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In 1997 busHive™, then known as Easybus, began as a program with three screens that a mechanic with no computer experience could navigate. Both the company and the product were branded to convey this simplicity. Little did we dream that this simple system would blossom into a sophisticated software platform for tracking virtually all aspects of transportation for both school bus and motorcoach operations. In fact, our training today is rarely limited to just one mechanic as it was in 1997; since the software touches nearly all aspects of a transportation department, we provide a 30 day trial that allows the entire staff to put our platform to the test.

We are proud of the reputation that not only our software but also our people have earned in our first 18 years. However we have decided to update the brand so that it captures the scaled elegance that our software offers to bus operators of all kinds. In this spirit, our company and our single flagship software that replaces all former Easy-programs will be known simply as busHive™. We believe this name conveys the elegance of a single software platform that can effectively organize the workflows of an entire transportation operation.

We invite you to try our software and support today and experience the benefits of utilizing a state-of-the-art software platform for your bus operation.

Visit www.bushive.com
Charter management

By Brian Mann

Over nearly 20 years our software suite has expanded and evolved in three core areas that help organize and manage motorcoach charter reservations, driver compliance and vehicle preventative maintenance. Our focus has always been on creating easy-to-use platforms that are seamless for all day-to-day operations.

As of this year, the three modules are packaged as one centralized system with the goal to help coach companies operate more efficiently in all business functions, i.e. sales, fleet and driver allocation, payroll, customer billing and driver and vehicle compliance.

The busHive software addresses charter management through its flexible, customizable capabilities. While the basic functions are essentially the same for most motorcoach companies, their methods and workflow can differ significantly. The key is to work closely with clients to evaluate and understand the needs of their specific operations, and adapt the technology accordingly.

A solid motorcoach management system provider works very closely with clients evaluating their needs, while also staying in tune with the latest technology and development.

For instance, with busHive operators are able to customize the program to fit their billing and pay rates without changing how they have always run their business. It is business as usual, but with more organization and essential data within reach. The company has access to more than 90 separate reports. The program calls for essential benchmarks such as revenue per vehicle, as well as a profit and loss analysis for every reservation.

The program aids in charter management in very specific ways, beginning with the quote request platform which makes repetitive data entry less of a drudgery.

“We have grown in size 300 percent over the past four years,” says Gilles Beaudin from DanNel Transportation, St Catharines, ON, Canada. “All charter and invoicing was all done manually before the introduction of busHive. Having grown in the school bus, wine tours, airport transfers, private charters and shuttle services, we had to find more efficient ways of operating. Without the use of this software we would not have been able to keep up with the quotes and requests for confirmed bookings and invoicing. Charter reservations have grown by 128 percent from 2013-2015, year over year.”

Once the end-user receives a charter request they can generate a quote with one simple click. The software also sends confirmations and customer copies of new contracts.

The dispatch function features a color-coordinated system that clearly shows driver and vehicle availability and any conflicts, sending prompts to the user. The system displays a driver's hours of service and says whether or not that particular driver will be put into overtime by taking the assignment. The program can calculate the arrival time at the destination for the customer from the time of pick up.

The safety module tracks personnel and vehicle compliance, monitors all federal, state and company requirements to keep safety managers up to date, and tracks infractions such as traffic citations, recordable accidents and customer complaints, as well as absences and tardiness.

The new PC Miler feature monitors mileage and generates quarterly IFTA reports that keep fleet managers up-to-date with preventative maintenance. Fleet managers can pull vehicles out of service and alert dispatchers. Safety managers can track all DOT requirements, training classes and infractions.

The busHive program addresses the problems that coach companies of every size confront. One northeastern motorcoach carrier says the busHive program has helped the company achieve more through accurate pricing.

“We now able to bill the actual amount of the charter bill and not deal with estimates,” says a company representative. “Accurate dispatching that shows fleet and driver availability prevents overbooking.”

Another operator in the southwest U.S. appreciates the program's capability to track vehicle costs.

“busHive tells us if we are spending too much for maintenance for any one vehicle,” he says. “We can see exactly where and how the bus is costing more to maintain than the revenue it is generating. We know more precisely to get of rid a vehicle that is no longer performing.”

The program is user friendly and rarely requires onsite training. Implementation of the software may vary from seven to 30 days, depending on the size of the company and which busHive programs are being set up.

