B4Bv6.3.x

What's New

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Table of Contents

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Overview

B4Bv6 is a complete rework using the latest technologies to future proof the software and give a fresh new look and feel, as well as some key functional enhancements.

This release includes both a rich client or desktop version as well as a web interface to facilitate deployment via a browser.

Functional Enhancements introduced in B4Bv6 include, but are not limited to:

- New look and feel – The rewrite of B4B has included a redesign of the user interface giving the user a clean & fresh application.
- Improved payment validation and processing – The Validate Payments function now sources data from the B4B payment table which is automatically populated from the SunSystems Payment Run.
- Web Portal – B4B can now be deployed through a Web interface for cloud based installations
- Reporting – A new and powerful report designer is included with B4Bv6 to facilitate the creation of customised payment and error reports and remittance templates.
- B4B Service – A new service to facilitate the automated import of bank details from either a JSON file or from a database view.
- Remittances – Full remittance capabilities including remittance template design, managed email batching, archiving and reporting.
- Grids – Static data is held in grids which can be sorted, grouped and printed.
- Functional Security – The standard System Setup functions are now applied to B4B allowing the use of Functional Security to control user access within the application.
- Windows Authentication – B4B now has true Windows authentication as well as named user authentication.
- Format Parameters stored at Business Unit level
- Ability to install formats separately
- B4B Importer – A new spreadsheet based tool to replace Transfer Manager to facilitate the import and export of bank details.
- Transfer Mapping – Automatic export of bank details to the SunSystems Bank Details table via a new mappings function. Where mappings have been defined, synchronisation is automatic on insert or update or approve if the approvals module has been enabled.
- Impersonation Credentials to allow added security on the designated output folder(s).

What's New in B4Bv6.3.x

The release of B4Bv6.3 introduces some new core functionality as follows;

Functional Security

The Functional Security options in System Setup have been expanded to include the control of access to the new remittance functions.
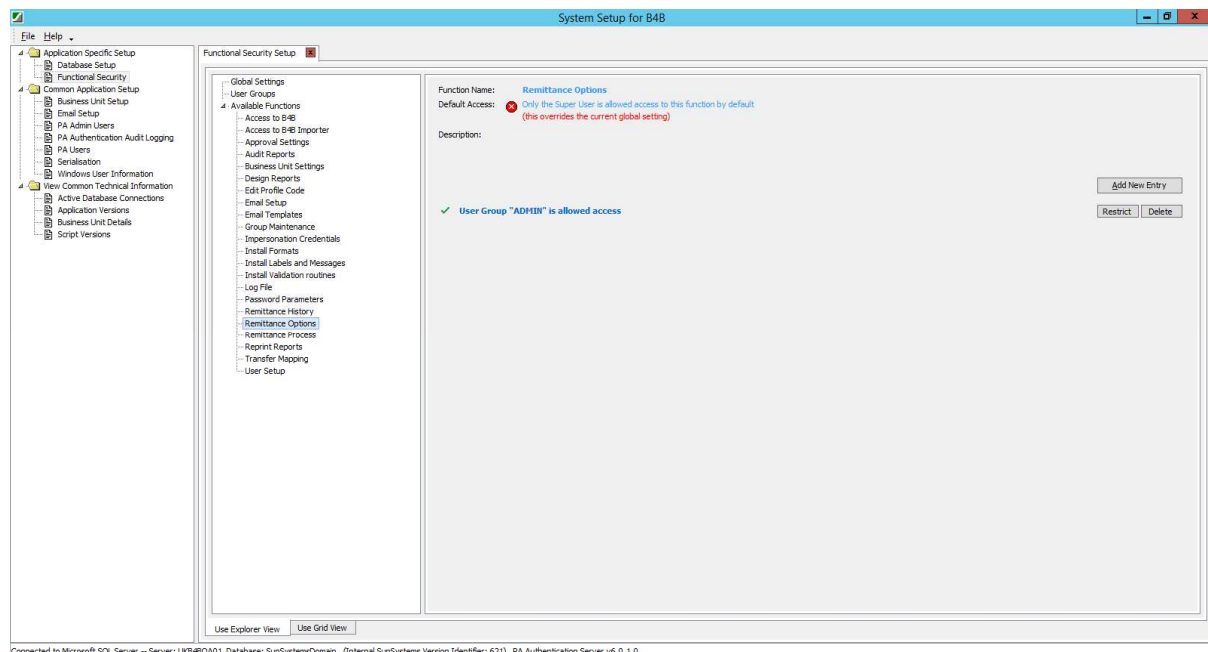
The remittance functions that are controlled via System Setup >> Functional Security are;

Email Templates   Maintenance of email messages to be used when processing remittances.

Remittance History   Log of remittance batches that have been processed.

Remittance Options   Maintenance of remittance setup parameters per business unit and profile code.

Remittance Process   Function to preview and process remittances.

All remittance functions are web enabled and access control is at a global, individual user or user group level in Functional Security.

Impersonation Credentials

The impersonation credentials function allows the assignment of an administrative or service account to be used at the file creation stage. This allows additional security to be applied to the designated output folder(s) so that only the impersonated account has modify permissions to write files to the output folder whereas all users are restricted to read only permissions.

Reports

The reporting engine has been expanded to include a new report folder for remittance reports. The reports maintained under the Remittance Report folder will include the remittance templates to be used at runtime and the account and email report. Note that as this is a new reporting module there is no migration of remittance reports from previous versions of eRemit.

Remittances

B4Bv6.3 now includes remittance functionality to email a customisable remittance document to the beneficiaries to notify them of payments that have been made. Remittance functionality in this release of B4B mirrors the capabilities of eRemit v6.1.4.0.

B4B Service

The B4B Service has been developed to facilitate the automatic import of reference data from an external source into the B4B database tables. This caters for the import of Target and Own Bank Details.

The automatic import of bank details can be from a JSON file or directly from the SQL database with source data being selected by a SQL view.

Approval Control

The "Exempt Transfer" label on the approval control function has been changed to "Ignore Imported" to make it clearer to the end user. Checking the Ignore Imported tick box will bypass the approval workflow when importing bank details via Importer or the B4B Service. If this checkbox is unticked, then all bank details imported to B4B will be subject to approval

Installation

The installation of B4Bv6 now allows formats to be installed without having to run the main application installer again. In previous versions of B4B, the addition of a new format or update of an existing format required a complete re-installation of the software. This resulted in numerous software releases due to format additions or amendments.

In B4Bv6, the installation of formats is maintained within the Administration functions. A format is issued as a zipped file package which contains all the necessary files. Thus, a new format or upgraded format can be simply added to the existing application eliminating the need for a new installation and associated change control.

