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SAGE MAS 500

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SAGE MAS 500 NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

What's Inside

Headline News

Several webcasts are available for Sage ERP MAS 500; current offerings include:

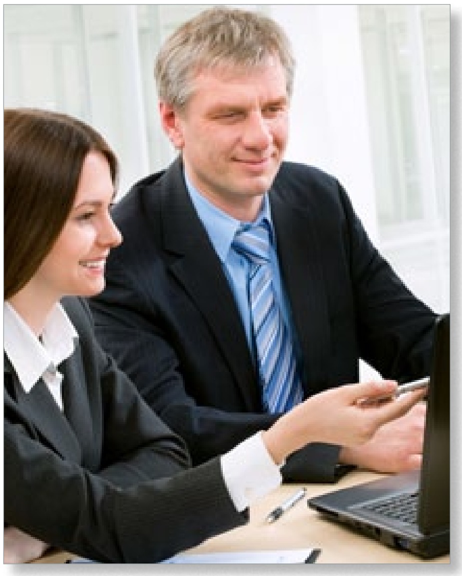
- What's New in Sage ERP MAS 500 v7.4: Get a preview of the new features in action.
- Integrating eCommerce With Sage ERP MAS 500 Made Easy
- Join Us in the Cloud - Sage Connected Services for Sage ERP MAS 500

Webcasts are offered at no charge. Visit the Sage Webcast Center for more information or Click here to register.

Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4

New Features Help You Save Time, Do More, And Grow Faster

Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4 is scheduled for release this summer. In the last issue, we reviewed the extensive enhancements for Advanced Manufacturing and Accounts Receivable that are included in this release. In this article, we highlight the performance and usability enhancements added for the Business Insights, Inventory Management, Purchase Order, and Sales Order modules.



Faster Business Insights

Several customer-requested enhancements are added to the Business Insights module to improve performance and usability. Metadata has been optimized and the response time to return filtered and select results is improved.

In System Manager, an option was added to the Maintain Business Insights Views/ Context Menus allowing you to limit output to only the Top N results. This option provides you with a quick view of your top performers. You also will have the option to export only the selected data from views to speed the process of exporting to Excel® for advanced analysis.

Landed Cost Flexibility

New flexibility in entering Landed Cost allows you to apply, change, and generate landed costs from the Enter Receipt of Goods screen. You can now definte, override, and apply landed costs on an individual receipt basis. The landed cost can be applied to a receipt line using a per-unit percent of cost or a flat amount per unit, or it can be applied to a receipt total and allocated by cost, quantity, weight, volume, or manually.

When a landed cost is being allocated by receipt total, the allocation method can be changed and the landed cost amount can be modified even if using a predefined landed cost. The calculated line unit cost also can be overridden if the user has security event permissions.

Inventory Unit Of Measure Refinments

A number of enhancements have been made to Inventory Unit of Measure capabilities to improve the accuracy of converting from one unit of measure (UOM) to another and to allow more flexibility in using alternative UOMs.

The accuracy of conversion from one

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Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4

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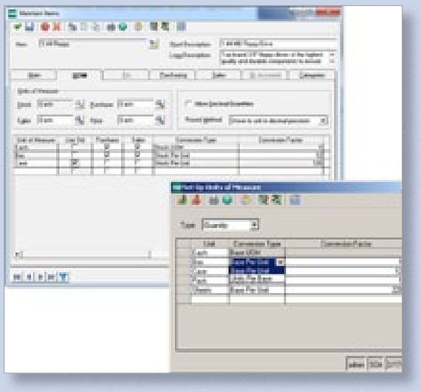
ZOOM IN



New Unit of Measure conversion features in the Inventory Management module can greatly increase the accuracy of costs across the system.

UOM to another is greatly enhanced by expanding the decimal precision in data tables, creating flexible rounding methods for the base (smallest) UOM, and adding user-definable conversion types. The system also stores the conversion factors used with the transaction. Amounts less than the displayed decimal precision will adjust automatically, and you will be able to print inventory reports in an alternative UOM other than Stock.

Expanded decimal precision in the display of physical counts and the ability to perform bin transfers in alternative UOMs increases usability. A BIE view for UOM also is added in Version 7.4 for ease in tracking and viewing UOM settings.

