

*Star Rating – Five Stars*

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## **Sage BusinessVision Offers Real-Time Updating**

**By Michael Roselius, CPA -**

Sage BusinessVision is the best of the small to mid-range accounting and business management software by this company. While this reviewed edition supports up to 10 concurrent users, the product is also available as a client/server configuration for 10 to 100 or more users. This is a 32-bit application with the look and feel of a thoroughly modern software product.

The installation of the demo version of Sage BusinessVision as a single workstation application went quickly, prompting for program and data file locations and asking for the type of business in order to build an appropriate chart of accounts.

The attractive main screen presented a standard menu lineup and a toolbar full of fresh, big icons that are suggestive of their purpose. The Company Selection window lists the existing companies, and a login screen follows for user ID and password. Inside the GL Details window, each account's characteristics are shown, revealing the flexibility of up to a twenty-four digit account structure and the fact that account numbers are also used as headers and subtotal points is a big plus for this software. This screen is typical of many throughout the system, with search and browse buttons to locate records using various fields. The journal entry button in Account Detail opens a window where the user finds accounts, keys a brief memo, opens a notepad for free-form text notes, and then posts the transaction immediately.

This illustrates one of the basic design points for the program — real-time updating of transactions. Since this is not a batch-oriented program, the choice is either post or exit without saving. It is also a soft close program, where transactions can be posted to any period (unless blocked by the administrator). The inventory module of any package is a sensitive point of matching with the needs and realities of the user organization.

Sage BusinessVision is well suited for mid-range manufacturing, wholesale and distribution businesses, with provisions for multiple warehouses and serialized items. It is also very strong for retail and service based companies as well. Sage BusinessVision also supports retailing industry transactions, such as cash drawer balancing and other point-of-sale features. Companies who do light manufacturing and kitting can use Sage BusinessVision because of the great depth of data and functionality available in the inventory section. These are all functions that QuickBooks<sup>®</sup> like or entry-level accounting programs can not do.

The on-screen help program is in the standard expandable tree format in a browser with hypertext links and good general depth of information. Printed documentation is included with the program and updated electronically with each new update. Various levels of annual support services, including annual updates to keep the software current are available.

This company has an appealing line of add-on products to complement Sage BusinessVision, such as ecommerce, multiple currency, direct credit card interfacing, barcode printing, shipping interfaces to both UPS World Ship<sup>®</sup> and Fed Express and other advanced customizing capabilities. While these were not included or reviewed, their existence suggests flexibility and scalability, which are typically important in fast-changing industries.

My overall impression of Sage BusinessVision is that it is an experienced accounting system with depth of design in the database. It is built with modern tools for scalability and ease of use. The screens are attractive, easy to navigate and self-explanatory. A great breadth of modules is available, most not even mentioned here. Integration with Microsoft Office and popular contact management systems, ODBC and data dictionary access, and order entry importing from Internet data will help Sage BusinessVision exist comfortably in most environments. It is a powerful package and should be on the short list of most small to midrange accounting software evaluations.

### **About Sage BusinessVision**

**Sage BusinessVision**, one of the family of Sage Software products, offers robust, attractively priced accounting software solutions for small-to-mid-sized businesses.

**Sage BusinessVision** is a powerful, highly flexible and fully integrated accounting package featuring 18 modules and real-time data processing.

**Sage BusinessVision** was ranked #1 in 2001 - 2006 by K2 Enterprises and Accounting Research Inc. in their Annual Accounting Software Survey, the leading independent accounting market satisfaction survey.

**Sage BusinessVision** was chosen as the software that accountants and software consultants are most satisfied with to install into their clients' businesses.

Over 120,000 satisfied users rely on **Sage BusinessVision** every day to help manage their company's financial success. **Sage BusinessVision** software is sold exclusively through a channel of **Sage BusinessVision** authorized Certified Business Partners worldwide.

For more information on **Sage BusinessVision in California**, Visit **Compu-Solutions** at [www.bvwest.com](http://www.bvwest.com).