Currently installed format details and version numbers displayed in the Install Formats grid.
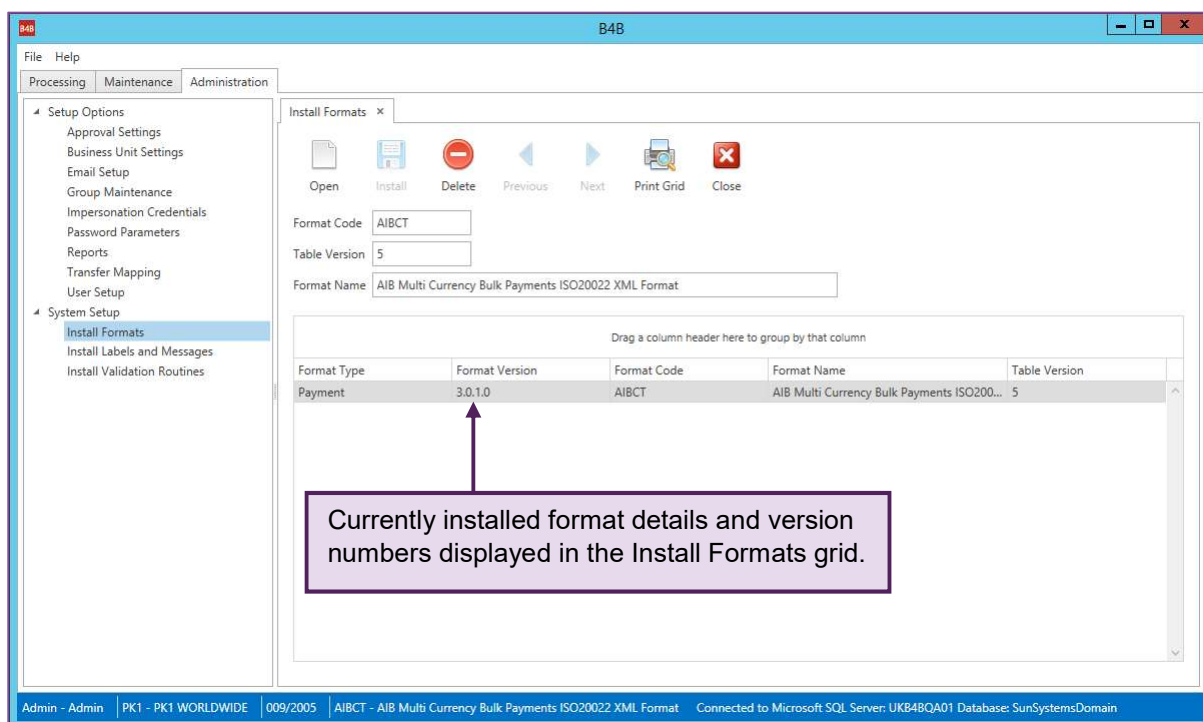
The Install Formats function also displays the current Format Version and Table Version that has been installed.

The grid can be printed if required for support purposes.

Format Type	Format Version	Format Code	Format Name	Table Version
Payment	1.0.3.3	EUSCT	European Sepa Credit Transfer Payments	27
Payment	1.0.2.4	UKCBM	Businessmaster International	4
Payment	1.0.0.0	UKCHN	HSBC Net Priority Payments MT103 format	10
Payment	1.0.0.4	UKLBM	Barclays.Net UK 3 Day and UK Faster/Next Day Pa...	8
Payment	1.0.0.3	UKLHN	HSBC Net Local Payments	8
Payment	1.0.2.5	UKMRB	RBS Bankline International Banking	19

User Interface

The user interface in B4B has been completely redesigned in line with the other Professional Advantage Cash Management solutions.
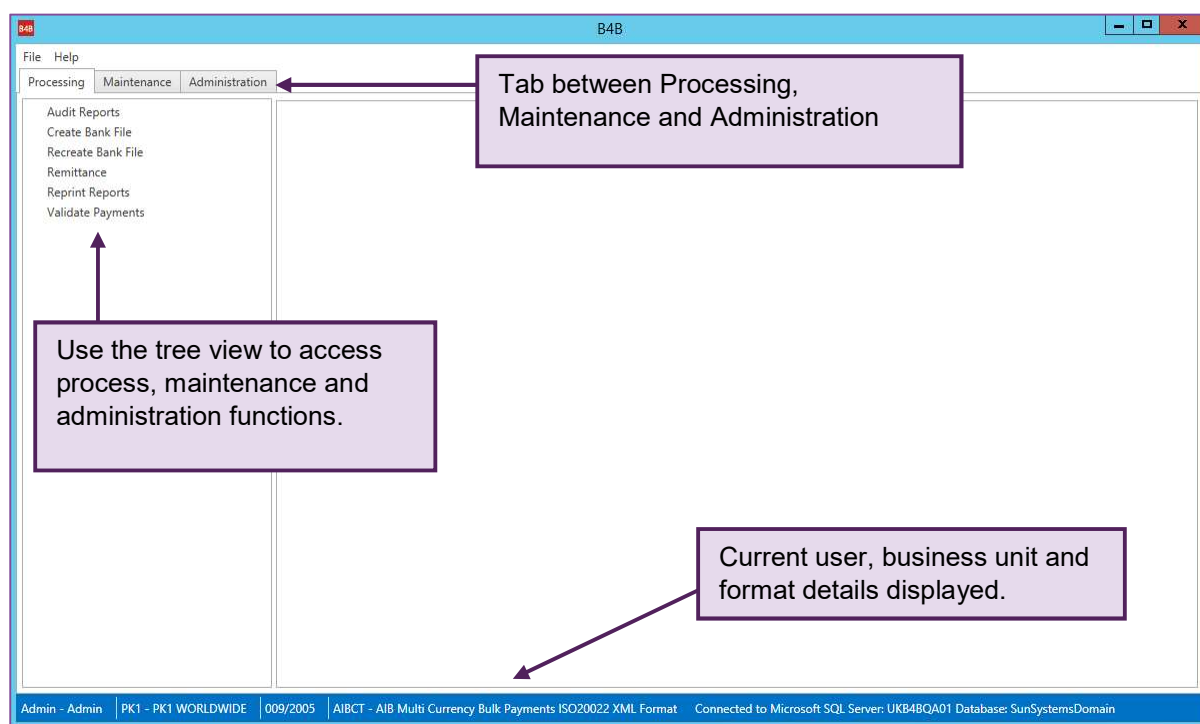
The B4B functions are divided into functional areas as follows;

Administration	Processing	Maintenance

• **Setup Options**
  o Approval Settings
  o Business Unit Settings
  o Email Setup
  o Group Maintenance
  o Impersonation Credentials
  o Password Parameters
  o Reports
  o Transfer Mapping
  o User Setup
	• Audit Reports
	• Create Bank File
	• Recreate Bank File
	• Remittance
	• Reprint Reports
	• Validate Payments
		• Auxiliary Functions
		• Email Templates
		• Extract Mappings
		• Format Parameters
		• Log File
		• Own Bank
		• Remittance History
		• Remittance Options
		• Sundry Target Bank
		• Target Bank

• **System Setup**
  o Install Formats
  o Install Labels and Messages
  o Install Validation Routines		

Note: Access the Administration Options are controlled by Functional Security in System Setup and can be granted to named users thus allowing an administrator access to all functions with one login. There is no default SUPER user in B4Bv6 and administration of the application must be performed by a named user who has permission to access the administration options via Functional Security.