Preferred Vendor Override For Replenishment And MRP

Version 7.4 includes the ability to change the primary vendor for replenishment and MRP. Previously, the Preferred Vendor was automatically set based on the setting in Set Up Warehouse Replenishment. The addition of a checkbox in Maintain Inventory on the Replenishment tab allows you to choose whether to use the default primary vendor from Warehouse Replenishment or set the Primary Vendor separately for replenishment purposes. In either instance, the vendor can be overridden at the individual item level in Replenishment or MRP.

When the checkbox is selected, the Primary Vendor is View Only, and displays the default vendor. These options are not available if the source for replenishment is Warehouse.

Sales Order

In Sales Order you now can enter negative line items for non-inventory items; this gives you added flexibility in applying credits and discounts on customer orders.

Helping Sage Improve Sage ERP MAS 500

The new product enhancement program, introduced in a Version 7.3 product update, also is included in the Version 7.4 release. This first-stage enhancement monitors your Sage ERP MAS 500 system, gathering platform and operating system information, and tracking usage information on the local client installation. These statistics assist Sage in determining what are the most used tasks. The information gathered is then used to prioritize the areas of the software that will get the most attention.

When installing the new release, you have the option to opt-out of installing the product enhancement program software, and the feature can be disabled at any time in the Administrative Tools window. The periodic uploads of data to Sage are automatic and require no action on the part of the user. **Note:** The product enhancement program does not gather any confidential or company-specific data, such as financial information or customer lists.

Smart Updates

Smart Updates first were included in a Version 7.3 product update and are continued in Version 7.4. Smart Updates simplify software updates and upgrades and protect customizations.

The current Smart Update program detects the current updates that have been applied and installs only those objects that have changed since the last update was applied. It also alerts the user to customizations that exist and the objects identified as having changed since the last update was applied. Phase 2 is planned to apply the same detection capabilities to server-side updates and the ability to automate client-side updates by pulling them down from the server.

Support Retirements

With the release of Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4 there are several platform, module, and version retirements.

» SQL Server 2000, and Windows 2000 server and client no longer will be supported.
» Support for Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.05 will end as of September 2011.
» Microsoft FRx, replaced by Sage MAS Intelligence, will no longer be supported with the release of Version 7.4.
» eCustomer, eSalesforce, and eOrder have been retired and are replaced by the eBusiness Suite for Sage ERP MAS 500 powered by RKL eSolutions.

Give us a call for assistance in planning your upgrade to Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4.

Tips And Tricks—Making Global Changes In Inventory

Sometimes you may want to change the way your inventory is organized in the Sage ERP MAS 500 Inventory Management module. Here we provide some tips for the use of the Global Item or Global Inventory Change Utility task.

The Global Item or Global Inventory Change task is found under IM/Activities/ Utilities. You can use it to make changes to inventories or all items in an inventory according to the criteria selected so that the replenishment, stocking, and reporting characteristics in each warehouse can be customized.

In Sage ERP MAS 500, the term inventory refers to the warehouse-specific information for a particular item and warehouse combination. In contrast, item refers to the product information that remains constant for the item regardless of its location. You can select records to change based on: item, item class, item type, commodity code, track method, buyer, purchase product line, sales product line, warehouse, cost of goods sold rank, gross margin rank, quantity sold rank, and hit rank. When you select a field for change, you can enter or select the new value. These changes are applied to all items or inventories for the current company that meet the change criteria. The available fields to change and the circumstances in which you can change certain fields are different for each type of record.

Item Considerations

An item record must meet all the selection criteria to be included in the update. For example, if both an item status and purchase product line are specified as selection criteria, only items that are both assigned to the specified status and belong to the specified purchase product line are included in the change. If you select one of the following fields for change, you must adhere to the conditions described to complete a successful update:

- Allow Cost Override: You can change the value of this option to deselect for only non-inventory items.
- Allow Decimal Quantity: This option is not available for pre-assembled and build-to-order kits, or items with serial or serial/ lot numbers tracked. For other items, you only can change the value of this option to selected.
- Allow Drop Ship: You cannot change the value of this option for expense items, or for pre-assembled or build-to-order kits.
- Returns Allowed: You cannot change the value of this option for build-to-order kits.
- Internal Delivery Required: You only can change the value of this option for inventory items.
- Receipt Required: You only can change the value of this option for expense and miscellaneous items.
- Seasonal Item: You only can change the value of this option for inventory items.
- Item Type: You only can change raw materials to finished goods. No other item types are available for change.
- Freight Class: You only can change the value of this field for inventory items.
- Purchase Product Line: You only can change the value of this field for inventory items except pre-assembled and build-to-order kits.
- Sales Product Line: You only can change the value of this field for inventory items.
- Commodity Code: You only can change the value of this field for inventory items.
- PO Match Tolerance: You cannot change the value of this field unless you select Match Invoice to PO and Match Receiver to PO in Set Up PO Options in Purchase Order.
- Product Price Group: You only can change the value of this field for inventory items.

