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Overview

The Sage MAS 500 ERP 7.0 release focused on two primary themes: improved access to information and streamlined distribution processes. Both current and new customers immediately saw the benefits of the improvements being made in these two areas. In an age where new trends and rising costs can develop overnight, business owners are expecting more out of their systems to help solve issues and beat the competition.

To continue to provide the maximum value to our customer base we have decided to break the previously announced Sage MAS 500 7.1 release into two separate releases. This decision will bring benefits to our customers sooner and minimize the impact of delays in Microsoft product release schedules.

The first release, Sage MAS 500 7.05, is intended to serve many different purposes:

1. Apply a technology update to support the latest Microsoft releases of SQL Server 2005 and Visual Studio 2005. Additionally, the performance of Business Insights Explorer and Business Desktop is improved.
2. To continue to support the Sage "Customer for Life" strategy by providing the ability to migrate Purchase Order History and Cash Receipts from Sage MAS 90 3.71 data.
3. Improve quick inquiry access throughout Sage MAS 500 with a new Context Preview option.
4. To merge existing service packs and monthly updates onto the product CD to streamline the upgrade process for existing customers and provide a maintenance release for Sage MAS 500 7.0.

The Sage MAS 500 7.1 release, scheduled for Spring 2007, is intended to support the Microsoft Windows Vista platform, provide a new Visual Integrator module to exchange data with external applications, and to provide a Sage MAS 90 and 200 4.05 data migration path.

Availability

Sage MAS 500 7.05 will be generally available in September 2006. Channel partner and customer auto-shipments are expected in October 2006. The Software Development Kit (SDK) will be available approximately four weeks after the initial delivery to Production.

Product Changes

Licensing and Internal Changes

Rename ODBC data source name (DSN) from Acuity-App to MAS 500.

Remove watermark from all reports, and add watermark to AP checks when running the software using a non-production license.

Context Menu Quick Business Insights Explorer

Customers and partners have provided positive feedback regarding Business Insights Explorer (BIE)—the new functionality introduced in Sage MAS 500 7.0. To complement BIE, Sage will introduce the Context Menu Preview functionality to provide:

- Consistency—the same view launched from various locations in the application displays the same information in the same format
- Ability to personalize the quick preview window through the BIE application
- Grid printing capability
- Grid export to Microsoft Excel
- Sorting of displayed data
- Sizing of columns

Context menu previews will be available for 67 different functions. The open invoices context menu preview is displayed here as an example of the functionality:



Transaction	Invoice Date	Due Date	Customer Name	Customer PO Number	Currency	Invoice Amount	Balance	In Dispute	Status
000000970-IN	03/06/2004	04/05/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.	560132	USD	7,151.37	1,151.37	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open
000001008-IN	01/20/2004	02/19/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.	34781	USD	4,491.90	4,491.90	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open
000001009-IN	01/20/2004	02/19/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.	34934	USD	4,784.85	4,784.85	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open
000001049-IN	04/18/2004	05/18/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.	BES EVAL	USD	4,704.75	4,704.75	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open
000001050-CM	03/21/2004	03/21/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.		USD	(253.20)	(253.20)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open
000001082-IN	06/12/2004	07/12/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.	ENT EVAL	USD	2,430.00	2,430.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open
000001083-IN	06/12/2004	07/12/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.	Network	USD	13,912.69	13,912.69	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open
000001085-IN	06/12/2004	07/12/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.	ENT EVAL	USD	39,973.50	30,696.75	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open
000001086-IN	06/12/2004	07/12/2004	Aldebaran, Inc.	Network	USD	19,520.24	19,520.24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open

Data Migrator

As part of the “Customer for Life” strategy, two additional migrations from Sage MAS 90 to Sage MAS 500 will be added to the Data Migrator. Open Purchase Orders and the Cash Receipts Payment History found in Accounts Receivable will now migrate to Sage MAS 500. Data Migrator will now support migrations from Sage MAS 90 and 200 version 3.71. Migrations from version 4.05 will not be available until Sage MAS 500 7.1.

Documentation

Starting with Sage MAS 500 7.0, all documentation information will be located in the Help system versus in printed, published documents. This was done to unify all documentation into a single electronic format. However, recent feedback suggests that some customers want to review product documentation offline.

