Introduction to Beta

Welcome to Beta Preview

Thank you for joining our team of beta testers for the third generation of ClubRunner – Version 3.0! We're proud to announce that we are launching the Beta Preview today to selected clubs including yours. You can expect a far more intuitive, advanced, and responsive experience with our new cloud-based version. Based on feedback we have gathered over the years, we've redesigned many of the modules of ClubRunner, and will be releasing them in several stages, starting with the Website Designer and Contents module. Hosted on the Microsoft Azure platform, ClubRunner 3.0 is not only cloud based but is also scalable, so it can support the growing needs of your club without affecting speed or stability, and takes advantage of the latest web technology.

What exactly is a Beta Preview?

A product in beta is considered to have completed its development phase and only requires final testing and user acceptance. As a beta tester, you have the exclusive early access pass to view and use this brand new version of ClubRunner and have the opportunity to provide your feedback. Your suggestions will be incorporated into further developing and customizing this product prior to its official release. A beta preview allows you to evaluate the new software while maintaining your current website which will not be affected. The type of feedback we are seeking can be anything related to the user experience, big or small. Didn't like the way something functioned? Don't agree with the naming or title of certain features? This is your chance to have your say! To send in your suggestions, click on the Submit Feedback link at the very top of the page, or drop us a line at feedback@clubrunner.ca.

Getting Started

The next time any member of your club who has Site Administrator (Level 30) access logs into your website, an orange button will appear at the top right of the Admin page, titled Preview Version 3.0. Only the site administrators in your club will be able to see this. This will redirect you to the new version. You will notice that the Admin menu is limited just to those modules you are previewing, which are Website, Bulletin and Documents.

Data Import from Version 2

Your website contents have already been migrated to this new version so you will not need to rebuild your website from scratch. Please note that during the Beta Preview phase, any new content you add to Version 3 may be deleted without notice. However, your existing website contents will not be affected at all. If you would like to reimport new content from Version 2 to Version 3, you have the ability to do so when you first switch to Version 3, by clicking on the Import Website Contents button in the landing page.

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Version 3.0 Overview

Architecture

The biggest difference between Version 2 and 3 is the underlying architecture. Version 3.0 was built on the Microsoft Azure platform, which is a cloud-based architecture, whereas Version 2 is built on .NET running on physical servers. The biggest benefit of the new architecture is not only faster and more flexible programming, but a more reliable and scalable framework. Rather than hosting the application from a central server, Version 3 is managed by Microsoft cloud-based servers, which includes replicating the servers in various locations in the world, backing up the information automatically, and optimizing response times by ensuring the fastest and most direct connection to the system.

Functional Changes

Version 3.0 required a complete rebuild of the application, which allowed us the opportunity to start integrating some feature upgrades, based on the numerous suggestions we've received over the years.

Here are some of the highlights of Version 3.0:

AutoSave on all input screens

Deleted folder for easier restore

Integrated Image Library – stores all images you upload to any area of your site for easier reuse later

Draft versions of content – to allow you to work on content and save it before publishing live. The direction we are taking with this is to split up the access roles so that certain members can have the rights to add content but not publish live.

Expanded Widget properties – depending on the type of widget, we're introducing more parameters to allow you to control how the widget looks and behaves. For example, custom widgets can have custom titles, background colours and borders. RSS widgets can pull in a feed from any source, and optionally include a brief.

Drag and drop functionality throughout – changing the sequence of items in a list is much easier now thanks to a much more robust drag and drop function. The website designer has also been redesigned to use drag and drop, so you can drag and drop widgets around the page, including over to other columns.

Additional Themes – both the new website and bulletin designer have revitalized themes, and we plan to continue adding more.

Custom CSS – for advanced users, upload your own custom stylesheet to make tweaks to an existing theme.

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Custom Links – much easier to now link to various portions of your site, such as stories, files, events, and site pages by simply selecting from a dropdown list.

Custom Pages – create single, one-off pages within your site without having to create an entire Site Page for it. These pages can also have a custom design and layout just like your home page, using the available widgets.

Bulletin – the newsletter module has now been redesigned to allow for independent editions of bulletins, and can be grouped into various series. This will allow you to have more than one type of bulletin, each with their own unique layout and banner.

Training & Support

Introductory Webinar

We highly recommend attending an Introductory Webinar to get an overview and demonstration of the highlights of working with Version 3.0. To view a listing of the schedule and register online, visit www.clubrunner.ca/V3.

Submitting Feedback

We welcome your feedback on Version 3.0. You can submit this feedback by emailing us at feedback@clubrunner.ca, submitting a ticket through our Support site at www.clubrunnersupport.com, or by phoning us at 1-877-469-2582 (+1 -905-829-5299).

We have also created a Group on Linkedin for beta testers to share information and ideas for further discussion. Please click on the following link to access the group:

JOIN OUR GROUP LinkedIn

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ClubRunner-Beta-Early-Access-Participants-4746832/about

For the latest ClubRunner updates, follow us on:

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