Navigation

The user interface B4Bv6 has been completely redesigned, making it easy to move around the application and to access the screens. The tab format allows you to quickly access and move between the required functions.

| Approval Settings ✕ | Business Unit Settings ✕ | Email Setup ✕ | Group Maintenance ✕ | Impersonation Credentials ✕ | Password Parameters ✕ | Reports ✕ | Transfer Mapping ✕ | User Setup ✕ |

As part of the new user interface and within each of the screens, clearly marked and defined icons make it easy to navigate through the task at hand.

User Options

New | Save | Cancel | Previous | Next | Print Grid | Set Password | Log off | Close

Group Maintenance

Edit Groups | Previous | Next | New | Save | Cancel | Delete | Previous | Next | Print Grid | Close
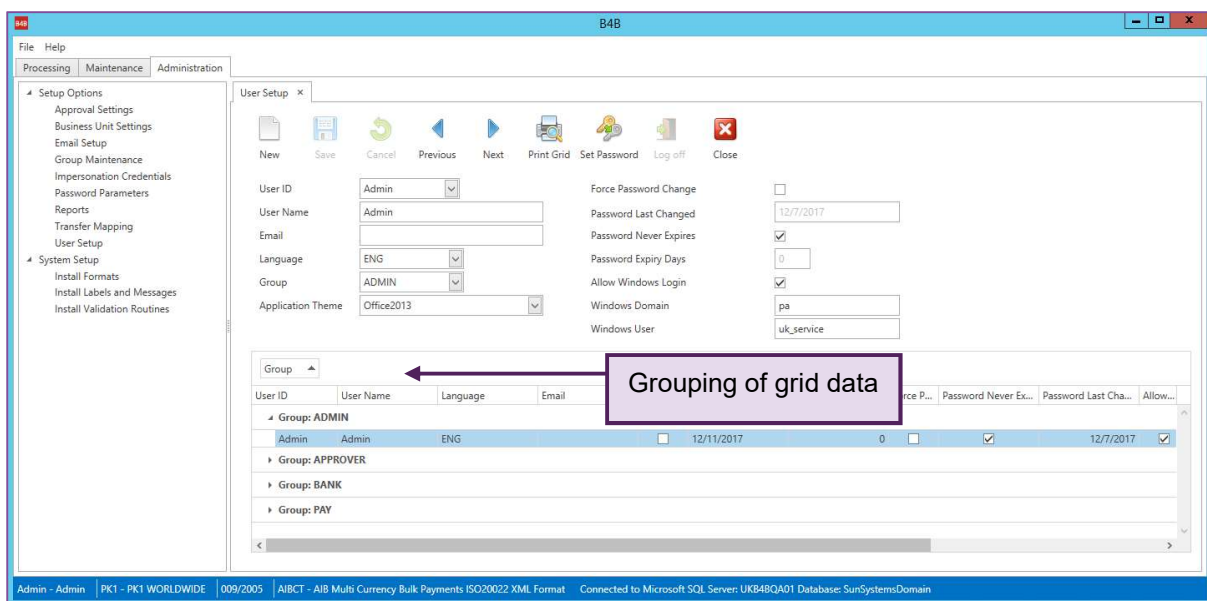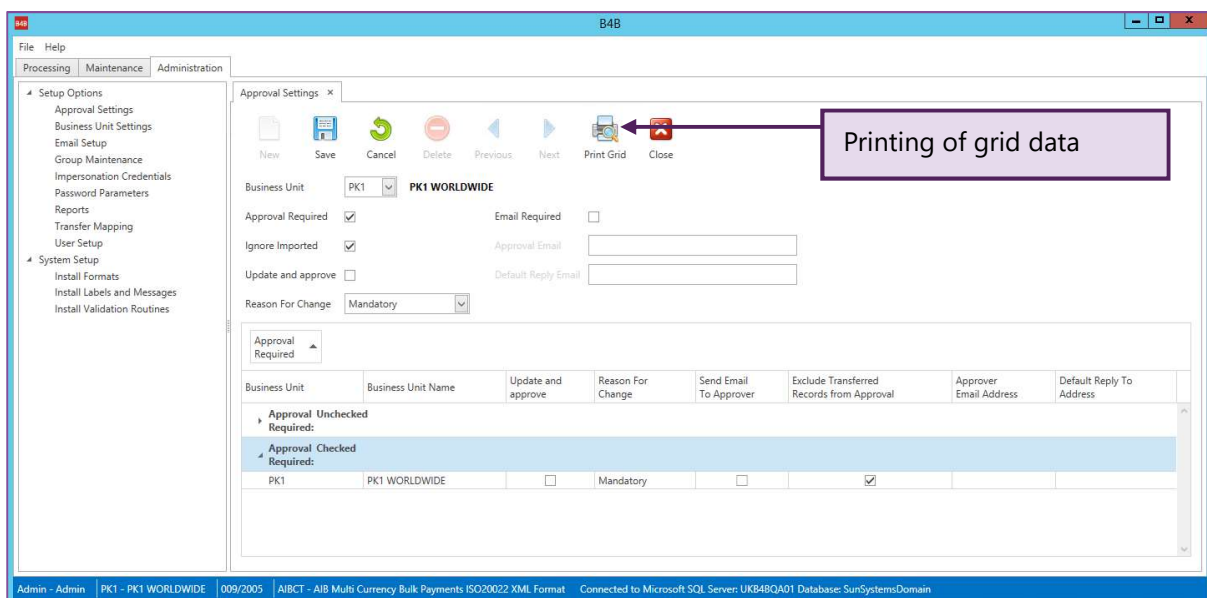
Validate Payments

Grids

Static data functions include form display for data maintenance and grid view where the data can be grouped and sorted by any column in the grid.

The example below shows the current named B4B users grouped by User Group.

This example shows the Approval Settings grouped by Approval Required.