Inventory Considerations

An inventory record must meet all the selection criteria to be included in the update. For example, if both an inventory status and purchase product line are specified as selection criteria, only inventories that are both assigned to the specified status, and belong to the specified purchase product line are included in the change. If you select one of the following fields for change, you must adhere to the conditions described to complete a successful update.

- Maximum Stock: This value must be greater than the value for the minimum stock.
- Minimum Stock: This value must be less than the value for the maximum stock.
- Use Min/Max Until: This value must be later than the current business date.

Note: You can change either the Lead Time Formula or the Lead Time, but not both at the same time.

Please call us with your questions.

Poductivity Enhancements For MAS 500

Successful business owners and operators are always looking to increase productivity and improve efficiency in their organizations. Fortunately, there are ease of use applications that allow users to rapidly capture additional data throughout their entire MAS 500 system just the way they want it.

We will review a set of Macabe applications that enhance MAS 500 by making it virtually paperless!

Paperless Office Suite:

- Paperless Journals and Registers
- Electronic Invoice Delivery
- Electronic Statement Delivery
- Electronic Delivery of Accounts Payable ACH remittance notices

Paperless Journals and Registers for MAS 500

When today's enterprise looks to MAS 500 to handle their day to day business processes, they expect current technology, efficient capability and ease of access to key accounting documents. This EASY Solution for MAS 500 does just that. With little user interaction, if any, all Journals and Registers along with all reports in MAS 500 can be printed to Adobe PDF format. Once printed, documents are easily organized using the Paperless Office Report Viewer facilitating retrieval of these documents from within the MAS 500 application. This highly configurable application allows the user to specify a variety of printing rules.

This process combines current technology and efficiency with ease of access. The user simply opens a Business Insights Explorer View and has full access to all their Journals and Registers also all reports. Taking advantage of the full adobe capability a user can view a document, search a document for a particular data element, email a document and save a copy as they like.

No more searching through file drawers. No more expensive real estate needs to be devoted to the reams of paper produced by MAS 500. This enhancement alleviates the challenges associated with traditional register storage and retrieval.

Electronic Invoice and Statement Delivery

Communicating with clients the information necessary to keep your cash flows flowing is essential in any business climate. Successful cash flow managers want to insure rapid delivery of invoices and ease of communication between the accounts receivable teams and clients.

The highly customizable features of Macabe's Electronic Delivery application allow users to automate the delivery and retrieval of Customer Invoices and Statements. Email, Fax, Print or facilitate all three options to deliver invoices to your customers.

Once an Invoice has been posted a user can simply select the entire invoice batch for delivery and only those customers set up to receive invoices electronically will be emailed.

Customize your email message and include Customer specific information including: Invoice Number, Customer Name, Customer PO Number, Transaction Date, Transaction Amount and more.

- Password protected PDF
- Blind copy options
- Combine multiple invoices in a single PDF
- Error handling views
- Custom email message

Electronic Delivery of ACH Remittance Notices

EFT – Electronic Funds Transfer (also known as ACH) simplifies your vendor payments and reduces risk. Efficient payables managers know the value of electronic delivery of payments. EFT improves vendor relations, decreases the risk associated with check fraud and allows payable managers to negotiate better terms with their vendors.

Macabe's EASY Solution creates and supports a variety of ACH formats so when standard MAS 500 ACH does not quite meet your needs there is a solution.

Vendors can receive an email with a copy of their remittance stub each time a transfer is made. Even if you use the standard MAS 500 formats for ACH file creation you can produce the remittance notice increasing vendor relations, maximizing productivity and saving on postage expense. Getting started is EASY – obtain the specifications from your bank and the rest will be taken care of.

