Beacon 9.00 Release Notes

FY 2020 brings major changes to Beacon Finance in support of the Funds Control Initiative (FCI), and with them, a full new major release of Beacon. We're ready for the 5-digit OC code changes throughout Beacon to include support for downstream systems, but you'll also find a host of interface improvements throughout Beacon, some bugs fixed, and some cool new features waiting for you this iteration.

Feature spotlight

- **FY2020** The FY 2020 Funds Control Initiative goes into effect in October, so be prepared to see those changes reflected in your data when the new FY2020 transaction downloads begin towards the end of October. Please reach out to our support team at support@netcomm.net if you have concerns.

Highlights from this release

- **Beacon FLOW:** Delegate notification email language now better reflects permanent delegates versus temporary ones.
- **Beacon Travel Planning:** You'll find Beacon Travel Planning more prominently featured in our sidebar menu and within the application.
- **Beacon HR:** The front Positions list now offers new column filtering options and additional YTD Payroll Data columns. Employee records screens more prominently show Notes. Improved how some NED data appears in the application, including adding some previously unavailable fields.
- **Beacon Finance:** Added new Pivot Table screen for Transactions. Allocation alerts are now available at the account level versus just the view. Several bugs in Multi-Year Transactions are now fixed, and the language for whether prior-year-funded transactions are included is clearer.

Specifics

Module	What we did	Why we did it
FLOW	Adjusted confusing language in the email users received when they're assigned as a permanent delegate or have one assigned for them.	When we added the ability to assign delegates, we originally expected the assignments to be short-term. We now allow permanent delegates to be assigned, but the notification email still had language appropriate for temporary assignments. We've revised it for clarity.
Travel Planning	Travel Planning now appears on its own tab within Beacon, as well as in the application-wide side menu.	As our Travel Planning module has become more widely adopted, we wanted to increase visibility within Beacon for easier navigation into Travel Planning.

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HR	Added 9 new YTD payroll data columns to the front Position screen. These are available for users with access to the underlying FTE & Cost module and can be filtered and sorted with other Positions screen data. New YTD columns include OT Hours, OT Pay, Awards, Lump Sum, Special Pay, FICA, Health, Life, and Retirement data.	The existing Payroll Data column showed information from the latest payroll record only. Other pertinent data was only available on the FTE Cost screen. Customers with FTE & Cost module access can now add key YTD payroll data columns to the Positions screen for use in quick reporting and analysis. They can be filtered and sorted on like other columns on that screen for ad-hoc reporting.
HR	Locator (NED) date fields are now properly formatted.	Some NED data was incorrectly formatted on the Locator screen. We've fixed that.
HR	Contractor, Guest & Volunteer CAN data is now populated based on the NED CAN field.	Requested by users, Position CAN data is now available for all of your Contractors, Guests & Volunteers.
HR	Added the NED Active Directory (AD) name to the Locator screen.	Requested by users, you can now view the AD name on the Locator screen.
HR	Improved the visibility of notes in position/employee record screens in the main HR header.	Some customers make full use of the Position Notes capabilities within HR records, and needed them to appear more prominently so the entire HR team can view at a glance that the HR record has important notes information to view.
Finance	Added ability to generate pivot table reports from the Transactions screen, selecting up to four commonly needed rollup fields. Each shows total Obligations, Commitments, Accruals, and Disbursements.	We know our customers frequently extract data into Excel to create pivot table reports. This new feature allows you generate the pivot table within Beacon HR, eliminating cumbersome data transfers and further Excel work.
Finance	Fixed several issues with the Multi-Year Transaction screen. We fixed the column selector so that it correctly applies changes to this screen, removed the redundant Re-query button, fixed an issue where selected filters weren't maintained after re-querying, fixed an issue that prevented FY values from appearing, and repaired the Export to Excel function. We've also updated how we describe your options to make it clearer which prior year data will be included.	Earlier this summer, we released a major overhaul of the Multi-Year Transactions screen. Unfortunately, that release had some bugs that we've now resolved. Along the way, we also updated the Transaction Search modal and Multi-Year Transactions screen options to be more internally consistent about whether prior-year-funded data is shown.

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Finance	Added ability to sign up for Allocation alerts at the individual Account level, rather than only at the View level. Also, we made some minor updates to the user interface.	Previously, the Allocation alert could only be configured for changes made to Views. While appropriate for some users, others wanted to monitor allocation changes only for accounts for which they are responsible. You may also notice minor styling updates to data fields and buttons.