The grid can then be printed giving a report of the data as per the grouping and sorting that has been applied.

Visibility

The following screen shot is taken from the Group Maintenance function. In B4Bv5, Group and Format permissions were split across two screens. This, combined with no reporting function, resulted in a lack of visibility over the current permission settings that had been defined.

In B4Bv6, the Group Maintenance function includes the Company and Format permissions on one screen giving the administrator a clear view of the current combinations. Further to this, the grids can be printed and there is a Group Maintenance report.

Group Maintenance report provided

Group and Format permissions displayed in same function
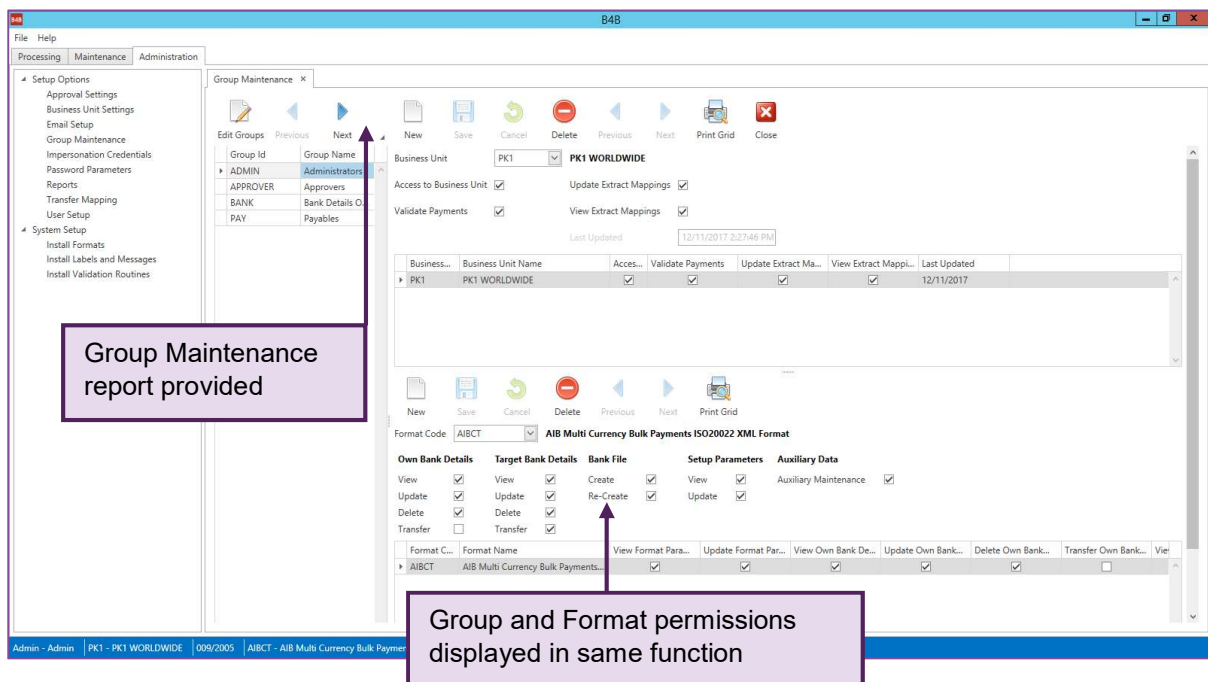
In this example, the current Business Unit settings can be quickly and easily viewed and compared in the grid

Validate Payments

The Validate Payments process sees some major changes in functionality and visibility giving the user a clear representation of the payments posted in SunSystems and how they will be processed by B4B on the same grid.

When the Payment Run is posted in SunSystems the payment data is automatically copied from the SunSystems Payment Table to the B4B Payment Table thus eliminating the risk of overwriting the SunSystems payment batch with a subsequent Payment Run.

Payments are batched by the Profile Code and on selecting the Profile Code in the top pane the payments can be validated and the details reviewed prior to saving the payments for format processing i.e. inclusion in a bank file.
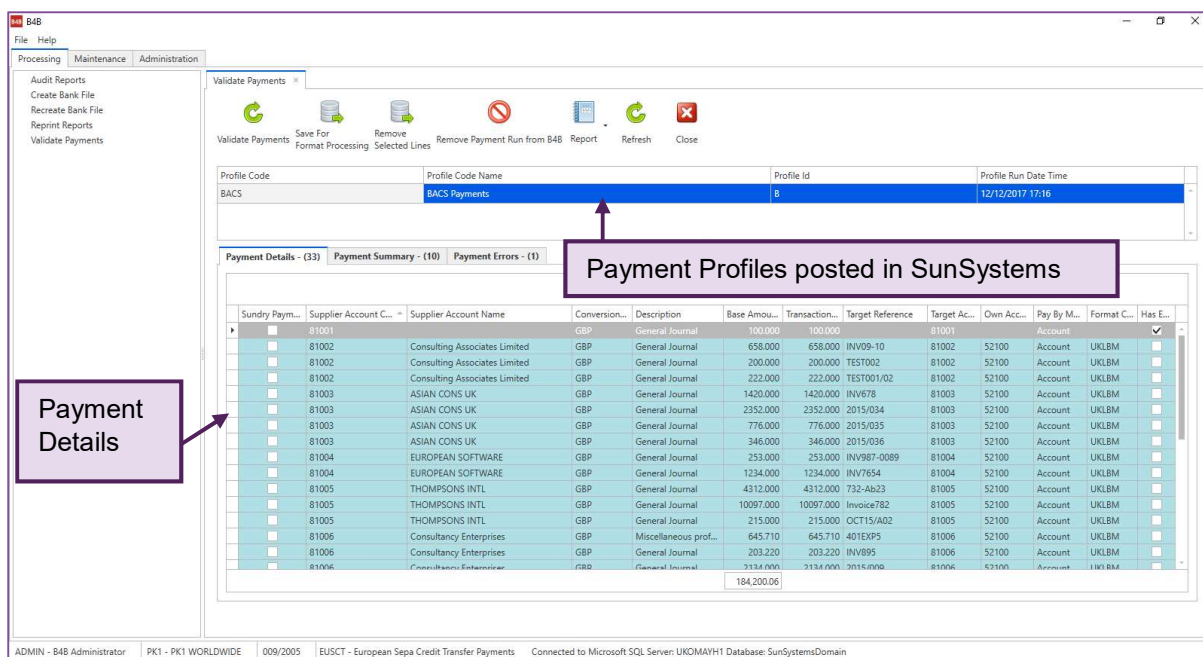
Only valid payments can be saved for format processing. Payments that are saved for format processing are removed from the Validate Payments grids and will be made available on the Create Bank File grid for the mapped format(s) for inclusion in the bank file.

