# BPCS/ERP LX Security
## Description of Vanilla Functionality

## User security profiles

Most BPCS / ERP LX security parameters are defined, maintained, and removed at the user level, one user at a time. Definitions for each user require entry of specific authorizations on each of these dimensions:

- ✧ Products
- ✧ Programs
- ✧ Companies
- ✧ Warehouses
- ✧ Transaction types
- ✧ Facilities (new for ERP LX)

Entry of authorization information for any given user requires that the security administrator has knowledge of the pertinent code syntax. Here are three examples of that code syntax:

| Authorization Dimension | Code Syntax |
|---|---|
| The product code for Budgeting & Analysis | CBA |
| The program code for Material Status Inquiry | INV300 |
| The warehouse code for the Wisconsin warehouse | 15 |

Once security authorizations have been defined in the BPCS system, that information can only be accessed and inspected one user profile at a time. It's an arduous, time-consuming process.

For example, if the security administrator wanted to determine which specific BPCS users have authority to the Item Master Maintenance program, that administrator has quite a project. He/she must inspect the security profiles of every defined BPCS user, one by one, to gradually research and write down the answers to these issues:

a. Was INV100 specified as a program authorization for a given user, or …

b. Was a given user authorized to the INV product, or …

c. Was a given user authorized to all products, or …

d. Was a given user defined as a "super user" with authority granted on all dimensions?

Here's another chore that's often far too clunky: deleting BPCS users if their OS/400 security profile has already been removed.

Vanilla BPCS security programs will not allow your enterprise to add, delete or maintain BPCS security records for a user if that user does not have a valid OS/400 user profile. This means that if a user profile is deleted from the OS/400 security file, it can no longer be deleted or inactivated in the BPCS security files.

# Menu security definitions

Authority to access BPCS menus cannot be precisely defined nor maintained while working with a user's security profile. That's not very user-friendly; the following two illustrations explain why.

❖ **Illustration one**

Let's say that the user security profile for a given user grants authority to an entire product, for example all of INV. In that case, that same user would then also then have to be granted authority to all of the menus for the INV product (e.g. INV, INV01, INV02, etc.) through the menu maintenance program.

However, if a user's authority to an entire product is subsequently removed, that user's access to menus related to that product is not removed.

❖ **Illustration two**

Now let's say that a security profile for a given user grants authority to only a subset of a product's programs (e.g. one or more INV programs, but not all of INV). In that case, that same user would need to be granted authority to all of the INV menu(s) which reference any of the specific INV programs they were authorized too. Without authorization to the menu, the user would not be able to execute the programs he/she has already been granted authority to use.

To address the problems illustrated above, vanilla BPCS requires that the security administrator use a non-integrated menu maintenance function. This function defines and maintains user authority on a menu-by-menu basis, not on a user-by-user basis.

Net finding: most security attributes are maintained user-by- user but menu access must be maintained menu-by-menu. Seems clunky to us. That's one of the reasons why By Invitation Only was invented.

# Questions ?

It would be a privilege to answer any questions about the functionality of vanilla BPCS / ERP LX software. Here's Unbeaten Path International's contact information:

**Toll free North America: (888) 874-8008**
**International:  (+USA) 262-681-3151**
**Send us an e-mail** ( click **here** )

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