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Sep. 01, 2008

From the Sept. 2008 Review of Mid-Range Accounting Systems

Sage MAS 90 and 200 ERP is an accounting and financial management product line designed primarily for mid-sized businesses. A mature product, Sage MAS 90 and 200 has continued its tradition of providing all types of businesses with a scalable product that can grow as the business grows. The latest version release (4.3) contains numerous system upgrades and enhancements designed to provide users with better integration and improved usability.

Ease of Use/Transaction Entry - 5 Stars

The Sage MAS 90 and 200 Desktop provides access to all installed product modules, and is fully customizable, allowing users to choose the views they want. The user interface screen contains a drop-down menu at the top with a toolbar to the right. The 'My Tasks' panel to the left of the screen offers access to various system features along with system modules. Data-entry screens use customizable grids, allowing users to view only the fields they need with field-specific lookup options to speed data entry. Browse options are available, and data is easily navigated.

Other data-entry options include the grid buttons, which allow users to insert, delete or move between rows. The right-click feature provides access to system information, form settings and any related tasks. Sage MAS 90 and 200 utilizes both real-time and batch processing for transactions so users can opt to utilize the batch feature when there are numerous transactions to enter.

Modules & Notable Features - 5 Stars

Sage MAS 90 and 200 core accounting modules include GL, AP, AR, Bank Reconciliation

and Fixed Assets. A host of other modules are also available for a variety of

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a wider variety of electronic documents, forms and reports; enhanced Payroll and Accounts Payable Tax Reporting functionality; and a Direct Deposit option that is now available as an add-on payroll feature. The Business Insights Explorer offers key new views and charting capabilities. Specific module enhancements are extensive and include the ability to view a warning on all entered sales discounts, the ability to search the system for shipping status, and the reduction in the number of screens needed to process forms and reports.

Integration/Import/Export- 5 Stars

Sage MAS 90 and 200 modules are designed for integration and ease the ability to purchase only the modules currently needed with the option to add on as the business demands. Sage Software also offers an extensive line of industry-specific products that integrate with the core accounting module along with numerous third-party applications that can interface with Sage MAS 90 and 200.

Those looking to upgrade to the more powerful Sage MAS 200 will have no issues, as data is interchangeable between systems. Sage MAS 90 and 200 ERP also supports numerous data formats for both import and export capability, including Excel, XML, *.CSV and ASCII. Data can also be exported to Word or PDF for more flexibility. The Visual Integrator, found in the Business Intelligence module, provides seamless integration between Sage MAS 90 and 200 and any ODBC-compliant application.

Reporting - 5 Stars

Sage MAS 90 and 200 offers excellent reporting options with reports that are easily modified to suit the user's needs. Version 4.3 of Sage MAS 90 also features improved financial reporting options such as better report selection criteria and increased formatting options. For more comprehensive customization, users can utilize Crystal Reports or one of the other options available, such as the Business Insights Reporter (which quickly produces high-quality reports),

the FRx Desktop (which allows custom formatting options), or F9 (which produces

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plans offer product upgrades, updated tax tables and support on a per-case basis. All Plus level plans also offer access to Sage Software's Anytime Learning, the vendor's on-Demand training service. The excellent Help function will guide new users through everything from program customization to entering data and reporting.

Relative Value - 5 Stars

Sage MAS 90 is an excellent accounting system that can easily grow with a business. More robust versions of the product can be found in Sage MAS 200 and Sage MAS 500, and users can easily upgrade to either without losing data. Scalable and flexible, Sage MAS 90 and 200 is an excellent piece in the Sage Software family of products. Cost for Sage MAS 90 is \$3,800 and up, depending on configuration and number of concurrent users.

2008 Overall Rating: 5 Stars

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