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spatialNET – Post Job versus Batch Process

Version 1.0

Proprietary Notice

Change History

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	30-Aug-2011	P Dart	Official Release

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

This document describes the risks associated with using the Post Job feature within a system that has not been setup correctly.

This document has been prepared by SPATIALinfo.

1.1 Overview

This document outlines the technical considerations, risks, and recommendations with regard to the Post Job feature.

1.2 Scope

The scope of this job is to inform customers re the technical considerations, risks, and recommendations with regard to the Post Job feature.

1.3 Intended Audience

The intended audience for this document is all customers.

1.4 Referenced Dcocuments

The following documents should be used in addition to this CAD standard

- spatialNET User Guide
- spatialNET Configuration Guide

1.5 Versions of spatialNET this document applies to

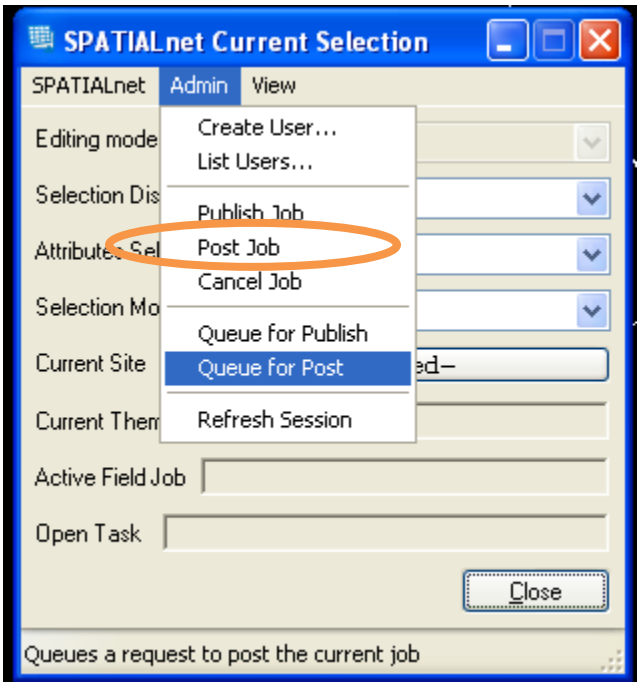
This document applies to all versions of spatialNET that carry the Post Job feature up to and including spatialNET 5.8.1

1.6 Definitions

Terms and abbreviations used in this document are outlined in the spatialNET User Guide and the spatialNET Configuration Guide:

2 Post Job

All versions of spatialNET up and including 5.8.1 have a feature called “Post Job”.



2.1 *Posting and Publishing Technical Details and Assumptions*

There are three issues that apply to Posting and Publishing:

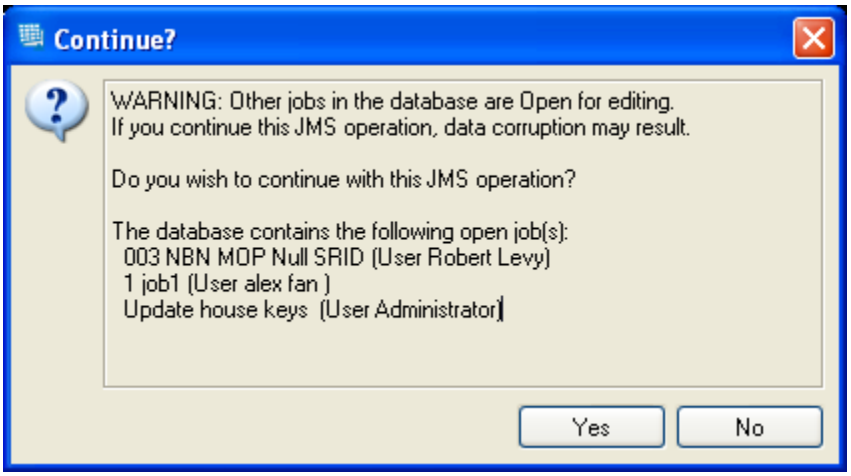
1. During a spatialNET session, large amounts of information are retrieved from the database and stored on the client machine. This reduces network traffic and the load on the oracle servers. The assumption is that POST and PUBLISH operations never occur while the client is connected to the database, so the database and client are always in sync. If, in the unfortunate circumstance that POST and PUBLISH operations do occur while the client is connected to the database, then the information on the client machine will be out of sync with the database.
2. When a client machine posts a job to the database, several operations are run to check that the database will be valid and consistent after the POST. The assumption is that the client has **exclusive** access to the database, and that the database will not change during the process. This means that two post operations should **never** be run concurrently.
3. If you cancel a job that has been published, you can invalidate someone else’s job that has been built using your published data. If the job has not been published, it is acceptable to cancel while others are connected to the database.

