



Sage User Network

Welcome to the first issue of the Sage User Network Newsletter: an independent resource for all users of Sage Line 100, MMS, Line 200, Line 500 and Sage 1000.

In order to come into line with the new organisation of Sage products into the all encompassing Mid Market Division, your user group announced some major changes to its structure and the way we are moving the group forward. This was ratified at the user meeting on 13th February 2007.

To summarise:

- Change of name to Sage User Network
- Open to users of all Sage mid market products: Line 100 to Sage 1000
- New web site www.SageUserNetwork.com
- New Discussion Forum
- One Committee to cover all products
- Launch meeting for Line 100 / MMS users 23 May 2007 at Sage Winnersh



Sage Group plc headquarters, Newcastle

We have had some very positive feedback from the members who attended the meeting and AGM; it was very informative with some excellent presentations. See more on the presentations and the 2006 Business Partner of the Year later in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Sage for hosting this event at their Newcastle offices and for taking the time to show delegates around the building during the lunch break.

In This Issue

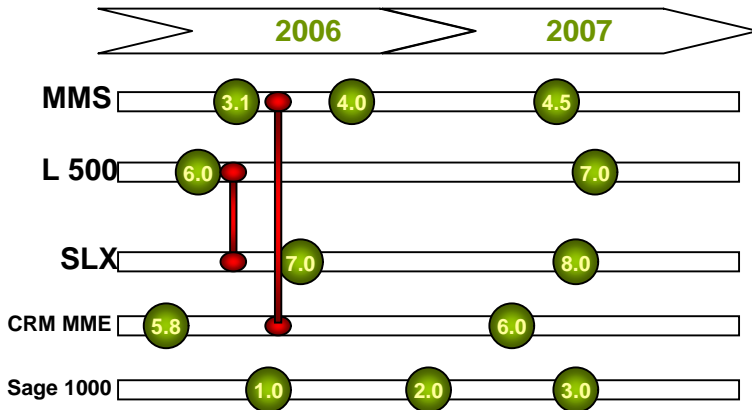
- Sage User Network Meeting and AGM
- 2006 Business Partner of the Year
- Did You Know?
- Dates for Your Diary
- The NEW Discussion Forum
- Discussion Forum: Additional Functionality

Don't forget that all presentations from Sage User Network meetings are available in the Members Area of the website www.SageUserNetwork.com.

Sage User Network Meeting and AGM

I would like to thank all the speakers who helped make the February Meeting and AGM so interesting. It was an excellent meeting with some great speakers; some delegates even said it was the best one yet!

In the opening presentation Andy Clayson took us through Sage's approach to business management software for the mid-market over the next 5-7 years. The Product Roadmap for 2007 can be seen below.



Line 500 Version 7, due around August 2007 is expected to achieve the following:

- > Make BI & reporting easier
- > Increase usability throughout the software
- > Deliver items from the customer wish list
- > Develop new functionality to meet market requirements
- > Provide easy-to-use integration technology
- > Maintain international functionality
- > Update platform support as these evolve
- > Reduce cost of ownership
- > Support for Sage 1000 business processes

As we reported last month, HMRC will soon introduce a significant change to the UK VAT law; expected date Summer 2007. All businesses that trade in (i.e. supply or purchase) certain electronic goods such as mobile phones, computer chips and small electronic devices will be affected by this change. Whilst the number of customers who supply these may be relatively small, many companies purchase such items, not only for onward selling, but also for their own consumption as they increase their use of mobile working (remote e-mail, web access, portable memory etc.). Dave Parker, from Sage R&D, presented the latest news on the changes and the potential implications. If you haven't already thought about these changes, now is the time: take a look at Dave's presentation in the Members' Area for an outline explanation of the problem and the changes to come.



*Dave Parker
Sage R&D*



*Steve Tattum
Sage*

Steve Tattum from Sage again gave two excellent presentations covering the new functionality available in Version 7, how to profile stock for better service and to improve cash flow forecasting.

Justin Garrod from Schiedel Rite-Vent presented a customer viewpoint of Sage BI; why they bought CRM and how Sage BI was implemented. Schiedel Rite-Vent has seen a 6-month return on investment by leveraging the Sales Logix and Sage Line 500 data to help identify revenue opportunities in their market place.



