



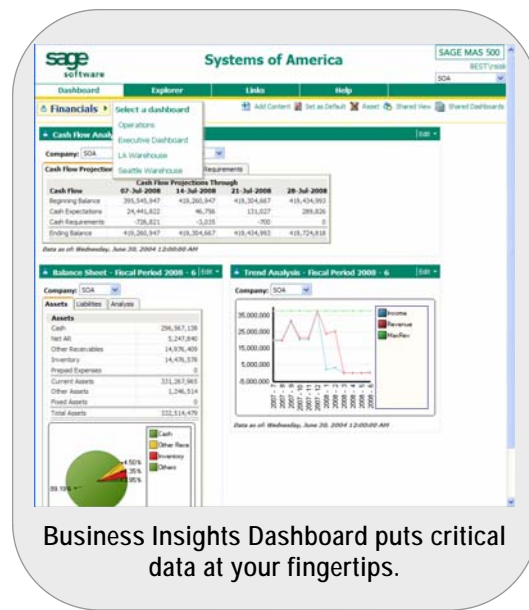
## SAGE MAS 500 NEWSLETTER

### Business Insight That Is Simply DASHING

As one of the first mid-market ERP solutions built on Microsoft Visual Basic and SQL Server, MAS 500 has a long history as a technology leader. Building on that tradition, a key feature of the recent Version 7.2 release is the new **Business Insights Dashboard** - a web-based application developed in .NET. If your only experience with a dashboard is the one in your car, then read on to learn about this fantastic new web-based reporting tool.

#### First, A Word About Dashboards

One glance at the dashboard in your car tells you everything you need to know about your speed, fuel, oil temperature, and other vital systems to ensure your car runs smoothly. The same thing can be said about a reporting dashboard that provides visual analysis of business activity. It aggregates vital information that is scattered across your business and throughout your MAS 500 database and presents it in an easy-to-read format that's simple to interpret at a glance. In your car, you wouldn't necessarily monitor your tire pressure or brake fluid every five minutes using a dashboard gauge. The same can be said about a reporting dashboard that can be customized to include only the information that you feel is vital to the smooth operation of your business. These vital bits of data are sometimes referred to as key performance indicators, or KPIs.



Business Insights Dashboard puts critical data at your fingertips.

#### Business Insights Dashboard for Sage MAS 500

The Business Insights Dashboard delivered with Version 7.2 puts key performance data, industry news, and competitive intelligence at your fingertips. It channels all the information you need into a web-based dashboard with single-click access to analytical tools or ad-hoc inquiries for more detailed analysis. In addition, it offers the following features:

- **Data from Any Source** – in addition to critical MAS 500 data, the Business Insights Dashboard can display external information such as industry news or data from other systems within your business.
- **Total Control** – Using Visual Studio.NET, custom data views (or “web parts”) can be created and added to your dashboard allowing you to track almost any business scenario imaginable.
- **Personalization** – each MAS 500 user can personalize the dashboard based on his/her role within the organization. For instance, your Warehouse Manager might track inventory levels and back orders while your AR Clerk tracks receivables, aging data, and payments.

#### Two Great Products Work Together

As an added benefit, you can access the [Business Insights Explorer](#) directly from your Insights Dashboard adding the ability to perform powerful sorting, filtering, inquiry, and drill-down **without requiring a Sage MAS 500 client installation**. This allows you to provide key personnel with Sage MAS 500 data access and analysis without purchasing a full user license. The Business Insights Dashboard is included with MAS 500 Version 7.2 and a FREE benefit to customers on a current support plan. Contact us to learn more about putting the Business Insights Dashboard to work in your business.

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Business Insight That Is Simply DASHING

You Should “CHECK” Out MICR

News Bytes



# YOU SHOULD "CHECK" OUT MICR

"MICR" stands for **M**agnetic **I**nk **C**haracter **R**ecognition. MICR encoding is a process by which checks are printed using special magnetic ink and font characters to create machine readable information for check processing. As a check travels through the banking system, a reader-sorter machine sends a magnetic charge to the check which allows it to read MICR information very quickly and accurately. Because of this required magnetic charge, the Federal Reserve and all banks require that checks be printed with a special MICR toner (for the curious-minded, the special ingredient for MICR toner is iron oxide - an excellent trivia question next time you're hanging around the coffee machine). Laser printers with a special cartridge are typically used to print MICR-encoded checks.

Using a MICR solution can transform a blank piece of paper into a complete check printing solution with date, payee information, logos, bank identification and the required MICR line, along with automated signatures, if desired.

## The Benefits ...

Organizations that use a MICR check printing application save money and reap the rewards of improved security and flexibility. Since MICR software can print the entire check, there is no need to purchase and securely store more expensive, preprinted check stock. And, without the need for preprinted stock, the risk of blank check theft and related fraud is eliminated. Through password protection, new bank accounts can be easily added or old accounts deleted. Signatures can be automatically printed on checks based on custom rules and dollar limits you establish.

## A Great MICR Solution is Available for Sage MAS 500

Altec, a Sage Software Endorsed Development Partner, offers a complete MICR check printing solution that is integrated with your MAS 500 accounting system. The MICR solution provides the following benefits:

- Use the same paper stock for multiple accounts.
- Complies with current American Banking Association (ABA) standards.

- Print logos and signatures directly on the check.
- Cost savings using blank check stock
- Use existing equipment to print secure checks.
- Optional pressure-sealed solution folds and seals checks so their ready for mailing.



[Contact us](#) to learn more about a MICR check printing solution for your MAS 500 system.

## News Bytes

### MAS 500 PRODUCT RETIREMENTS

All support for MAS 500 **Version 6.3** will end on December 31, 2009. A final 1099 update will be delivered in January 2010. Support for **Version 7.0** will end on May 31, 2009. Contact us with questions or to schedule an upgrade to Version 7.2.

### FRX REPORTING SOFTWARE RETIREMENT

Microsoft has decided against further development of FRx reporting software beyond version 6.7. However support will continue through June 2011. Sage Software is evaluating suitable alternatives *including* Microsoft's Management Reporter which is described as the next generation FRx. Stay tuned for updates.

**REMINDER: MAS 500 VERSION 7.2** has been released. [Click here](#) for an overview of new features.

### NEW HTML HELP CENTER

New technology has been implemented including HTML Help and multimedia tutorials throughout the Help Center in MAS 500 Version 7.2. The new Help Center is more streamlined and presents a main window from which to search across all topics and all modules. Go ahead and give it a test drive!



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