Dear Friends,

On Discussion with our members they have expressed their grievances and their feelings on the running of "PATRAM" software and its quality of non becoming a good software. The software was replicated without testing of data flow and its correctness and initially only basic modules were given with a technical support of six months which is insufficient and before entering into discharge module the period of six months were over and after that no support from NIC. If you have experienced these bugs and have any solution for that, kindly let us know through our e.mail "iptafso@gmail.com"

Discrepancies in "PATRAM" software

The characteristic of good software is defined as follows.

1. Correctness
2. Robustness
3. User-friendliness
4. Adaptability
5. Reusability
6. Interoperability
7. Efficiency
8. Portability
9. Security

The software used in Postal Accounts Office for the use of Certificate Section named as "PATRAM" is not having any character of the above. Those you are using this software in trouble for the past five years.

1. CORRECTNESS:

Good software will do what it is supposed to do but not in the case of PATRAM Software designed by NIC Chennai. The basic idea of serial number of each certificate taken for the program is such that the serial number of certificates for all series is unique, but in practice it is not unique.

The basic module named supply not showed the correct result up to 2009, after attestation the entries should be posted in the concerned S&I table but it was posted partially before 2009.

If the maturity date falls on Sunday or holiday the certificates may be en-cashed on previous day this was not correctly done and raising more number of fictitious objections of overpayment..

For e-data , there is no validation on conversion, a) it is possible to convert many times in issue by violating primary key b) it throwing lot of entries like paise column

having more than 2 decimal and as duplicate entries which were already discharged in past. Because of this throw the journal showing a less figure than that of summary and cannot attest. It should be converted and mark as UP.

The processing month is used to define or pointing the data entry actually done (late receipt of returns will be done on later month with processing month is the actual month of processing) but in e-data it has no meaning and both processing month and account month are same what ever be the late receipt.

 No software having administrative routines which are to be run to rectify the non-posting or any purpose beyond the main menu but this software having lot of such routine.

While new series added in the SUPERVISORY Module, the S&I table was created with a different structure than that of is in use. Hence on attestation the entries were not posted in S&I.

The Software is not considering the basic logic of the serial number of certificates which is not unique, the software is written on the wrong assumption of the serial number of certificates are unique for all series. Hence even the certificate in one series issued and paid in the same circle marked as locked as the same serial number in another series lost in other circle.

In the TE Maintenance module, the abstract is showing a value of not tallying on both side Dr and Cr.

ATD out not reflecting correctly it shows both issues for one issue.

2. Robustness:

The software's respond to unexpected condition without any change in database or records is characterized for a good software. Where as in PATRAM it act like the partial posting in S&I and marking the SUMMARY as attested before attestation by inserting the system date automatically.

On verification, one or two records omitted to be marked as verified and showing as partially verified.

3.User friendliness:

The software must be user friendly, but PATRAM is not so, first there is no full installation CD so far. For installation, the first version with three modules and then the remaining modules in folders to be copied along with latest patram.exe.

There is no uniformity between modules. Issue module is user friendly and the combo box will show only the offices to be verified or attested but the discharge module is not so.

There is no help menu in the form itself.

4.Adaptability:

There is no adaptability to suit the future situation. The maturity table not fit for the change in POST MATURITY INTEREST from Dec2011.

No provision for entering NC-10 cases.

No provision to get quarterly unposted statement.

5.Efficiency:

Good Software should make good use of its resources. But PATRAM is not designed like that, it will create lot of temp tables unnecessarily and for removing that table we force to run database maintenance EXE every day with more than 6000 tables. Actually the table is less than 1000 but it is growing day by day unnecessarily and system hangs often.

6.Security:

There is no security in database, any table can be removed easily and altered which affects the integrity of the tables.

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