

Banner 8 Upgrade FAQ's

September 10, 2009

Question 1: How will Banner 8.x patches be addressed?

We will apply only the patches that correspond to NMSU's Banner installation. There is currently a patch list available at our Banner 8 website at <http://banner.nmsu.edu>.

Sungard patches are released as fixes for certain conditions and often break features if applied when not needed. ICT depends on the functional experts to determine whether a problem exists and a patch fixes the problem. Once it is determined that a patch is needed, please send an email to uno_projects@nmsu.edu with the request to apply it.

Patches will be applied to both development and production instances.

Question 2: What is the version of Banner 8.x that will be applied at the time of migration?

From the information made available by Sungard at present, the intention is to upgrade to the 8.2 version of most modules, except Financial Aid. A final determination will be done about a month before the final switch over to Banner 8.

Question 3: What is the cut-off for applying Banner 7 patches and upgrades?

There is no specific cut-off date for applying Sungard delivered upgrades. We will hold everything for the last few weeks before the transition (Mid February onwards) to give DBA some time for test runs.

There is, however, a cutoff date for any NMSU product upgrades that are not critical.

- A) No more new products, only upgrade existing NMSU products.
- B) No new features on existing products after July 1.
- C) Only critical upgrades/patches in NMSU developed products until January 1.
- D) All NMSU developed upgrades/patches after Jan 1 will be developed for Banner 8. If they also apply to Banner 7, then they will be installed in Banner 7, too. Otherwise, we do workarounds in Banner 7.

Appworx jobs do not need to follow these rules. These will be determined on a case by case basis.

Question 4: What do we do about any current RPE's that have not been resolved?

There are two options:

- a). Determine if Banner 8 will resolve the issue at hand
- b). Inquire with Sungard to see if the issue has been addressed

Question 5: Are there many changes with Banner 8?

No. The upgrade itself no. However, the UTF8 conversion for accepting special characters and other languages, yes. It will take a big effort to test all that we have currently out there, like other systems or 3rd party software. The majority of changes exist within the Student module.

Question 6: Is there a list of the special characters that we will be allowed to enter?

At the moment, this has not been determined. However, we will notify our University community as the list becomes available. We are currently following up with SunGard.

Question 7: Are there any issues with the upgrade from other schools?

We spoke to Drexel University and they maintained databases for other colleges. Drexel was part of the beta testers for the Banner 8 Implementation and have been live for a long time. There were some issues with the C programming. We will follow up with a school that has recently upgraded to Banner 8 and ask if they encountered any issues with the upgrade.

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Question 8: How will telephone numbers and zip codes be affected?

The following are examples of telephone, zip code, and currency differences:

BANNER7	BANNER8
SPRTELE_PHONE_AREA VARCHAR2(3 BYTE)	VARCHAR2(6 CHAR)
SPRTELE_PHONE_NUMBER VARCHAR2(7 BYTE)	VARCHAR2(12 CHAR)
SPRTELE_PHONE_EXT VARCHAR2(4 BYTE)	VARCHAR2(10 CHAR)
SPRADDR_ZIP VARCHAR2(10 BYTE)	VARCHAR2(30 CHAR)
GURFEED_TRANS_AMT NUMBER(12,2)	NUMBER(17,2)

Question 9: Since the currency fields will be lengthened, will the amount passed into GURFEED be affected?

The following was extracted from Banner 8 FAQ's documentation from SunGard:

Monetary and Currency Rate Field Expansion. All monetary fields in Banner Finance will be extended to a single common format of 17 digits, including two decimal places. This will allow the system to accept higher monetary values, which is particularly critical for large budget schools in year-end roll-ups and also for international schools dealing with large currency values. The Currency Rate field will be expanded to seven decimal positions to allow for more accurate currency conversion calculations.

Expanding Finance and General currency amount fields that are currently 11,12 and 13 precision to 17,2.

To help customers address the rapidly changing, competitive global environment, the Banner 8 UPR will provide support for international characters and expanded name, address, telephone number, and identifier fields that adhere to Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) and US Postal Service standards. In addition to these expanded bio-demographic fields, the Banner 8 UPR will also provide support for longer currency amount fields in Banner General and Banner Finance.