Rejected payments will remain on the Validate Payments grid until they are corrected and saved for format processing or marked as processed.

Transactions in a payment/debit run that are rejected by the Validate Payments function or marked as processed will not be saved for format processing and so not included in a bank file however, these payments will have been posted in SunSystems and must therefore be dealt with accordingly either by means of a payment reversal within SunSystems or by processing a manual payment.

Valid Company Settings, Format Parameters, Extract Mappings, Own Bank Details and Target Bank Details must be available before the process can be run.

Payment Details Grid

The payment Details grid displays the source payment data as posted in SunSystems for the currently selected payment profile.

This grid details valid and erroneous payments indicated by the "Has Errors" column and highlighted in different colours.

Payment Summary Grid

The payment summary grid displays how the payments will be processed by B4B and saved for format processing.

This grid details valid and erroneous payments indicated by the "Has Errors" column and highlighted in different colours.

Payment Errors Grid

The payment errors grid displays those payments that have been rejected by the validation process and details the nature of the rejection.


Any errors (bank details missing, bank details pending approval, currency mismatch, etc.) should be investigated and corrected before continuing and saving the payments for format processing to ensure all payments posted by the Payment Run are included in the bank file.

Format Parameters

The Format Parameters in B4Bv5 were specific to the format and applied to all business units. This caused problems where the same format was enabled across multiple business units but different output folders were required for each business unit.

In B4Bv6 this problem has been addressed by making the Format Parameters specific to the business unit. Therefore, Format Parameters must now be configured for all business units in use rather than just once per format.
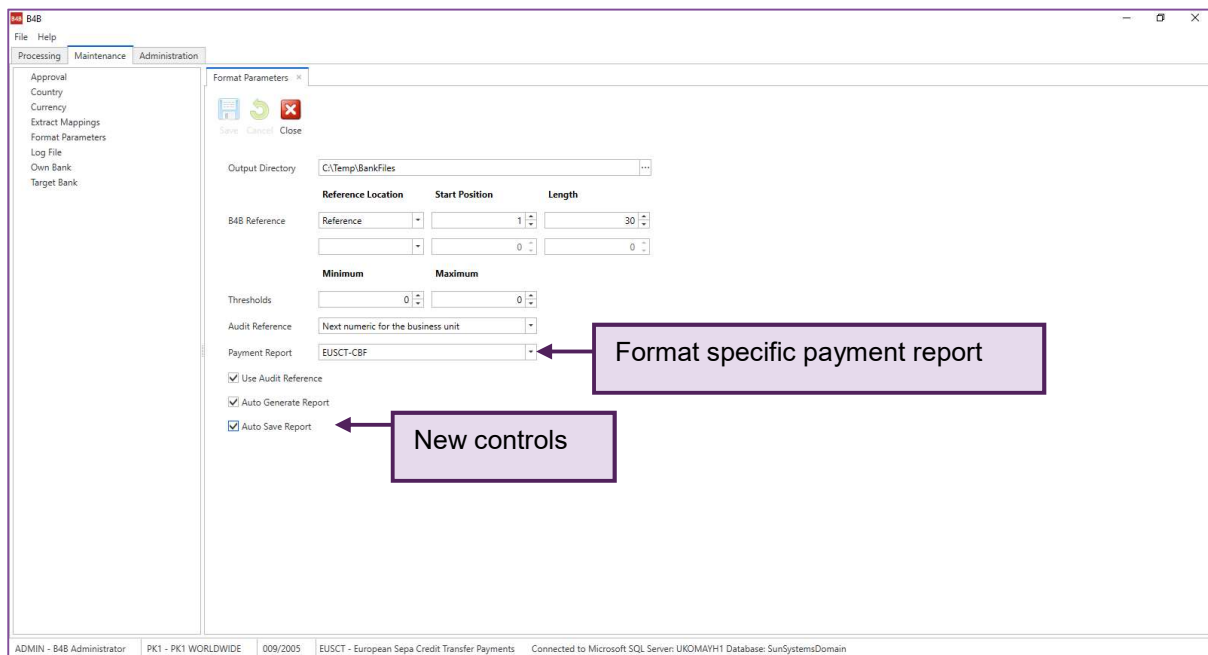
The new Format Parameters function also has additional controls around the bank file Payment Report in that the standard or a custom report can be specified per business unit \ format combination.

Further to this there are parameters to control the creation and saving of the Payment Report.

Impersonation Credentials

When creating the bank file in the output directory defined on the Format Parameters it is the current Windows User account that is used during the file creation. This requires the current Windows User who is running the Create Bank File function to have modify permissions on the designated output folder.

To address this a new function has been added to the Administration options in B4B to specify a domain service account or administrative account to be used during the file creation. This then allows tighter security to be applied to the designated output folder as only the specified impersonated account will require modify permissions with all other users being restricted to read only permissions.

In the screen shot below a service account has been defined in the Impersonation Credentials function so whenever a file is created from B4B regardless of business unit or format the service account will be used for the action of file creation.
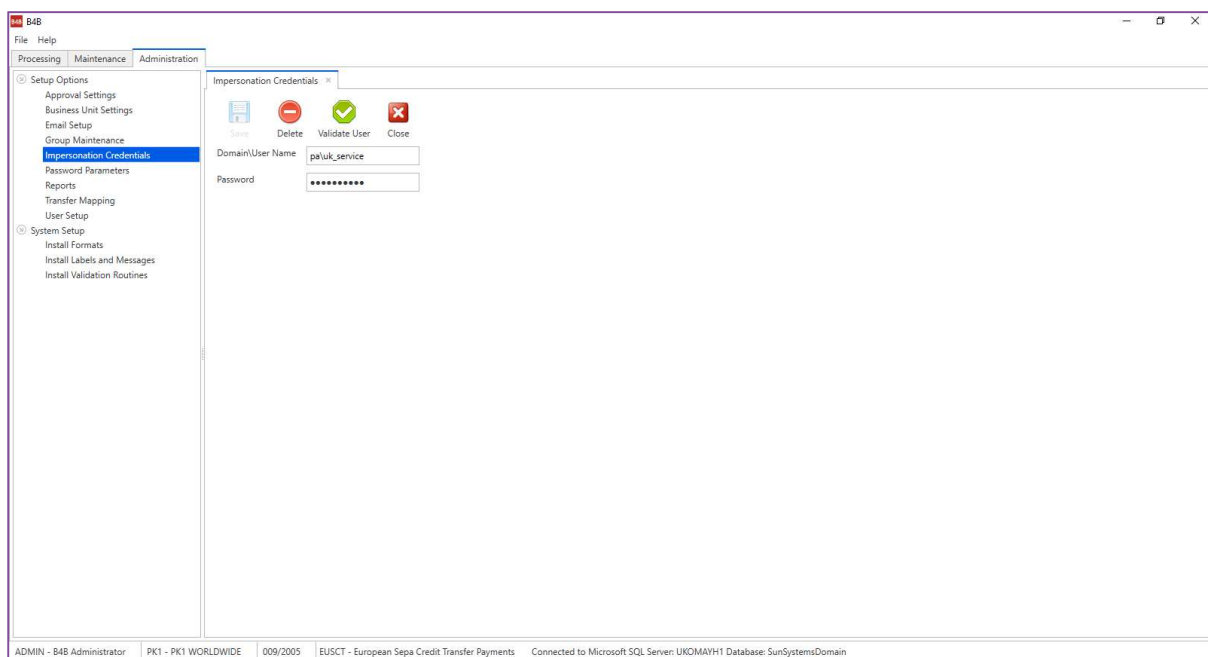
Reporting

