

Sage 300 ERP

Customer Success



‘The implementation resulted in a standardised and automated monthly pack for all seven subsidiaries including an automated consolidation.’

As the holding company for seven subsidiaries, Midway Two’s monthly financial assignment includes the consolidation of its group’s results. In order to monitor the progress of the firm, each month end is a recipe of administrative man-hours, information processing and software tools in a race to output financials. Add a bit of the monthly unexpected, a touch of stress and the recipe is reminiscent of most typical medium and small sized companies who depend unconditionally on monthly financial information.

The first seven days of each new month are dominated by transactional processing on Sage 300 ERP Intelligence Reporting version 5.1. The reporting phase then follows, leading up to the deadline for presentation around the 15th. The efficiency of this phase is often hampered by last minute processing requirements putting strain on the deadline delivery.

Lorna begins the preparation for the consolidated Excel spreadsheet as early as possible. The process is sound and begins with a trial balance for each subsidiary. All account categories are manually totalled and entered into the consolidated spreadsheet. The most expansive trial balance, Democratic, is a 68 page task requiring two days alone to conclude. Other typical problems include new accounts in the general ledger, errors and incorrect balancing requiring investigation, communication issues and the requirement for the team to cope with the intense stress associated with month end.

When the decision was taken to automate the Excel function, it was also naturally a good opportunity to map the structure of the ledger with Caseware. Midway Two’s Auditor, Carlos Pereira, explains “adopting GAAP disclosure standards as the format for reports will result in a more efficient audit process”. Sage Intelligence Reporting is a generic reporting solution and Carlos Pereira and Associates have also adopted the tool. He continues, “accessing and interrogating data with Sage Intelligence Reporting is a useful audit tool, with minimal disruption to Midway’s staff”.

Although the main priority was an exercise in productivity gains, through adoption of technology designed to eradicate archaic manual practices, Midway Two were also searching for additional benefits. Financial Director, Wayne Scholtz, observes “the Sage Intelligence Reporting implementation also presented us with a standard format for our reporting across the companies in the group”. Although the original specification only included the two bigger subsidiaries, the project was extended

Customer

Midway Two

Industry

Labour, Security, Cleaning, Property Development, Staff Placements, Maintenance and Education

Location

Johannesburg, South Africa

Systems

Sage 300 ERP Intelligence Reporting

Challenge

Being the holding company of seven subsidiaries, the manual consolidation of the monthly financials took days, often putting strain on deadline delivery. Other problems included new accounts in the GL which lead to errors and added to the stress.

Solution

Sage Intelligence allows your financial team to streamline their day-to-day operational tasks using the Connector module to consolidate data from multiple companies.

Results

Midway save least 70% of their time on manual Excel reporting. Additional functionality built into the reports also results in low maintenance of the automated pack. Sage Intelligence also recognises if new accounts have been added and prompts you to define where you would like to add the new general ledger account in your report layout.

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to consolidate all seven firms. The total implementation spanned three weeks and the objectives of standardised consolidated reporting plus the GAAP format were achieved.

Lorna is now only spending a total of two full days at month end on the entire process representing a saving of at least 70%. Additional functionality built into the reports also results in low maintenance of the automated pack. For example, Sage Intelligence Reporting synchronises with her general ledger and recognises if new accounts have been added. Lorna explains, “the report prompts me to find a home for the new general ledger account in my report layout. It is really easy to use”.

Midway Two are now looking to reap the rewards on timeous and easily distributed information packs. With an efficient flow of information back to the regions the entire team can now jointly participate in valuable decision making in the quest to improve performance.

The Midway Two partnership with Sage Intelligence Reporting has only tackled the Financials at this early stage; however Wayne is the first to suggest that the automation journey is just beginning. He explains, “We were impressed at the existing intellectual property that exists for other departments, such as sales analysis”. Sage Intelligence Reporting offers a cost effective and rapid return on investment. Licensing is very affordable and the tool is very effective in writing reports. Utilising the existing templates also accelerates the process of implementation, all in search of ridding companies of typical “manual Excel wastage”.

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- Financial Director,
Wayne Scholtz, Midway Two

Also, lending weight to the value of Sage Intelligence Reporting is its potential in other areas of the business. Because the tool is generic and connects to any ODBC compliant data source, the possible returns can be multiplied through automation projects on other data sources within the company. The Sage 300 ERP Intelligence Reporting end user solutions provide a good starting point with swift measurable returns; however, these could be considered just a trigger for an overall journey in Excel automation within the group.

About Sage Intelligence

Sage 300 ERP Intelligence Reporting provides immediate insight into meaningful information from across your business, delivering automated financial, payroll, and management reports in the familiar environment of Microsoft Excel. The reports can be accessed at any time and are fully customizable with drill-down capabilities, allowing for enhanced collaboration and decision making.

Sage 300 ERP Intelligence Reporting integrates with your Sage 300 ERP software package, pulling real-time data directly from the database, thereby eliminating manual report preparation and repetitive data extracts.

Sage Intelligence is also the Sage BI offering for Sage 50 Accounting-U.S. Edition, Sage 50 Accounting-Canadian Edition, Sage 100 ERP, Sage PFW ERP, Sage ERP X3 (Financial Reporting), Sage Pastel, Sage Pastel Payroll, Sage Evolution and Sage VIP Payroll, serving over 25,000 users worldwide.

For more information on please go to: www.sageintelligence.com

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About Sage

Sage is leading global supplier of business management software and services for small and mid-sized businesses. The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs more than 13,500 people and supports more than 6 million customers worldwide. For more information about Sage in North America, please visit the company website at www.NA.Sage.com. Follow Sage North America on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SageNorthAmerica>, and Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/sagenamerica>

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About Midway Two

Midway Two, a leading Black Economic Empowerment Group established in 1985 provides quality cost effective and efficient services through a broad range of companies. The Group actively participates within the fields of Labour, Security, Cleaning, Staff Placements, Maintenance.

