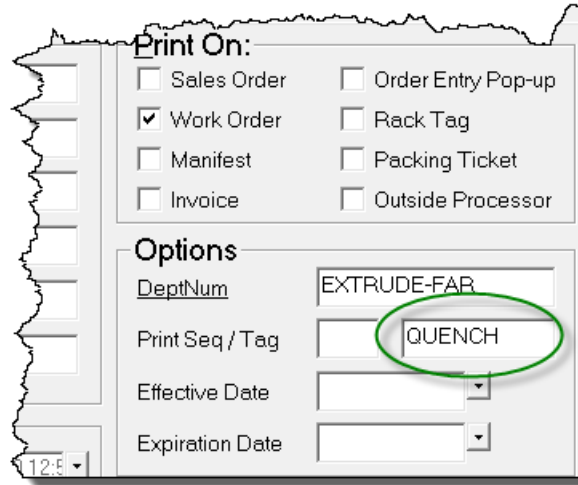
If you have OPTALEX on your presses, you now have a “Set as Active Job” button on the operator’s screen.

**Identify “Orphaned” tickets**

The shipping scan screens now highlights tickets belonging to SOItems with a status of **G** (Invoiced Complete) or **H** (Ready to Delete.) Additionally, the “Ready To Ship” report now has a parameter that creates an exception report of these tickets. (You will need to download the revised report from [www.foyinc.com](http://www.foyinc.com).)

**Use Tags to locate Notes on reports**

The new Notes and Alerts feature introduced in V8.16 greatly expanded your control of when notes are displayed. But fine-tuning exactly where certain notes should appear on a document can be difficult. For example, You might create notes related to press quench, but these notes would be grouped with all other Extrusion department notes on the workorder.



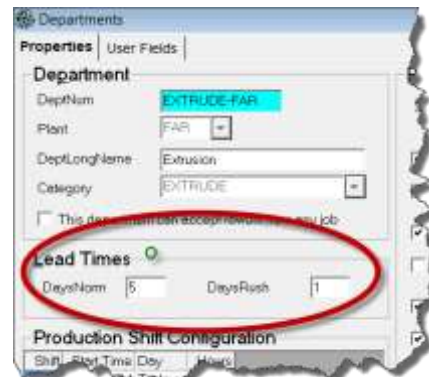
The V8.18 update adds a new Tag field to the Notes and Alerts screen, and adds a *NoteTag* lookup table to hold the tags you create. You can therefore locate notes on a report according to the Tag.

Of course, you will need to edit your workorder or other documents (using Crystal Reports) in order to use this capability.

**Auto-enter Production Date at Order Entry**

At Order Entry, you have always been able to enter a Production Date (Extrusion Date) and EPICS then uses the days specified in the Department table for each downstream department to calculate a shipping date. So order entry personnel must constantly calculate a Production date by adding the current extrusion backlog days to today's date.

The V8.18 update adds a new feature to automatically calculate the Production Date. Instead of entering a Production Date, the user can type <Ctrl>E and EPICS will add the DaysNorm for the Extrude department to today's date to calculate a Production Date. If your policy is to use a Friday date (to group extrusion dates into "Week Of" groups) then you can type <Ctrl>F instead.



In order for this feature to be effective, production lead control personnel should regularly update the Lead Time fields for the Extrusion department, as shown on the right.

An easy way to remember these shortcuts is to use <Ctrl>**E** for **E**xtrusion date or <Ctrl>**F** for a **F**riday date.

### **Additional Method of Calculating Actual Wt/Ft**

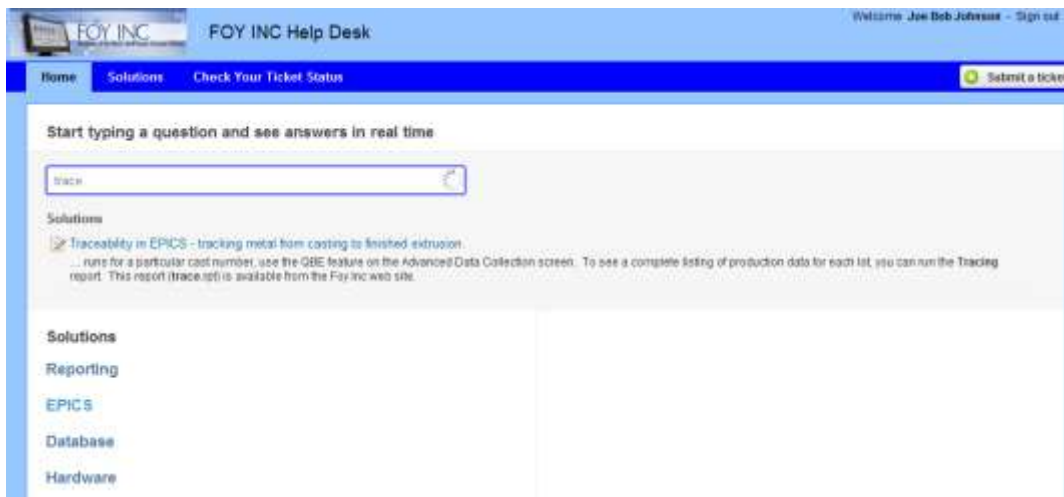
EPICS has always allowed two methods of posting Sample Weight (ActWt) when entering press production. You can enter the weight of a 1 foot sample, or you can enter a piece-count and length, and EPICS will calculate the wt/ft.