Brian Mann serves as director of sales and marketing for busHive, Ballston Lake, NY, a sophisticated software platform for tracking virtually all aspects of transportation for both school bus and motorcoach operations.

Visit www.bushive.com
busHive provides a seamless fleet management solution

By Brian Mann

busHive maintenance software helps operators of every size to track their preventative maintenance and operational expenses to better manage costs and decrease expenses. Its flexible system enables a company to track federal, state and company maintenance requirements. As manufacturers’ recommendations vary, busHive has the capability to track preventative maintenance and service by mileage, hour, day and month. For example, customized warning intervals warn a fleet manager up to 30 days in advance to renew vehicle registrations, or 5,000 miles in advance of an oil change.

The system can also manage varying maintenance schedules for different vehicle types, such as minibuses, full size motorcoaches and school buses. Operators know that proactive preventative maintenance is the best practice to prevent roadside repairs and unscheduled maintenance. As everyone knows all too well, a commercial vehicle is not generating revenue if it’s not on the road.

Where tracking parts and labor costs for every vehicle in the fleet is a critical task, a reliable fleet management system provides operations with a comprehensive overview of all maintenance expenses that helps the company get them under control and plan more effectively.

Reporting tools for fleet managers provide the information they need through work orders, maintenance checklists, vehicle history, fuel usage and inventory levels. busHive reports provide the vital information that ultimately has an impact on the bottom line, such as the cost per mile to run each vehicle.

Based on a billing rate the software will provide a profit/loss statement for each charter factoring in the revenue generated by the reservation and deducting the cost to run the vehicle based on the mileage of the charter.

The maintenance module also incorporates other integrations with our charter system. It automatically updates the vehicle odometers to the latest mileage reading when the coach returns from a charter, and triggers any warnings for any upcoming preventative maintenance. It also improves communication between dispatchers and fleet managers. A fleet manager attempting to pull a vehicle out for service receives a notification if dispatch has already assigned that unit to a charter or line run. It also notifies the dispatcher not to send out a vehicle scheduled for maintenance on a specific date or date range.

busHive provides preventive maintenance tracking, inventory management, vehicle maintenance histories, fuel management, and brake and tire tracking. As a critical fleet management tool, it improves fleet safety efficiency, extends vehicle life cycles, predicts the optimum time and vehicle replacement, reduces vehicle downtime and saves money by tracking part and vehicle warranties.

As more and more bus and coach operations become data-driven, fleet managers must have all the tools to track and report all maintenance expenses with one seamless system, as opposed to two or three separate software programs that do not integrate.

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Driver and personnel compliance

By Brian Mann

Since 1997, busHive has provided a comprehensive personnel and driver training program that stands on its own as an industry solution in this area. A great number of operators use a mix of file folders, spreadsheets, calendars and post-it notes to tie together all the necessary information and data associated with driver record keeping.

busHive instead allows its users to track all personnel requirements in one location, making it a favorite among many safety managers and driver trainers.

The versatility available through busHive Personnel begins with the assorted personnel groups, which users can easily customize. The system can track any personnel type such as drivers, tour guides, bus monitors and mechanics, as well as office staff, with each group having its own list of requirements.

For example, driver qualifications are different from those for tour guides, meaning the operator can define the requirements and training regimen differently for each group.

Because many states have different requirements and qualifications, busHive has the flexibility to define both trainings and requirements for each and set unique warning schedules. Whether it is drug testing, behind the wheel refreshers or physicals, the system can manage them issue warnings to safety managers before the requirements are due and prevent their incurring fines.

busHive can also track attendance, a feature incorporating a color-coordinated system that allows the people in operation to stay on top of coverage and ensure with no hesitation that drivers are available for the scheduled charters. Spotting problems with driver attendance has never been easier.

Infraction monitoring is another key tool in the busHive suite. Operations now have the capability to monitor a fully customizable list of infractions ranging from customer complaints and tardiness to preventable accidents. A complete detailed analysis of every infraction is available for every personnel type.

busHive comes with a stock with over 40 personnel reports. It even prints out completed Federal Medical Examination forms as well as all New York State 19-A forms. Coming in early 2016, busHive will release an update making it the only software product that can summarize California T-01 driver training data and reprint the same card for each the year recorded. With a totally user-customizable interface and reporting, busHive will quickly organize all of all driver records so that the information that a company needs is always immediately available.

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