Users will now have the ability to print main Help topics in PDF format. This will allow users to print focused information and distribute it as necessary to other employees.

Integrated Sage Software Solutions

Sage Abra HRMS

Our most comprehensive HR and payroll software, Sage Abra HRMS provides the functionality customers need to tackle even the most challenging HR issues. This market-leading system offers payroll processing and recruiting, as well as training and benefits administration—all at an affordable price. Sage ABRA version 7.5 is scheduled for release September 2006. This maintenance release fixes rounding issues in posting to GL and addressing CA Labor Law, Section 226.

Sage FAS Fixed Assets

Sage FAS Fixed Assets gives you total control over your fixed assets throughout their entire lifecycle. Based on an easy-to-learn, intuitive user interface, Sage FAS Fixed Assets is the most comprehensive fixed asset management solution for asset depreciation, inventory tracking, and custom reporting – all at a price your business can afford. Sage FAS version 2006.1 will be supported.

Sage CRM SalesLogix

Sage CRM SalesLogix is the leader in customer relationship management (CRM) for small to mid-sized businesses that require flexible, easy-to-use solutions that help acquire, retain, and develop profitable relationships. Sage SalesLogix version 6.2 will be supported.

Third Party Considerations

Business Objects Crystal Reports

Crystal Reports provides access to your data and allows you to format it, and deliver it as information inside and outside your organization. There will be no changes to Crystal Reports with this release – Version 10 will still be supported.

Microsoft FRx

FRx is a financial reporting application that gives midsize organizations and corporate businesses control of their entire financial reporting process. FRx version 6.7 will be supported.

StarShip

StarShip helps your company become a more competitive distributor and even has the potential to reduce shipping and shipping-related expenses of small parcel shipments. StarShip 9.7 will be supported and it is anticipated that StarShip 9.8 (expected release date August 2006) will be supported as well. The primary change is a new version of FedEx Ship Manager Server.

Technology Features

Platform Support

The following are general platform support guidelines for this release. Please refer to the Current Compatibility and Resource Guide on Sage Software Online for detailed compatibility requirements.

Microsoft SQL Server 2000 and 2005: Full SQL Server 2000 (version 8.0) and 2005 (version 9.0) support for Sage MAS 500 databases. SQL Server 2005 includes key enhancements to enterprise data management in the following areas: manageability, availability, scalability, and security. For complete details about the updates and changes available in SQL Server 2005 please visit <http://www.microsoft.com/sql/prodinfo/overview/whats-new-in-sqlserver2005.mspx>.

Accounting Server OS: Microsoft Windows 2000 Server and Windows 2003 Server

Microsoft Visual Studio 2005: Sage MAS 500 utilizes the new .NET Framework 2.0 development toolset. Application benefits include increased performance and throughput in the Desktop, Business Insights Explorer, and Business Insights Analyzer areas.

Thin-Client Configurations: Terminal Services on Microsoft Windows 2000 Server, Windows 2003 Server, and Citrix Metaframe

Accounting Client OS: Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP

Web Server OS: Microsoft Windows 2000 Server and Windows 2003 Server

Browser: Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 on a Windows 32-bit platform

Microsoft Office: Office 2000, Office XP, and Office 2003; anticipated support for Office 12 (pending availability by Microsoft)

Microsoft Project: Project 2002 and Project 2003

Minimum System Requirements

Server for Standard or Advanced Editions

Dual Intel Pentium III, 450 MHz or better, 512 MB RAM, 1 GB free disk space

Server for Small Business Edition

Single Intel Pentium III, 450 MHz or better, 512 MB RAM, 1 GB free disk space

Client

Pentium III processor with 512 MB RAM

Retirements

Sage MAS 500 Version 6.1

Monthly updates and code fixes ended in September 2005.

Sage MAS 500 Version 6.2

Monthly updates and code fixes for Sage MAS 500 version 6.2 will end July 31, 2006. Customer support for Sage MAS 500 version 6.2 will end on October 31, 2006.

Prior to October 31, 2006, it is recommended you upgrade to one of the available supported versions of Sage MAS 500 (6.3, 7.0 and 7.05) with version 7.05 being the recommended version.

To receive 1099 reporting updates for calendar year 2006, customers must be running Sage MAS 500 Version 6.3 or higher.

Platform

No platforms are scheduled for retirement at this time.

