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Sage MAS 500 Newsletter

*In This
Issue:*

Looking to the
Future - Life
After FRx

“Full Speed
Ahead” with
MAS 500 7.3

MAS 500
Product
Roadmap

Looking to the Future - Life After FRx

Soon after Microsoft announced a retirement date for FRx, Sage began extensive research to find the replacement solution which has recently been identified as **Sage ERP MAS Intelligence** - an Excel-based reporting and analysis tool. But Sage MAS ERP Intelligence is so much more than just a financial reporter or FRx replacement. It's a comprehensive business intelligence reporting platform that looks across your entire Sage MAS 500 system, combining data from multiple companies, modules, and databases to provide a **complete** view of your business. Let's take a closer look.

A More “Intelligent” Sage MAS 500

With pre-formatted reports and built-in pivot tables, you'll be up and running quickly using the **power and familiarity of Microsoft Excel** to expand reports, analyze data and perform detailed what-if analysis. Plus, Sage MAS ERP Intelligence allows you to modify existing report templates, create totally new reports, and save your settings & preferences, which eliminates the need to update formulas and multiple Excel spreadsheets each time you run a report.

By pulling data directly from **any MAS 500 module**, Sage MAS ERP Intelligence can combine accounting, operations, CRM, HR, Payroll, and much more into a single report. This is an important distinction from FRx which only looks at data from your General Ledger. Plus, Sage MAS ERP Intelligence automatically recognizes your MAS 500 fiscal periods, chart of accounts, and detailed transactions.

Sage MAS ERP Intelligence also **connects to external ODBC databases or third-party software** applications which will help consolidate volumes of raw data across your entire company into a single reporting platform. This will save a tremendous amount of time and the potential inaccuracies of manually extracting data and cobbling together reports from a variety of sources.

What About FRx?

In the short term, you can use both FRx and Sage MAS ERP Intelligence so you have time to become familiar with the new reporting platform before making the switch. While they both offer some of the same basic features, there are several advantages Sage ERP MAS Intelligence offers including:

- **Reports are built directly in Excel.** FRx requires multiple steps including an export to Excel.
- **Reports across all modules.** FRx looks only at the General Ledger.
- **Multi-company and Multi-database consolidations.** FRx performs only multi-company.

Sage MAS ERP Intelligence is available for Sage MAS 500 beginning with version 7.3. Each customer will receive **four free Report Manager licenses** which allow you to create new reports, set security and permissions, and edit/clone the standard report templates. Additional modules and licenses are available depending on whether you need to connect to more than one database or have multiple users that need to design or schedule reports.

NOTE: Microsoft will continue to support FRx until December 31, 2012 so you still have plenty of time to prepare for this important transition. Sage MAS 500 v7.4 will also maintain backward compatibility with FRx.



[Contact Us](#) directly with your questions or to request a copy of the Sage ERP MAS Intelligence **FAQ Document** with important details.

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"Full Speed Ahead" with MAS 500 7.3

Business clichés have been around for a long time. As you take a stroll through the office, keep your ears open and you'll hear things like "Think Outside the Box," "Give Me the 30,000 Foot View," and "Wipe the Slate Clean." But when it comes to Sage MAS 500 Version 7.3, the performance improvements and increased processing capacity will have you saying "Full Speed Ahead!" Let's take a look at how MAS 500 7.3 turns cliché into reality.

Time is Money

With each new release of Sage MAS 500, you'll find that most of the buzz and excitement revolves around the new features and functions. But let's face it, you probably implemented Sage MAS 500 because of the underlying technology. Maybe you were growing and needed to accommodate more users or process more transactions than your previous solution could handle. And of course, all of that data and throughput can place a heavy burden on your IT infrastructure. That's why we know you're gonna love the **significant system performance improvements**.

In an effort to prove that MAS 500 7.3 is a more powerful, scalable, and reliable, the folks over at Sage ran a side-by-side comparison against Version 7.2. The results showed a near complete over-haul that has significantly increased the speed of functions you use most.

The Data Doesn't Lie

Here are just a few highlights of the side-by-side testing:

- **Create and Process Sales Order** can process **90% more** transactions per second.
- **Enter Sales Order and Print Invoice** is up to **99% faster** on large loads.
- 7.3 supports up to **70% more concurrent users** than Version 7.2 while maintaining comparable performance.
- **Manufacturing Production & Labor Entry** performance is **improved by approximately 90%**.

- **Cash Receipts Entry** load and process is up to **99% faster** on larger loads.
- Redundant validations have been eliminated which has **improved Crystal Reports Performance**.

By increasing speed and performance throughout the system including order processing, purchasing, and manufacturing, MAS 500 7.3 improves productivity throughout your business - "and you can take that to the bank."

Is an Upgrade Right For You?

If you've been thinking about upgrading but haven't "made the leap" yet, give us a call and we'll talk about whether MAS 500 7.3 is right for you. Or [Email Us](#) to request a copy of the full testing results published in the Release Guide.

Sage MAS 500 Product Roadmap

Earlier this year, Sage published a Product Roadmap that provides a glimpse of future enhancements, product updates, and development plans for your Sage MAS 500 system including:

- A summary of features and high level plans for Versions 7.4 and 7.5.
- Technology platform and performance improvements planned for version 7.4.
- Changes in product update delivery and support policies.
- Version retirement schedule.

[Contact Us](#) to request a copy of the Sage MAS 500 Product Roadmap

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