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SAGE ACCPAC ERP NEWSLETTER

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EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF WMS

What exactly is a Warehouse Management System (WMS)? Is it just another name for inventory control? Is it only for large companies? We'll answer these questions, explain how WMS can benefit your organization and introduce the integrated Sage Accpac WMS.

The WMS Crash Course

A Warehouse Management System ("WMS") helps to automate your supply chain – in other words, the movement of products from your suppliers to your customers. It controls the movement of inventory in a warehouse and processes all associated transactions including receiving & put away, inventory control & replenishment, picking, packing, and shipping. Note that inventory control (i.e. tracking quantities) is only one component of a much broader warehouse management strategy.

A critical piece of the WMS puzzle is capturing information without human involvement. Bar coding and Radio Frequency Identification (or "RFID") are technologies that must be considered. Similar to bar coding, RFID leverages wireless technology that reads an item's RFID tag that contains a tiny silicon chip and antenna. Although more costly in some cases, RFID offers advantages over bar coding in that information can be read, processed, and transmitted more quickly and efficiently.

More Affordable Than Ever

Historically, only large companies with deep pockets had the budget to implement WMS. But thanks to the maturity of this technology, scalability, and increased competition, the price tag has been drastically reduced making it affordable for small and medium-sized businesses. And while various WMS solutions offer a range of features and price points, smaller companies need only implement WMS functionality that makes sense for their particular warehouse environment.

The Benefits of WMS

The benefits of WMS can be enormous. Because inventory movement and warehouse information is collected electronically, manually keying data is unnecessary which eliminates errors and can improve data accuracy by as much as 99% according to some studies. By streamlining your warehouse operation, your customers will be impressed with quick and accurate order fulfillment thus improving customer satisfaction and retention. Detailed information can be tracked for both "pick" and "overstock" bin locations so that pickers can easily move through the warehouse in a single pass, processing several orders at the same time. Shipping personnel can be redirected to other tasks, since WMS can generate packing slips, bills of lading, and carton content labels before the carton is packed.

Sage Accpac WMS

Whether you run a small warehouse or a large, highly complex distribution center, Sage Accpac WMS can help you automate your warehouse functions, improve customer service and gain better visibility into your entire supply chain. It's modular and scalable, so you can start with just the features you need, then easily scale up as your warehouse grows and your needs evolve.

Sage Accpac WMS offers 3 carefully designed editions to meet the needs of any small or medium-sized warehouse operation. Contact us to learn more about Sage Accpac WMS and let us help you determine whether automating your warehouse will save you money and help grow your business.



[Click Here](#) to download the Sage Accpac WMS feature sheet in PDF format



STAYING ALERT - HOW FAST CAN YOUR BUSINESS REACT?

It's a simple premise ... the sooner a company knows about an issue, the sooner they can react and take steps to resolve the problem. Whether inventory is running low, a vendor delivery is late, accounts receivable invoices are past due, or a customer problem has cropped up, your reaction time will determine how significant, or insignificant, the impact on your business will be.

Eliminate the Slack with Accpac Alerts

With the right technology, you can dramatically shorten the delay between the occurrence of an event and delivery of notification to the right person. **Sage Accpac Alerts Library and Alerts Server** can help you do just that. Alerts will notify you whenever a significant event occurs in your system by continuously monitoring data fields for specified activity. You define the events and parameters that trigger the alerts and the program automatically communicates the specified activity to appropriate customers, employees, or business partners.

Tug O' War – Push vs. Pull

Traditional reports provide valuable information and allow you to analyze large volumes of historical data in an easy-to-read format. However since the data is typically “pulled” from the system well after the fact, reports may not be the best medium for real-time information delivery. Relying solely on reports is a bit like looking at your business through the rear view mirror. On the other hand, Sage Accpac Alerts embraces the concept of “pushing” information out to recipients as events occur. When used together, traditional reporting combined with Alerts will transform your company into a fast-reacting and nimble enterprise.

Free Alerts with Sage Accpac Version 5.4

As of Sage Accpac Version 5.4, a “light” version of Alerts Server is installed with the System Manager. It's bundled with 5 FREE alerts which includes a New Customer Welcome alert, Past Due Receivables alert, and AP Checks over “N” Amount.

With the purchase of the Full Alerts Server, you'll receive

20 additional pre-built alerts that can easily be customized with no programming required. You'll also have the option of creating an unlimited number of additional custom alerts.

Companies with quick reaction times have a competitive advantage and can deliver better customer service.



[Contact us](#) to learn more about Sage Accpac Business Alerts Library and/or Alerts Server.

Tips and Tricks:

4 Tips for Better Password Security

Whether it's a few PCs or hundreds on your network, there is one thing that can prevent your system from being compromised: a great password. Here are 4 tips to prevent unauthorized access to your system:

- 1 Go Long** - The longer a password is, the exponentially more difficult it is to crack. As a general rule, a minimum of 8 characters is ideal.
- 2 Mix It Up** - Incorporate both lower and upper-case letters as well as numbers and keyboard characters (i.e. #,\$) for maximum security.
- 3 Random Encounter** - Don't use anything in your password that's personal and easy to guess. That includes names of children, pets, birthdates, and phone numbers. Make it as random as possible.
- 4 Change is Good** - Make sure to change your passwords often to create a moving target for hackers. Changing passwords is recommended at least a few times per year.

Source: Microsoft Small Business Center

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