

Newsletter April 2021

Introduction

This letter summaries recent changes made to the Sales Manager. These are currently in the beta channel, and are *due to go live* at the end of April.

Major Changes

Sending Mail

- Emails can now be sent using a Gmail, Outlook or Yahoo account. This did not seem to make much difference when I tried it. All my attempts failed with authentication errors, even for new accounts.
- Emails can be sent manually, instead of by JavaMail. This avoids authentication issues, but only works when used in conjunction with the [Outlook app](#). Other mail clients do not seem to support HTML formatted emails.

Dropbox Support

This is necessary moving forwards, as Google is gradually phasing out the use of external storage. Again the issue is security. The old Files screen can still be used, but will eventually cease working on newer versions of Android.

The new Dropbox screen stores its files in a different area, and is not compatible with the use of the Files screen. The default is now to use Dropbox. Installing a new version of the Sales Manager may cause product images to disappear temporarily, but going to the Files screen should restore them.

Support for Google Drive was also considered, but not implemented.

Lines Screen

The blue plus buttons have been moved slightly to the left, to avoid clashing with the fast scroll bar. This should make the screen easier to use. It did for me, anyway. A proposal for a more radical change was rejected.

Other Changes

HTML Help

Online help will now be delivered in HTML format. This is still work in progress, but the old inline help text has already been phased out. Changes may not appear immediately, unless the cache is flushed.

App Icon

The app icon has been updated, but still refuses to display properly on my Fire 7.

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Features Withdrawn

GPS and Maps

All GPS and mapping features have been withdrawn. They never worked as hoped, and Google was constantly changing the APIs.

ZXing

Scanning barcodes using the built in camera on a phone has been withdrawn. In truth it was never more than a party trick.

Outstanding Issues

Android

The Billing library has to be upgraded to version 3, and the APKs will have to be replaced by [app bundles](#). Neither of these changes should affect the user.

PHP

The web server is still running an old version of PHP, and all the server side apps need rejigging. This will take time, but hopefully it can be done without affecting the user too much.

iOS

The iOS client app is written in the now obsolete Objective-C language. But it might just be possible to reinstate Dropbox support, which would at least make it usable again.

Manual

Work on a new user manual has begun.