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# Sage MAS 500 Newsletter

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## Sometimes Less is More

### Changes in Frequency of MAS 500 Updates

Sage recently announced plans to change the way they deliver Sage MAS 500 product updates and feature enhancements. By adopting the “less is more” philosophy when it comes to product update frequency, Sage is addressing a common challenge for many MAS 500 customers (based on surveys and other feedback) ... the time and cost involved in staying current with monthly updates. Let’s take a closer look at how these updates will now be provided.

#### Product Updates: Quality Over Quantity

Historically, Sage has provided product fixes and updates on a monthly basis. However beginning earlier this year and based on information from support cases, customer surveys, and various advisory boards, MAS 500 will move from **monthly updates** to **Product Updates**. Scheduled for availability every 3 or 4 months, Product Updates are less frequent which means you’ll have fewer upgrades/changes to apply.

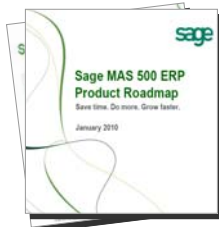
Rest assured that Product Updates will still include important program corrections and resolution of issues that MAS 500 customers may experience. However the added benefit is that Product Updates will also include new features which we’ll explore below.

#### Providing Incremental Value

To provide more “value for maintenance,” MAS 500 Product Updates will include **new features** based on some of the top customer-requested enhancements. With fewer updates to manage, Sage can direct its development resources toward adding new features incrementally and more often, rather than waiting for a major version release which typically happens every 12 to 18 months. Ultimately, you spend less time maintaining your MAS 500 application and get more value for your maintenance plan. Enhancements and fixes included in Product Updates are cumulative, so you only need to install the most recent update to get the benefit of previous updates.

#### Sage MAS 500 Product Roadmap - 2010

Sage has recently published a MAS 500 Product Roadmap. In addition to providing more information about the changes in Product Update delivery mentioned above, the product roadmap also includes a snapshot of what’s to come in Versions 7.4 and 7.5, a version retirement schedule, and a glimpse of the new advanced analytics and financial reporting application as an alternative to FRx.



#### New Product Updates

- Every 3 to 4 Months
- Includes Bug Fixes *and* Enhancements
- 4 to 5 Product Updates Between Major Releases
- Better Value for Maintenance

**sage**

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[Contact Us](#) and we’ll email you a copy of the Sage MAS 500 Product Roadmap with all the details!

# Data Security and Your Customers

Today, nearly all businesses accept credit and debit cards as a form of payment. To protect your customers' sensitive data, the payment card industry has developed a set of standards known as the **Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard**, or simply **PCI-DSS**. As a merchant, you must be compliant with the new PCI-DSS requirements by **July 1, 2010** or risk losing your ability to process debit and credit card transactions. Let's take a closer look.

## Becoming PCI-DSS Compliant

Developed & enforced by the 5 major credit card networks including Visa, MasterCard, JCB, American Express, and Discover, PCI-DSS requirements apply to all businesses that store, process, and transmit cardholder data. There are 12 requirements that fall into 6 categories as follows:

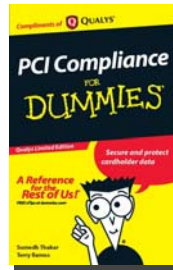
- **Build and maintain a secure network** - includes firewalls and passwords
- **Protect cardholder data** - data encryption and storage procedures
- **Maintain a Vulnerability Management Program** - anti-virus and operating system security
- **Access Control Measures** - covers both electronic and physical access and handling of sensitive data
- **Monitoring and Testing Networks** - schedule regular tests of security measures
- **Information Security Policy** - formalized security policy that's updated and distributed regularly

## PCI-DSS Resources

There is a wealth of information and resources online to help ensure that you are compliant with the new PCI-DSS requirements by the July 1st deadline. In fact, Sage has developed a dedicated website for Sage MAS customers at [www.SageMasInfo.com/M500PCI](http://www.SageMasInfo.com/M500PCI).

You'll also find complete details on the official PCI Security Standard website at [www.PciSecurityStandards.org](http://www.PciSecurityStandards.org).

## The Lighter Side of PCI-DSS



[Contact Us](#) and we'll email you a **FREE** copy of the e-book "PCI Compliance for Dummies."

This comprehensive e-book explains how to comply with PCI-DSS requirements, presented in plain English and in a light-hearted fashion.

Please be sure to contact us if you have specific questions about PCI-DSS compliance and your Sage MAS 500 system.

## Shaping The Future of Sage MAS 500 Make Sure Your Voice is Heard!

When it comes to new features of MAS 500, you'll often hear about "Customer-Requested" enhancements. But have you ever wondered where those requests come from and how to ensure YOUR voice is heard? If so, then you need to check out the new **Sage MAS 500 Customer Feedback website** at:

[www.sagemas.com/mas\\_500\\_feedback](http://www.sagemas.com/mas_500_feedback)

The website allows you to recommend new features, vote on ideas suggested by others, and conduct online discussions with other customers to help shape the future of Sage MAS 500. The Sage Product Management team continuously monitors the website and uses the feedback to develop and prioritize enhancements to future releases ... so visit today and make sure your voice is heard!

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

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

