



1st Quarter
2011

Sage MAS 500 Newsletter

In This Issue:

Get Ready for More in 7.4

3 Reasons You'll Love Sage MAS Intelligence

Intelligent Learning Online

GET READY FOR MORE IN 7.4

A Look Ahead to Sage ERP MAS 500 7.4 and More

In February, Sage gave us a glimpse of what's to come with the updated Sage ERP MAS 500 Product Roadmap. The roadmap provides a timeline of new releases through 2012, scheduled product updates, and an overview of the new features you can expect in versions 7.4 and 7.5. Here's what we think is worth taking a look at.

Recent Updates

A couple of product updates have recently been released for the current Version 7.3 and are available for download from [Sage Software Online](#). These updates include the highly-anticipated [Sage MAS Intelligence](#) - an advanced analytics and financial reporting platform that replaces FRx which has been retired by Microsoft. Sage also announced the new eBusiness Suite which replaces both the eCustomer and eSalesForce modules which have also been retired. Available in January 2011, the Basic Edition is available at no charge to previous owners of eCustomer or eSalesForce.

Looking Ahead to Version 7.4

Scheduled for release in June 2011, enhanced features of Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4 will focus primarily on **manufacturing** and **distribution**. In manufacturing, you'll have the ability to complete work order steps without issuing material, reverse progress and production entries, and backflush from bin-tracked warehouses.

Landed Cost tracking has also been improved within the distribution modules allowing you to auto-generate landed costs, override the allocation method for predefined cost types, override calculated line unit cost, and many other enhancements that should be helpful to distributors.

Version 7.4 also introduces improvements to **Unit of Measure (UOM)** tracking including expanded decimal precision in data tables, flexible rounding methods, bin transfers in any unit of measure, and a new business intelligence report for UOM.

A Peak at Version 7.5

MAS 500 Version 7.5 is almost 2 years away from release so there aren't too many details available just yet. But the recent roadmap does provide some framework for the objectives of the release which include more enhancements to advanced manufacturing, improved customization capabilities, and general productivity improvements like the anticipated 'hard close of sub-ledgers.'

sage

Authorized Partner



SAGE ERP MAS 500 PRODUCT ROADMAP

[Contact us](#) for a copy of the February 2011 Product Roadmap with all the details including the new release timeline and the Version Support Schedule for Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.2 and older.

3 Reasons You'll Love Sage MAS Intelligence

If you've been using Sage ERP MAS 500 for a while, it's hard to overstate the important role that FRx has undoubtedly played in your business. But sometimes change (even when it's forced on us by Microsoft!) leads to great things ... and the retirement of FRx is no exception. In fact, here are 3 reasons we think you're going to love your new Sage MAS Intelligence reporting tool.

1. More Than a One-Trick Pony

First and foremost, Sage MAS Intelligence (SAI) is so much more than just a financial reporter that's pulling data only from your General Ledger. SAI looks across your entire MAS 500 database to report on information in **any module**. For example, a single report can display information from multiple companies and across operational areas like sales, accounting, payroll, manufacturing and inventory. Now THAT'S well-rounded talent.

2. A Familiar Face

Sage MAS Intelligence is an Excel-based reporting tool. With millions of customers worldwide using Excel, it's likely that you're already familiar with this indispensable business tool. That means your learning curve will be short and a world of analytical tools will be at your finger tips using Excel formulas, pivot tables, and charting tools. In fact, all of the SAI reporting output goes straight into Excel so you can add rows and columns, combine operational data from other sources, and slice, dice, and analyze to your heart's content.

3. Good Looking AND Intelligent

With a variety of pre-formatted reports, SAI is a real "looker." All that raw data in your MAS 500 system is converted into graphs, charts, and dashboards that make it easy to spot trends and identify emerging opportunity.

Bite-sized pieces of visual data combined into one view that's worth far more than a thousand words. Perhaps more important, underneath that pretty face lies a powerful business intelligence engine which means you can slice, dice, filter, and analyze, to your heart's content ... all without the need for technical assistance from the "IT Guy."

Important Support Update for FRx

Based on a contractual agreement with Microsoft, FRx service packs and bug fixes are no longer be available on [Sage Software Online](#) as of January 31, 2011. But rest assured, Sage will continue to provide support for any issues related to the integration between MAS 500 and FRx in accordance with their [published supported versions policy](#).

Seeing Is Believing



Seeing is believing ... that's why we thought you'd be interested in a few helpful videos posted online including tips for **Installing MAS Intelligence**, **Using the Report Designer**, and **Modifying Existing Reports**. In fact, a good place to start is the [Sage MAS Intelligence Overview Video](#).

Intelligent Learning Online

Sage Online University is currently offering some FREE courses to get you up to speed on Sage MAS Intelligence. You can also register for "Excel on Steroids" if you need to brush up on your skills or just put some strength in your spreadsheet routine. Check it out today at:

www.sageu.com/mas500

NEXTEC GROUP OFFICES ...

Los Angeles

(310) 479-7701

Cleveland

(330) 598-2400

Pacific Northwest

(206) 505-7980

Houston

(713) 957-8350

New Jersey

(201) 933-0707

New York City

(212) 372-8999

NEXTEC

www.nextecgroup.com

info@nextecgroup.com