Effective with the V8.18 update, you can skip the Sample Weight entry, causing EPICS to use the Good Pieces entries (Length, Pieces, and Weight) to calculate the Sample Weight value. This feature may be activated by selecting both the Good Pieces and Good Weight posting flags on the Extrusion Department screen.

### **FOY INSTITUTES NEW HELPDESK SOFTWARE**

Customer service has always been the top priority for Foy Inc. To help us maintain our history of quick, informed response to your needs, we have installed new helpdesk software. When you send email to [help@foyinc.com](mailto:help@foyinc.com), a ticket number is automatically assigned to your email, and the entire Foy staff is notified of your question. If someone does not reply in a specified time period, the ticket is highlighted on a hot-list. If the ticket results in an exchange of emails, you are able to track the discussion on the web, using a link included with all our responses.

As tickets are resolved, we convert selected ones to a "Solution", which appear on a Knowledgebase-like section of our web Help Desk.



You can check out the new Help Desk site at [foyinc.freshdesk.com](http://foyinc.freshdesk.com).

**FOLLOW FOY INC ON FACEBOOK**

You can now communicate with the Foy staff as well as other EPICS users on the Foy Inc Facebook page. Check us out [here](#), or at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Foy-Inc/114419065922>

**NEW EPICS CUSTOMERS**

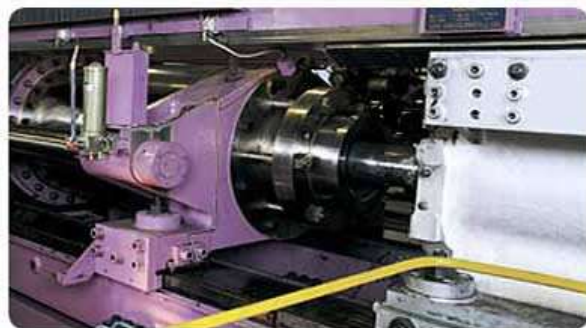
Three more extruders have purchased EPICS since the last newsletter was published. There are now 96 extrusion plants using EPICS to help run their operations.

**NIGALEX (Nigeria Aluminum Extrusions Ltd)** has purchased the EPICS Enterprise Edition. They are located in the Nigerian capital city of Lagos. Their team attended the EPICS training sessions in September.



**Claridge Products** also attended EPICS training classes in September. They have installed the EPICS Basic Edition at their plant in Harrison, Arkansas. Claridge specializes in visual display products, including the whiteboards that you probably have in your conference room.

**Anaheim Extrusion Company**, in Anaheim, California, has purchased the multi-plant version of EPICS. They will use this edition to help run their operations at Anaheim and at **Universal Moulding**. Their sister plants already utilize EPICS at facilities in Indiana (Patrick Metals) and in Texas (International Extrusions.)



**EPICS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Numerous EPICS training opportunities are available over the next few months. EPICS classroom training sessions are held at the Foy Inc offices in Farmersville, Texas. They are available on the following dates:

February 13-16  
March 12-15

A one-day training class will be held on April 18 in conjunction with the annual EPICS User Conference, in Las Vegas.

A two-day training session on **Beginning Report Writing** will be held on May 26-27. This class is only conducted once or twice a year, so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

**One Hour Webinars** are scheduled as follows:

January 31 Chemical Compositions and Test Certs  
February 7 Production Specs  
February 21 Stock Inventory  
February 28 Everything Pricing  
March 6 EPICS Basics  
March 20 Die Oven Management

You can find detailed information on all of these training opportunities on the [Foy Inc web site](#).



