

A Brand New BusinessVision!

"The Bottom Line – March 2008"

The newly released Sage BusinessVision Version 7.2 is not an upgrade to the previous BusinessVision 32 product, but a fundamental technology design shift that results in a huge business functionality leap. Key to the changes in Version 7.2 is the concept of the "One Stop Shop" metaphor, where all the data you are looking for is on the screen in front of you. This, among the hundreds of changes in V7.2, is the key payback for companies using BusinessVision.

Sage BusinessVision 7.2 uses Net Express as its programming language and this moves BusinessVision into the world of object orientation and the beginnings of .net. As a result, Sage BusinessVision now has a technology platform that will serve it well for many years to come.

The most important new feature in V7.2 is the total redesign of the data base structure. Version 7.2 now provides substantial Structured Query Language (SQL) like search and query functionality, enabling users to get information more easily and much faster.

V7.2 supports three fiscal years: last, current and next. You can post into any period of any of these years. This allows for the post-dating of sales orders and post financial values into a future fiscal year, eliminating the need to perform a year-end in advance in order to post certain entries. Equity (current and retained earnings) is now separated, allowing financial statements to be produced for this year or last year, without the need to post year ending entries.

The Chart of Accounts now has up to 4 segments and a maximum 24 character account code. Plus you can define a division with an additional 6 characters. The customer and supplier number goes from 6 to 20 characters. Part numbers are now 34 characters and the part description doubles to 80 characters. An additional inventory "extended description" has also been included that supports up to 5,000 characters of text. You can now have 200 sales departments. Sales orders support 999 lines on an order instead of the 99 in previous versions.

A new user interface provides immediate, online access to the data you need most. A complete snapshot of a customer is available, including open sales orders; sales order history; comparative sales per period for current and prior years; and past and outstanding accounts receivable transactions – all within a single module.

Navigation is improved and almost all of the modules are now fully resizable and retain their customized size and position on a user-by-user basis. You can re-arrange and resize columns, set foreground and background colors and more. Master file detail windows now use a tabbed interface. Each tab contains fewer fields, making larger records such as customer and inventory information look less complex. "Pop-up" browses have been replaced with browse tabs on records. This provides immediate access to information that was hard to get to, or even not available at all, in previous versions.

The benefits here are huge. You can review the complete picture of a customer all from one single intuitive interface. Each record stores and displays its creation date, creator's ID, and last modification date. A large number of additional information fields have been added. These range from additional address lines through to new multiple contact information. Many master file fields, including the information fields, are now "Search" fields. You can enter a value in one of these fields and then use the navigation buttons to browse the master file in that field's sequence instead of the traditional code and name sequence.

Sales order and purchase order processing is accelerated by allowing users to enter data directly into an "order grid", replacing the original single line data entry grid. Extensive notes can be added to the general ledger chart of accounts, divisions, warehouses, territories, salespeople, product codes, terms, sales tax codes and ship via records

Promotional pricing is a highly useful new feature. You can specify a date range within which the promotional price is valid. You can configure the price to override other existing prices, or to work within the existing price structure. Once a promotional price is out of its date range, the item automatically reverts to its normal pricing structure.

In previous versions of BusinessVision, if you wanted to design reports, you had to purchase Crystal Reports. BusinessVision has now licensed the current version of Crystal Reports. This now lets you edit existing reports and develop new reports. You can now create up to 99 custom reports per module.

There are an additional 300 reports in V7.2. Some examples are cash flow statements; financial statement by fiscal period; financial statement summary; projected cash balances report; and a report that projects future cash requirements. In addition, extensive reports on inventory, sales orders, sales analysis and purchasing are included.

Each module now has a module report that provide summary and detail information about the currently displayed record. This is the ideal way to get a one page summary of all relevant information about an inventory item or service, customer, or vendor.

In summary, Sage BusinessVision V7.2 sets a new standard for the Small to Medium business accounting software market. Its new database structure and screen redesigns will reaffirm its position as the leader in its market space. It's been a long time coming but the wait was worthwhile.

Pricing

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