



Accounting Module Creates Billing and Reports Instantly

By Lori Widmer

Armed with new deployment options, worksheets and allocation capability, Sage MIP Fund Accounting tools help take the pain out of financial reporting.

Features

With a variety of modules in the Sage MIP Fund Accounting application, Sage Software gives users the ability to accomplish many tasks, including manage financials, satisfy internal and external reporting requirements, calculate forecasted financial positions, and track and manage multiple grants.



System setup is a breeze—double-clicking on the Administration list item brings up a window from which users and user access can be defined. From this window, security levels can be set and the modules can be set up.

System compatibility is rarely a problem. The installation guide gives recommendations for both SQL and MSDE users, and is compatible with Microsoft (MS) Windows 2000 with Service Pack 3 or newer versions.

Help abounds for this product. Sage Software offers an online knowledge base to answer questions. Those requiring more training can register for training at Sage Software University, accessible from the application; real-time and classroom courses are available at varying prices. Product support is also available by phone from someone on the product's SCP-certified customer support team.

MIP Fund's Accounting module gives users the ability to create billing and reports instantly. The system can handle multiple grants and the reporting for each, and reports are generated from inside the system, so no external software is required. A Report Manager button links to a window that allows users to prepare and process lists, transaction reports, analysis reports, and financial statements. All can be bound by clicking the Report Binder icon.

Included in the application is the NightShift Scheduler. This module allows users to print reports, process data and post transactions during times when network traffic is lower. The module works behind the scenes, which allows it to function



while users are working.

Finally—a system that understands that not all users have IT degrees. The Sage Desktop is a sensibly-designed central launch point that allows database and web access to information and news. Clicking on any list item on the left menu will bring up that particular window. For instance, clicking on Accounting brings up the Accounting view.


The application's sub-windows open to a summary chart of information, as well as a left-hand menu of easy-to-understand navigation options. Clicking on the General Ledger Transactions button, for example, opens another window that displays graphic menu icons, such as a checkbook icon for writing

checks.

Requisitions are also easy to manage, though this window doesn't bear the same spit-and-polish of the other windows. The window displays a simple spreadsheet view of all requisitions, with drill-down capabilities for each line item. Double-clicking on any line item brings up a detailed record that can be browsed to see every request.

What works well in MIP Fund is the ability to open multiple windows in more than one module at a time. This allows the user to easily work between modules.

Summary

By far, MIP Fund was the easiest of the nonprofit applications to navigate. The simplicity of the icon-based menu items makes it easy enough for a novice to operate. Yet, that simplicity contains some function-heavy capabilities. The product is robust and user friendly. Kudos to Sage Software for putting real thought into the end user's experience. 

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