User Defined Fields for MAS 500 (UDF)

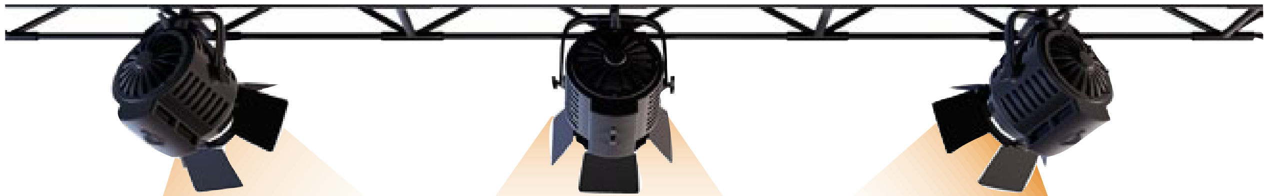
An ERP System can add value to an organization in numerous ways, that's why business owners and operators invest in good stable and capable systems. No two businesses are alike and therefore, like Sage MAS 500, ERP systems must be stable, capable and configurable to meet unique business requirements. Customizing software to collect the specific and unique data your organization needs to manage its business can be costly, when all you need is a bit more real estate in your MAS 500 system.

This enhancement User Defined Fields for MAS 500 allows the user to rapidly and easily add virtually an unlimited number of data fields to MAS 500 and to over 20 entities in MAS 500.

A user can easily create many user defined fields per entity and control the field length up to 255 characters. Fields are automatically placed on a user defined tab in the MAS 500 entity form. For additional control in precise placement and sizing of the new UDF's, the MAS 500 Customizer is supported.

In addition to size and placement, UDF setup provides control of tab stops, field labels, and "mouse over" tool tips. For user entry control, a "validated list" field type is available with default values and a required entry option. Also included is validation using standard MAS 500 lookups as well as a "custom lookup" type for validation with data in an external database.

Once the UDF tables have been created, they are now available as part of the MAS 500 schema and ready for you to add them to your Crystal Reports and Business Insights Explorer views. MAS 500 User Defined Fields have never been more flexible!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Sage Abra SQL HRMS Payroll

Organizations using Sage ERP MAS 500 have access to an integrated SQL Server-based human resources and payroll system, designed to help achieve greater accuracy and control — Sage Abra SQL HRMS. Managing your payroll and HR processes in-house can save you money while giving you tools that support compliance with regulations, greater control over costs, and the ability to increase employee satisfaction, and help retain your top-performing workers. Here we focus on the capabilities of Sage Abra Payroll.

Payroll Designed For Midsized Organizations

As part of an overall Sage Abra SQL HRMS solution, Sage Abra Payroll includes the payroll functionality needed by midsized organizations to process their payroll accurately and on time, every time. It supports the needs of most industries, including manufacturing, services, retail, wholesale, financial, transportation, high-tech, government, education, construction and agriculture.

The Sage Abra Payroll module supports a wide range of tax management requirements, and offers flexible pay plans, including sales commission and piece-rate plans, and a variety of pay frequencies to meet the needs of organizations such as governments and schools.

Powerful And Flexible Payroll Features

You can set up an unlimited number of earnings and deduction codes with a wide variety of calculation methods. Flexible Accrual & Overtime Schedules make it easy to manage employee paid time off and overtime payments.

Sage Abra Payroll uses a simplified and flexible four-step payroll process. You can create templates and set up selection lists of employees for whom you can calculate payroll as a group. You can process by date without being tied to pay periods or required openings and closings.

You can run an unlimited number of payrolls to ensure data accuracy prior to printing checks. It is easy to preview checks before printing, print test checks, and further simplify check printing with MICR and laser signature options.

Sage Abra Payroll streamlines the entire payroll process by making it easier to produce paychecks on demand and make adjustments when necessary. Direct deposit is also available, and offers the ability to assign an unlimited number of direct deposit accounts for your employees.

Tax Management, Compliance And Reporting

With Sage Abra Payroll, it is easy to meet federal and state tax management and compliance needs with automatic quarterly updates of tax tables and electronic media reporting where required. Stay on top of state and federal regulations and requirements with the Sage Compliance Center.

You can meet government and management reporting requirements with built-in standard reports, Crystal® Report Writer, and electronic media reporting.

We recommend a Sage Abra SQL HRMS bundle that includes Abra HR, Abra Payroll, Abra Attendance, and the integration. Call us for details.

VAR 500 — Net@Work Named to the VAR500 ranking of Top Technology Integrators

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