**EPICS CUSTOMER LIST**

*On any given day  
EPICS is helping over 14,000 people  
at 96 extrusion plants around the world.*

Aacoa Extrusions – Niles, Michigan  
Aerolite Extrusion – Youngstown, Ohio  
Alenco – Bryan, Texas  
Almag Aluminum Inc. – Brampton, Ontario  
Altec – Jeffersonville, Indiana  
Aluminio de Baja California (ABC) – Tijuana, Mexico  
Aluminio de Centro America – San Salvador, El Salvador  
Aluminio Del Caribe – San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Aluminum Extrusions Inc – Senatobia, Miss.  
American Aluminum Extrusions of Ohio – Canton, Ohio  
American Aluminum Extrusions of Wisconsin – Beloit, WI  
Anaheim Extrusions (UMEX) – Anaheim, California  
APEL Extrusions Ltd. – Calgary, Alberta  
APEL Extrusions – Portland, Oregon  
Apex Aluminum Extrusions – Langley, BC, Canada  
Arch Aluminum – Miami, Florida  
Architectural & Metal Systems – Cork, Ireland  
Ascend Custom Extrusions – Wylie, Texas  
Astro Shapes – Struthers, Ohio  
Benada Aluminum – Medley, Florida  
Bristol Aluminum – Levittown, Pennsylvania  
Briteline Extrusions – Summerville, S. Carolina  
BRT Extrusions – Niles, Ohio  
CanArt – Brampton, Ontario  
Capral Extrusions – Angaston, Australia  
Capral Extrusions – Penrith, Australia  
CanArt – Tecumseh, Ontario  
Central Aluminum – Columbus, Ohio  
Claridge Products – Harrison, Arkansas  
Crown Extrusions, Chaska, Minnesota  
Crystal Extrusion Systems – Union, Missouri  
Extrudex – Weston, Ontario  
Extrudex – Bernières, Quebec  
Extrudex – North Jackson, Ohio  
FISA – Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Frontier Aluminum – Corona, California  
G. James – Brisbane, Australia  
G. James – Sydney, Australia  
Hulamin – Pietermaritzburg, South Africa  
Hulamin – Capetown, South Africa  
Hulamin – Olifantsfontein, South Africa  
Independent Extrusions (INEX) – Hamilton, New Zealand  
Independent Extrusions (INEX) – Brisbane, Australia  
Independent Extrusions (INEX) – Melbourne, Australia  
International Extrusions – Garden City, Michigan  
International Extrusion Corp. (UMEX) – Waxahachie, Texas  
Jalex – Kingston, Jamaica  
Keymark Corporation – Fonda, New York  
Keymark Corporation – Lakeland, Florida  
Keymark Corporation – Orlando, Florida  
LCI – Goshen, Indiana  
MI Metals, Inc - Smyrna, Tennessee  
MI Metals, Inc – Millersburg, Pennsylvania  
MI Metals, Inc – Oldsmar, Florida  
MI Metals, Inc – Prescott Valley, Arizona  
Mid-America Extrusions – Indianapolis, Indiana  
Midwest Aluminum – Withee, Wisconsin  
Nanshan America – Lafayette, Indiana  
Nigalex – Lagos, Nigeria  
Non-Ferrous Extrusion – Houston, Texas  
Oldcastle (Vista Wall Arch. Products) – Midway, Tennessee  
Oldcastle (Vista Wall Arch. Products) – Terrell, Texas  
Orrvilon (Holtec) – Orrville, Ohio  
Patrick Metals (UMEX) – Mishawaka, Indiana  
Pennex – Leetonia, Ohio  
Pennex – Wellsville, Pennsylvania  
Perfiles de Aluminio. – San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Postal Aluminum – Cassopolis, Michigan  
Press Metals – Cumming, Georgia  
Pries Enterprises – Independence, Iowa  
PT Alumindo Perkasa – Jakarta, Indonesia  
PT Indal – Surabaya, Indonesia  
Profile Extrusions – Rome, Georgia  
Profile (RJS Precision Ext.) – Phoenix, Arizona  
Schimmer Metal – Bangkok, Thailand  
Selaco Aluminium – Johar, Malaysia  
Service Center Metals – Prince George, Virginia  
Sierra Aluminum – Fontana, California  
Silver City Aluminum – Taunton, Mass  
Sierra Aluminum – Riverside, California  
Spectra Aluminum – Woodbridge, Ontario  
Star Extruded Shapes, Canfield, Ohio  
Superior Extrusion – Gwinn, Michigan  
Superior Metal Shapes – Chino, California  
Sun Valley Extrusions – Los Angeles, California  
Tecnoglass – Barranquilla, Columbia  
Taber Extrusions – Gulfport, Mississippi  
Taber Extrusions – Russellville, Arkansas  
Tifton Extrusions – Tifton, Georgia  
Tri-City Extrusion – Bristol, Tennessee  
Tubelite – Reed City, Michigan  
Universal Molding (UMEX) – Downey, California  
Vitex – Franklin, New Hampshire  
Wakefield Engineering – Pelham, New Hampshire  
Western Extrusion – Carrolton, Texas  
Zarbana Industries – Columbiana, Ohio

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