Reporting in B4Bv5 was always limited to the standard reports that were hard coded into the core module or formats.

B4Bv6 includes a powerful and flexible report designer that allows creation of new reports and customisation of the standard reports that are supplied with the software.
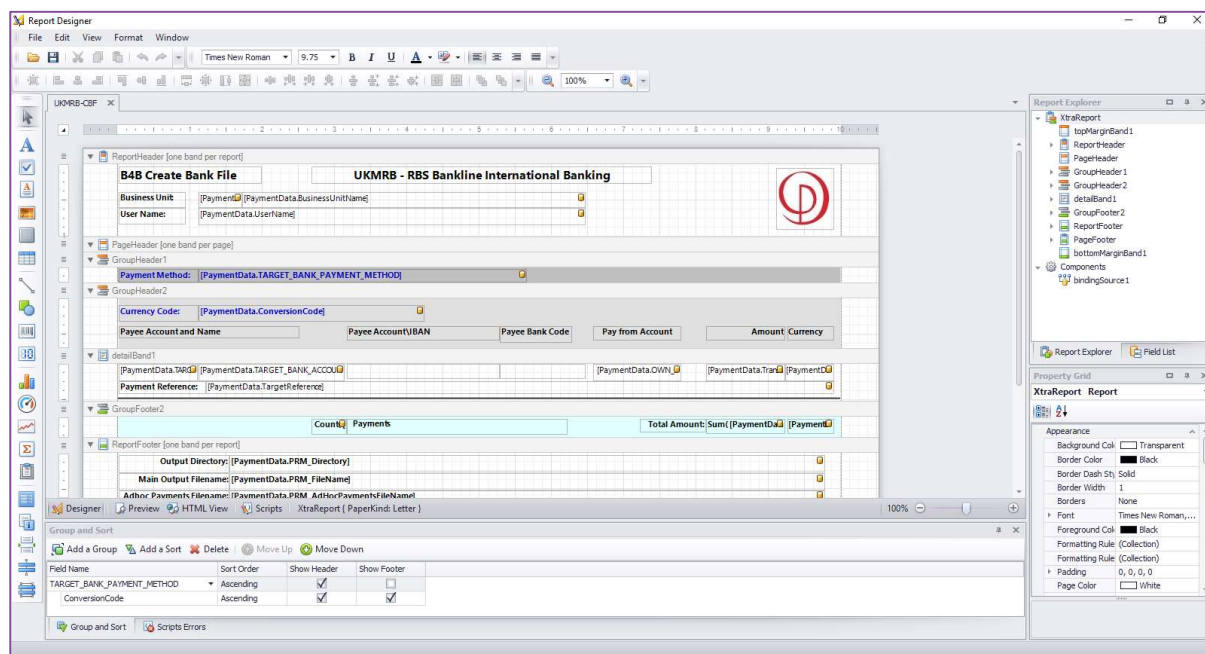
A number of standard reports are shipped with the application;

Payment Details - Validate Payments report showing valid payments

Payment Errors - Validate Payments report showing rejected payments

Payment Reports - Format specific Create Bank File report detailing payments included in the bank file

Remittance Reports - A set of generic remittance and collection reports to be used as a default template ready for customisation for each client.

A Group Maintenance report is also included with the core application however this is a pre-set report that cannot be amended in Report Designer. Future releases of B4B will see additional reports being included. Further to the reporting module the grids can be printed at any time as described in an earlier section of this document.

Remittances

B4Bv6.3 now includes native remittance functionality to allow you to create a remittance and email this directly to the beneficiary to notify them of the payment that has been made.

Access to the remittance functions is controlled via System Setup >> Functional Security at a system, group and \ or business unit level.

All remittance functions are available in the desktop and web versions and are as follows;

Maintenance >> Remittance Options

The remittance options are the setup parameters for each business unit and payment profile. A default set of options can be defined using the blank profile which will then be applied to all payment profiles. Overrides can then be set at an individual profile level if required.

Creditor and Debtor reports (or the remittance templates) and the Account and Email report are defined in the Administration >> Reports function and Email Templates (or remittance messages) are defined in the Email Templates function.

Maintenance >> Email Templates

The email templates function allows you to create any number of messages to be used in the email body at runtime to save having to key in a message for each batch of remittances. A default message is selected on the Remittance Options which can then be changed at runtime.
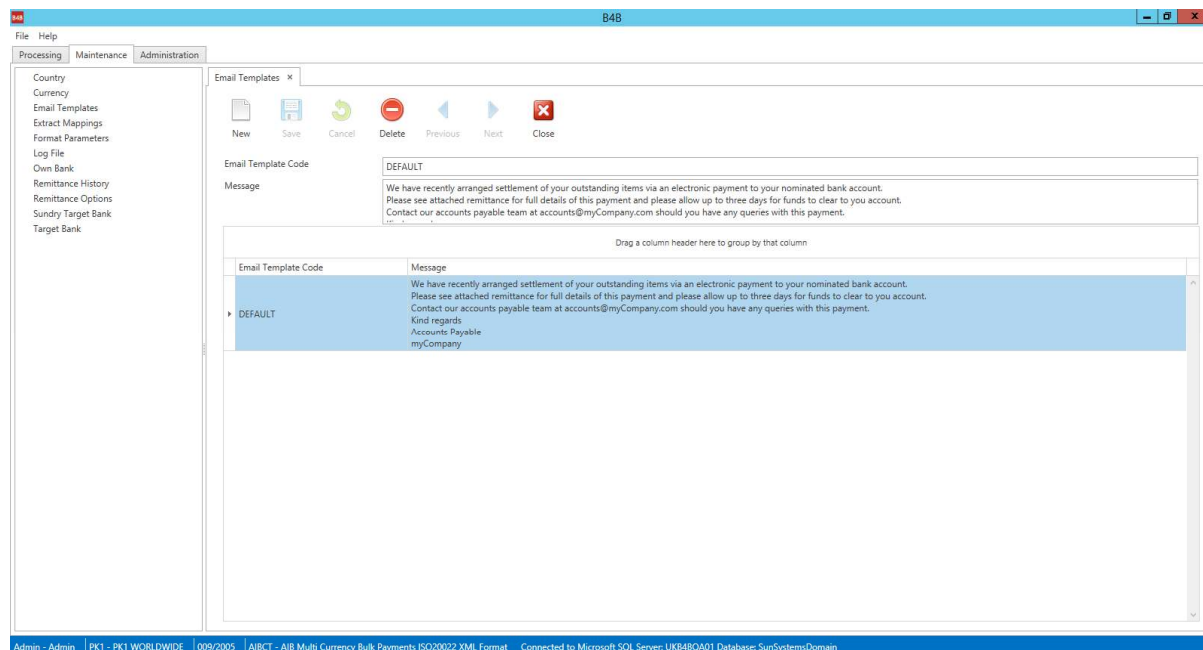
Processing >> Remittance