2.2 The Potential Risks and Possible Clashes that May be Caused by Using Post Job

The Post Job feature should be used with care: SPATIALInfo advises that the Post Job function should never be activated by a user while other users are connected to the database.

SPATIALInfo also advises that access to the Post Job function should be restricted.

If used, the Post Job function may result in a warning message similar to that shown below.



This warning indicates that system configuration may not be suitable for the User to run the Post Job function. Should this warning appear, SPATIALInfo advises that the User should press NO.

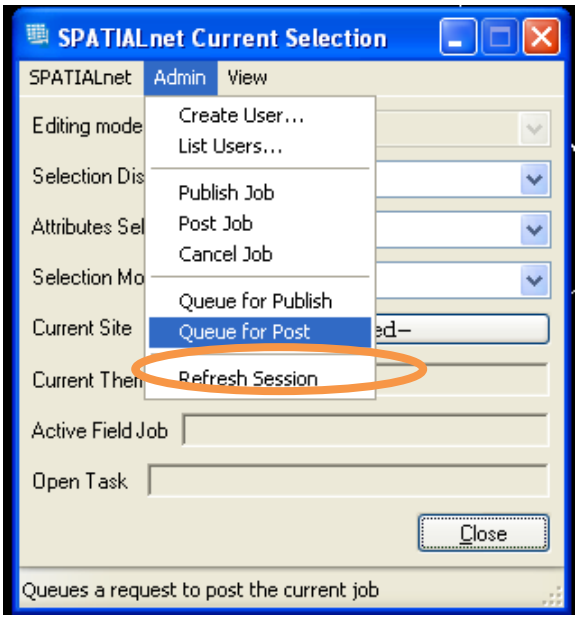
2.3 <Post Job> versus <Batch Post>

All posting of jobs should be done using the ***batch posting*** method. All installations should have a batch queue configured and a server executing this queue on a regular basis.

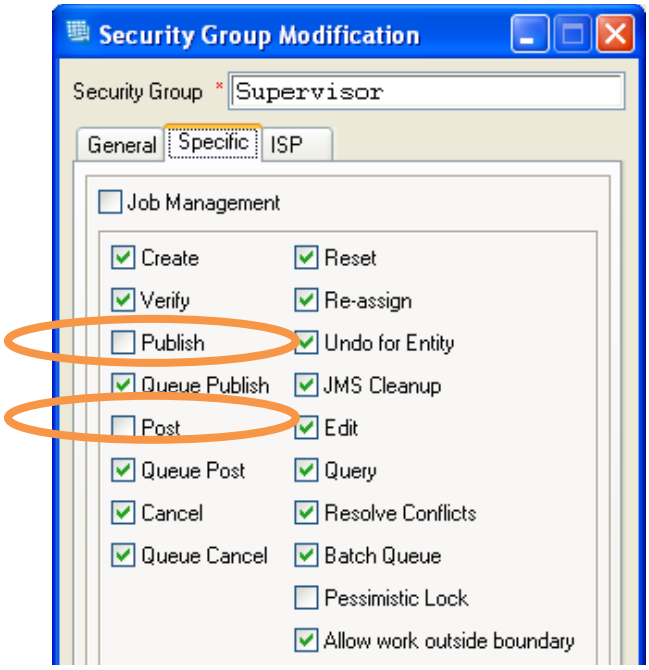
Note: If your installation does not have this function set up, please contact support for assistance.

2.4 Recommendations to Avoid Risk

- All POST and PUBLISH operations need to be done using the batch queue option



- It is recommended that the "Post Job" and "Publish Job" options are restricted from typical users.



- Sessions should not be left running overnight. At the end of each day the user should log off and start a new session in the morning, which will refresh the information from the database.
- Users should not share jobs or user login ids.

2.5 Risks from not Following the Recommendations

2.5.1 Database Corruption

There are many different forms of data corruption that can happen from not following these recommendations. Examples are missing entities and corrupted fiber connectivity (circuit groups). Correcting these problems is a costly and time-consuming exercise and in several cases the corruptions will have to be corrected manually.

2.6 Future Versions of spatialNET

It is currently planned by SPATIALInfo that versions of spatialNET after 5.8.1 will restrict the ability to post while others are connected; the consequence of posting will be that other users will be forced to log off.