

# New Features in InformaCast version 7.0

The following features have been added to InformaCast v7.0 to enhance functionality and improve user experience:

- **Message Scripting.** There are three new scripting features:
  - *Dynamic Text in the Short or Long Text Fields* – Add simple variables to the **Short** or **Long Text** fields on the **Text** tab of the Edit Messages page to include dynamic text (i.e. the current time or date, the user who sent the message, the user's directory number, etc.) within a message.
  - *Data Setup Script* – Create a script within a text file that pulls dynamic information (e.g. RSS feeds, weather warning details, security threat levels, etc. – anything you can access programmatically over a network) from other sources.
  - *Audio Replacement Script* – Create a script within a text file that pulls dynamic audio (e.g. weather reports, stock tickers, synthesized text using text-to-speech software, etc.) from other sources and attach it to a message using the **Update** button for the Audio Replacement script on the **Scripting** tab of the Edit Message page.
- **Edit Message Page Re-design.** The Edit Message page has gone through a dramatic overhaul to improve usability and efficiency:
  - *New Tabs* – Instead of one long page to scroll through, four new tabs have been created for the Edit Message page: **Text**, **Audio**, **Re-broadcasting**, and **Scripting**. Depending on your message type, all or some of these tabs will be visible. All previous functionality has been divided between these tabs and new functionality has been added.
  - *Tool Tips / Help Buttons* – All of the fields / checkboxes on the tabs of the Edit Message page now have tool tips that pop up when you hover your mouse over the field / checkbox's name. On the **Scripting** tab, **Help** buttons appear next to each script to provide you with a detailed definition of the script's functionality and the variables available for your script's use.
  - *Synchronized vs. As Available Delivery* – Urgent message delivery has a new name: **As Available**, and **Synchronized** is the complementary form of delivery. On the **Audio** tab, synchronized delivery will wait until all devices capable of playing audio are ready to play the broadcast. As available delivery will play your broadcast immediately to any devices ready to play the broadcast and, as each new device becomes available, the broadcast will play at that time.
  - *Pre and Post Tones for Live, Ad-hoc, and Recorded Messages* – Configure your live, ad-hoc, and pre-recorded messages to contain tones that play before and/or after a broadcast using the **Pre Tone** and **Post Tone** checkboxes on the **Audio** tab of the Edit Message page. A message with a pre tone does not have to use a post tone and vice versa. Pre and post tones are only used with synchronized messages. As available messages cannot have pre or post tones.
  - *Customizable Short and Long Text Fields with Allow Customization Checkbox* – Click the **Allow Customization** checkbox on the **Text** tab of the Edit Message page to allow users to customize the **Short** and **Long Text** fields of a message when sending it. For example, users could update a recommended exit route depicted in a message depending on the type of emergency experienced, regardless of whether they had the messageEditor role.

- *Scroll Speed and Duration Fields* – Two new fields were added to the **Text** tab: **Scroll Speed** and **Scroll Duration**. Select **Repetitions** or **Seconds** from the **Scroll Duration** dropdown menu and enter a value in its field to control the number of times a message scrolls across your device or the number of times a message scrolls within a specified period of time, respectively. Select a value from **1** to **10** from the **Scroll Speed** dropdown menu to control how fast a message scrolls across a display. These fields only work in conjunction with new speakers being released in conjunction with InformaCast v7.0.
  - *Re-broadcasting Tab* – The **Re-broadcasting** tab on the Edit Message page allows you to control whether your message repeats, how often it does so, and if there should be a pause in between repetitions.
  - *Scripting Tab* – Two new scripts have been added: Audio Replacement and Data Setup (discussed previously). The Message Sent script has been re-named to Send in Progress. Its functionality remains the same, and we also provide the means for connecting with Twitter (contact your Singlewire salesperson for more details).
- **Phone Updates Improvements.** The **Phone Updates** link now takes you to a page where you can configure builds of the list of registered phones or refreshes of the list of previously registered phones. *Build list of registered phones* creates a list of registered phones and involves querying CallManager to obtain the configuration and IP address for each registered phone. *Refresh list of registered phones* refreshes the configuration of previously registered phones. A refresh can be performed as frequently as once per minute.
  - **Language Support.** InformaCast now supports non-Roman alphabets for display on phones. As long as the phone's region support the appropriate alphabet, broadcasts containing text comprised of non-Roman alphabet characters (entered in the **Short** and **Long Text** fields on a message's **Text** tab) will display properly.
  - **Reporting.** InformaCast now has the ability to generate reports. The **Reporting** link in the side menu contains the functionality for three reports: Broadcast Events, Broadcast Counts By User, and Event Details. The Broadcast Events report provides a list of all broadcasts sent out between the dates specified. Break out your events by which user triggered the message or if it was a bell schedule. The Broadcasts Counts By User report allows you to see a list of broadcasts sent out by each user broken into separate months. The Event Details report shows the details of a broadcast event: the text and audio if they exist, and sending details, such as the number of times the message was sent, etc.
  - **Audio Broadcasts.** The **Audio Broadcasts** link has been changed to **Broadcasts**. The functionality remains the same.
  - **Contact Closures.** When a speaker with General Purpose Input Output (GPIO) capability (i.e. contact closures) registers with InformaCast, you will gain the ability to initiate an intercom session with a directory number (DN) you have assigned to that speaker.
  - **SNMP Monitoring.** Through Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) and a Management Information Base (MIB) file, InformaCast can respond to your Network Management Software's queries with information about the application, such as how long the application has been running, current broadcasts' information, configuration parameters, etc.
  - **MIDIlets.** InformaCast v7.0 adds support (the actual functionality is still being developed) for the forthcoming message reply MIDlet, allowing you to replay old messages. New Cisco IP phones (as yet unreleased) are going to be able to run third-party software directly on the phone in the form of Java MIDlets. The InformaCast MID let is designed to let you replay and skip through the content of messages that have been sent to a particular phone.
  - **RoboHelp.** InformaCast's online help system has become even better through the use of RoboHelp, which provides a much more comprehensive, user-friendly interface and improved search functionality.
  - **Cisco 7925 IP Phone.** The 7925 model of Cisco IP phone is now supported by InformaCast.
  - **Singlewire.** In April 2009, the developers, sales personnel, and support staff involved with IPT applications at CDW / Berbee spun off into a new company: Singlewire Software. Singlewire will focus on building applications for the Unified Communications and physical security spaces.