The processing function allows you to preview, print, report and send emails.

Batches of payments are immediately available to the remittance function when posting the payment run in SunSystems. Clicking on a payment profile in the top pane will detail all payments in the batch in the lower pane and set all defaults based on the remittance options defined for that profile.

In the lower pane all payments or individual payment can be selected for processing and the batch can then be previewed. The Account and Email Report can be run to review the payment summary and email addresses for each creditor to ensure the data is complete and accurate.

To process the batch simply hit Send Email or Print.

Send Email will build the remittance document based on the template defined in Remittance Options for the current profile and attach the document to an email for each payment in the batch.

Print will build the remittance document based on the template defined in Remittance Options for the current profile send the batch to the default printer.

Once a batch has been processed it is archived. Remittances can be resent or reprinted from the archive at any time.

Maintenance >> Remittance History

The history function shows a log of all remittance batches that have been processed.

B4B Service

The B4B Service has been developed to facilitate the automatic import of reference data from an external source into the B4B database tables. This caters for the import of Target and Own Bank Details.

The automatic import of bank details can be from a JSON file or directly from the SQL database with source data being selected by a SQL view.
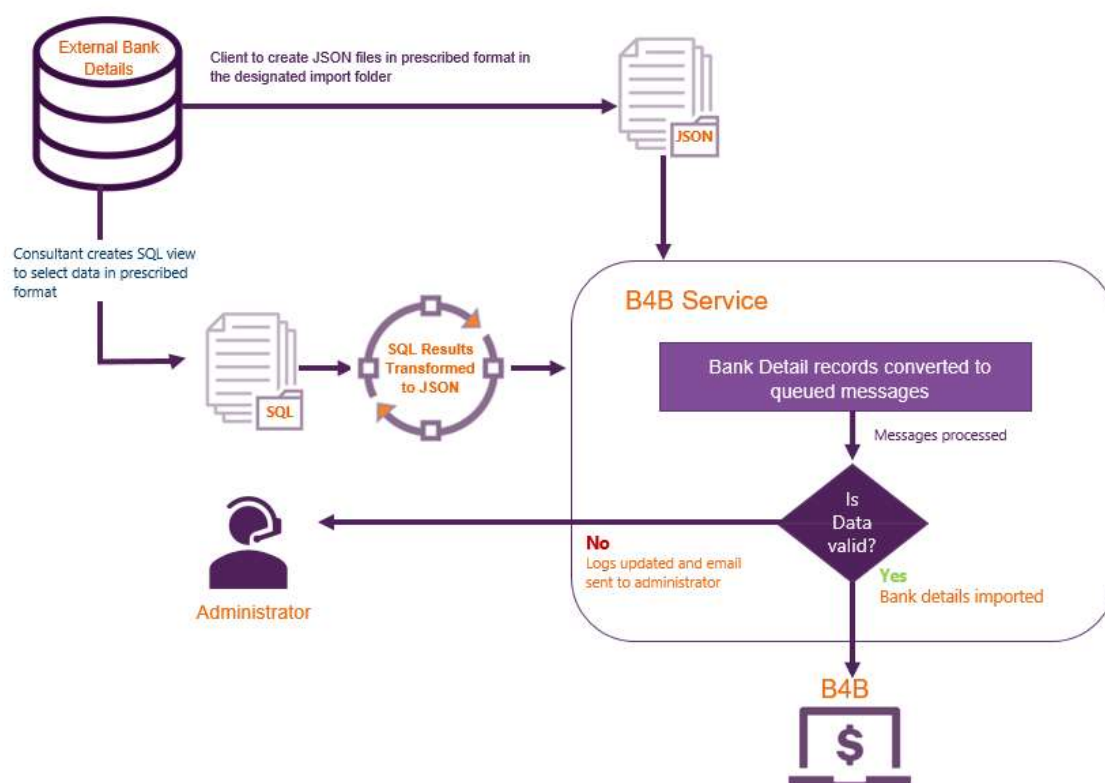
B4B Importer

B4B Importer is new in this version. This spreadsheet based application is installed by default with the main B4Bv6 application and replaces Transfer Manager used in B4Bv5.

B4B Importer facilitates the simple and direct import and export of bank details (Own and Target) to and from the B4B database eliminating the need to create transfer profiles.

