



1ST QUARTER  
2008

## SAGE MAS 500 NEWSLETTER

### Get Ready for Sage MAS 500 Version 7.2

Sage Software has announced the upcoming release of Sage MAS 500 version 7.2, which continues its strong tradition as an open SQL Server and Visual Basic platform for integration and customization. Scheduled for availability in **March 2008**, MAS 500 Version 7.2 strengthens its technology leadership position by providing two new Microsoft .Net solutions, support for Microsoft Vista, and overall improved workflow and the user interface. In this article, we'll focus on a couple of significant improvements and help you determine whether an upgrade to version 7.2 would yield benefit to your business.

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#### New Web-Based Dashboard Solution

A new web-based **Business Insights Dashboard** will be introduced and is a free benefit to all MAS 500 customers on a current maintenance/support plan. Business Insights Dashboard is a decision-making tool that consolidates important metrics, MAS 500 data, and even external information such as industry news and competitive intelligence into a single web-based graphical dashboard view. The data views are completely secure allowing Administrators to assign access to information based on a user's role in the organization. As an added benefit, Business Insights Dashboard can access **Business Insights Explorer** directly through a web browser which will take your analysis to a more detailed level with the powerful sorting, filtering, grouping and drill-down capabilities you're already familiar with.



New Web-based Business Insights Dashboard leverages .NET technology and provides graphical views of important metrics and other data

#### Data Import Manager

The new **Data Import Manager** introduces a simplified interface for data mapping and data import. Built with .NET and SQL Server 2005 SSIS technology, database administrators can now configure **one-time or regular scheduled imports** into a wide variety of Sage MAS 500 transaction formats through a powerful **mapping wizard**. Using the Wizard, you can establish direct feeds from ASCII, Delimited, Microsoft Access, Excel, SQL, and XML data sources. Data Import Manager also leverages technology of the ever-popular and widely-used Visual Integrator module of MAS 500's sister product MAS 90 and MAS 200. Data Import Manager will be licensed as a separate module and is expected to be priced at \$2,500.

#### Other Enhancements

**Warehouse Automation** – new flexible picking options allow you to pick based on a Sales Order number or Shipment number. A new **Email Notification** feature provides instant feedback to key personnel as transactions are processed from a handheld device which will streamline workflow.

**Sage MAS 500 Office Update** – Memo Management enhancements and improvements to Office Templates will make it easier than ever to attach customer and vendor correspondence, internal task instructions, and various other documents associated with a given MAS 500 procedure or record. In addition, the MAS 500 Office template creation and merge functionality has been completely redesigned to better leverage embedded features within Microsoft Word and Excel.



Contact Us to request the Sage MAS 500 Version 7.2 Pre-Release Guide if you would like more detailed information.

# Payroll Pay Cards - A Good Option for Your Employees?

Sage Software has introduced a new employee payment option for its small and mid-sized business customers - **Sage Payroll PayCards**. Payroll Cards can help reduce payroll costs and liabilities associated with paycheck generation, while enabling companies to offer their employees a new and simple way to receive pay. In this article, we'll explore what a Payroll Card is exactly and how it might benefit your company.

## What is a Payroll Pay Card?

A Payroll Pay Card holds a stored value and functions much like a debit card without the need for an underlying banking account. An employee who receives a Pay Card as payroll is able to access cash at an ATM, pay bills, buy groceries, make online purchases, and use the card just about anywhere a debit card would be accepted. Pay Cards are often branded, by Visa or Mastercard for example, and thus are widely accepted by merchants, banks and other establishments.



Sage Software Introduces New Payroll PayCards Program

## How Does it Work?

Employers establish an account with a Pay Card program. The program provider does not handle the employer's actual funds, but establishes a partnership with a bank that handles the financial transactions. Money from the employer is deposited into the bank that then disburses the funds to the employees through the Pay Card program. Employees are issued Pay Cards, similar in appearance to a credit or debit card, which stores the amount of money the employee has earned in payroll for the period. The employee can use this card for any financial transaction such as purchasing merchandise, cash withdrawal, or paying bills. For security, each cardholder establishes a PIN number.

## Who is a Good Fit for Payroll Pay Cards?

For employees that already have a bank account, Pay Cards provide an alternative to carrying cash or cashing a check. Employees who **do not** have a bank account gain the convenience of using a debit card without the risk of carrying cash around nor the inconvenience and potential fees of cashing a check at a bank (according to a study in 2005 by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency, Americans without bank accounts spend roughly \$8 billion in fees and finance-related charges).

## How Does it Benefit Employers?

The main financial benefit to employers of offering Pay Cards is lower payroll processing costs. According to studies, the cost of issuing a paper check is estimated at \$1 to \$2 (paycheck paper stock, security features, envelopes, check handling, toner/printers, etc.). There is also a replacement cost and potential banks fees for lost or stolen paychecks. Direct deposit can minimize these costs. However, direct deposit isn't an option

for employees who do not have, or are unable to qualify for, a banking account. As such, Pay Cards most closely approximate the cost savings of direct deposit.

## Sage Payroll PayCards

Sage Software has partnered with Motivano, a leading employee benefits technology company, to bring Sage Payroll PayCards to market. Sage Payroll PayCards are reloadable and the program will be delivered via a Web-based solution that requires no system integration, software, or hardware. An employer simply signs up and enrolls employees. Virtually all employees are eligible for a Sage Payroll PayCard, with no credit checks nor prior banking relationship required.



Contact Us to learn more about the new Sage Payroll PayCards Program



[www.nextecgroup.com](http://www.nextecgroup.com)

[info@nextecgroup.com](mailto:info@nextecgroup.com)

**Los Angeles**  
11500 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 590  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(310) 479-7701

**Houston**  
1100 North Loop West Suite 810  
Houston, TX 77008  
(713) 957-4259

**Cleveland**  
3918 Clock Point Trail Suite 101 & 102  
Stow, OH 44224  
(330) 928-7300

**New Jersey**  
300 Harmon Meadow Blvd.  
Secaucus, NJ 07094  
(201) 933-0707

**Pacific Northwest**  
200 1st Avenue West Suite 400  
Seattle, WA 98119  
(206) 505-7980

**New York City**  
245 Park Avenue, 39th Floor  
New York, New York 10167  
(212) 372-8999