The Company (Business Unit), Format and Object (Own Bank or Target Bank) are selected and the data can then be fetched from the database, the data validated in the worksheet and the data updated in the database.
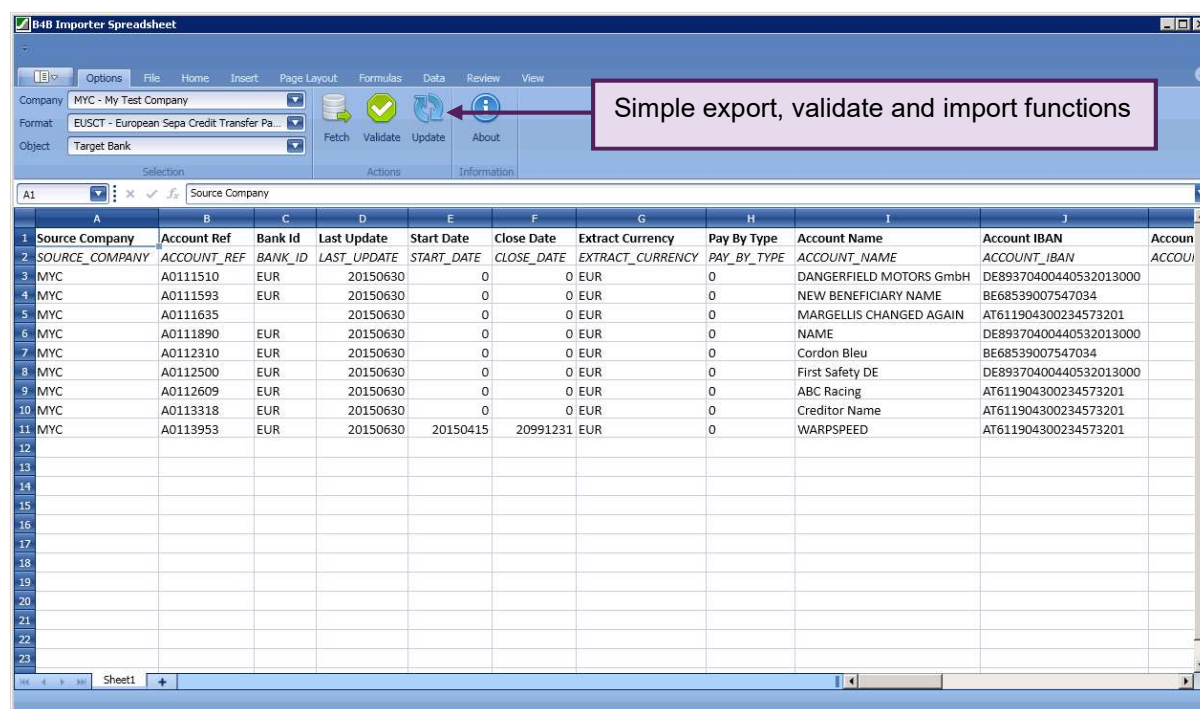
Validating the data will identify any erroneous data items and highlight the cell(s) for correction with the error message displayed in the bottom banner.

When using the Fetch function the first two rows of the spreadsheet are populated with the field names (Row 1) and column names (Row 2) giving a clear indication of the data required in each column.

Supplier Bank Detail templates will still be issued (as for B4Bv5) for the collation of the target bank details prior to implementation. The data can then be simply copied from the Supplier Bank Details template to the format specific Importer template for validation and import.

The Fetch function can also be used as a reporting tool to quickly and easily export all bank details for the currently selected Company, Format and Object.

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Transfer Mappings

New for B4Bv6 is Transfer Mappings. This mapping function enables real time synchronisation of bank details maintained in B4B with the SunSystems Bank Details function. Mappings can be defined for Own and Target Bank and the transfer is automatically triggered on insert and update or approve depending on the Group Maintenance permissions.
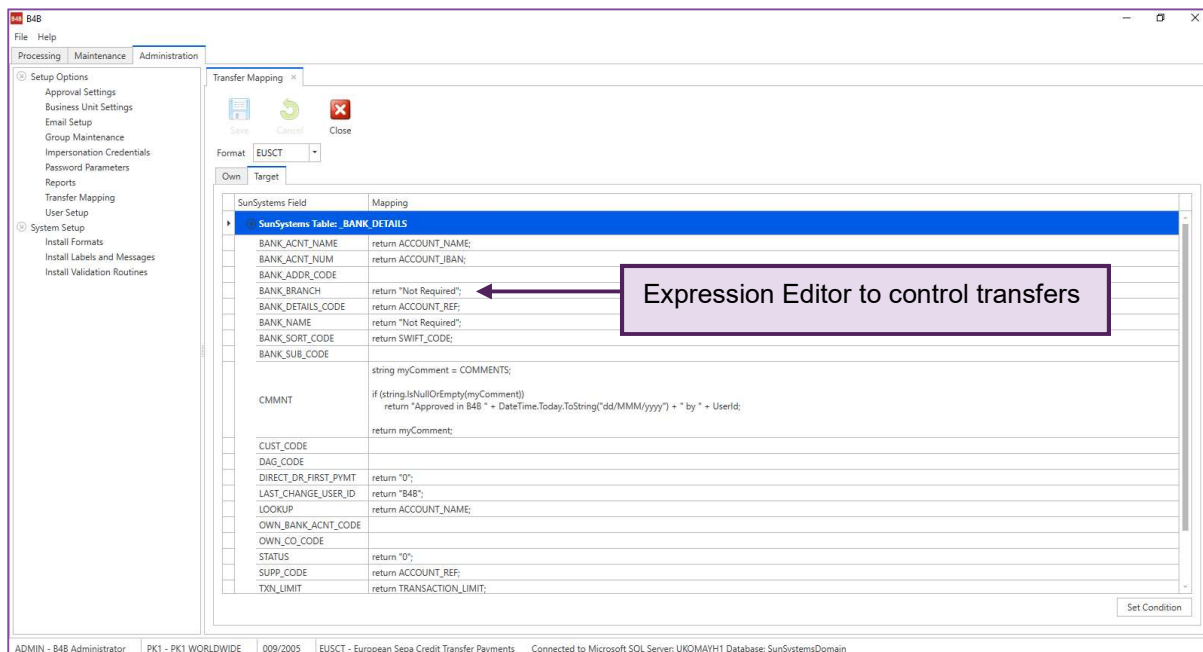
The transfer is a column mapping tool with the target being the columns from the SunSystems Bank Detail table(s) which are version specific and the source being the B4B bank detail columns which are format specific, constants or system variables.

An expression editor is used to control, test and convert data being written to SunSystems as required.

B4B Web

B4B can now be deployed through the web to allow access to the application via a browser.

Functionality within the web portal is currently limited however it is envisaged that all functionality will be made available in a future release of the software. At present, the following functions are available through the web portal;

Processing   >> Audit Reports

     >> Create Bank File

     >> Remittance

     >> Validate Payments

Maintenance   >> Auxiliary Functions

     >> Email Templates

     >> Remittance History

     >> Remittance Options

     >> Own Bank

>> Sundry Target Bank

>> Target Bank

Access to the functions within the web portal are controlled in the same way as the desktop application via the Group Maintenance >> Format Permissions functions.

Note availability of the Country Codes and Currency Codes is dependent on the format being used as not all formats require these auxiliary functions.

Target Bank Details

This function is used for entering the Bank Details required for making payments to Suppliers or collecting debits from Customers.

Functionality in the web portal is identical to the desktop application.

Create Bank File

The Create Bank File function is format specific and is used to create the output file for submission to the bank. As this function is format specific the fields available will be different for each format based on the bank's requirements. The example below is from the EUSCT – European SEPA Credit Transfer Payments format.

Functionality in the web portal is identical to the desktop application.

Remittances

The Process Remittance function facilitates the review and processing of remittances to notify beneficiaries via email of payments that have been made.

Functionality in the web portal is identical to the desktop application.

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