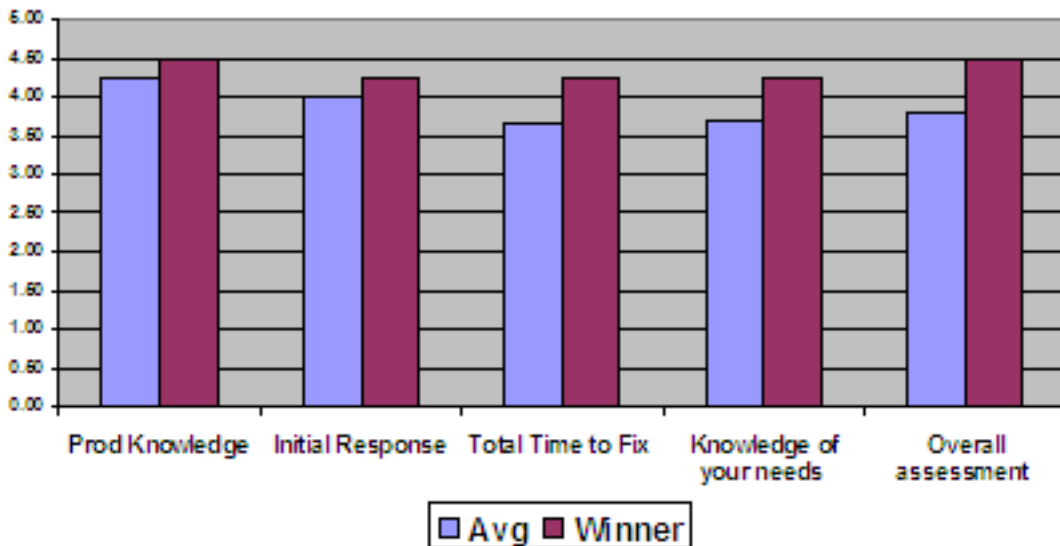
Justin Garrod, Schiedel Rite-Vent

****NEW* Discussion Forum***
at www.SageUserNetwork.com

2006 Business Partner of the Year

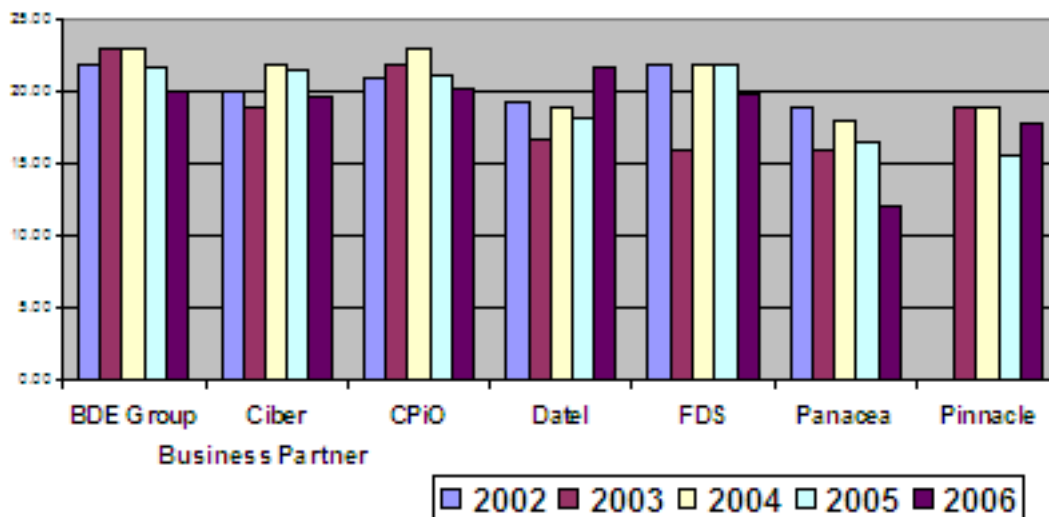
Many congratulations to Datel, 2006 Business Partner of the Year.

This chart shows the differences between the average scores in each category voted for with the actual score of the winner. In all of the categories Datel excelled when compared to the average scores.



Below we can see the differences between the overall voting from 2002 to 2006.

Datel again stand out as the overall winners, with CPIO, FD Systems and BDE Group slightly behind. All these Business Partners deserve recognition for delivering such a high standard of service.



This award is valued by the Business Partner community as it rewards quality of service, not volume of sales. All votes are appreciated as the award is presented on behalf of you, the end users.

NEW!

Discussion Forum

The forum is there for the exchange of ideas and can only be an effective resource if you, the members, use it on a regular basis.

It is there for YOU!

Andy Clayson, Sage, presenting the award to Alan Simpson, Datel (left)



Did you Know...?

Problem with Line 500 Works Order Entry!

Do you have engineering changes in your manufacturing process?

If you can answer yes to the above question you may have a problem you are not aware of, particularly when integrated with MRP. The works order entry module allows the user to enter a product quantity and date required at the top level in the works order header. The result is that the components below are scheduled to meet the top level requirement date. When MRP runs, if the date needs to be changed either expedited or delayed, once the date has been amended in the header it will move the requirement date of all the components required to meet the new requirement. If through an engineering change the user has to add an item to a works order, the addition will currently take today's date and add the lead time of the component which does not necessarily fall into line with the requirement date of the whole assembly. The overall effect is that when MRP runs again, assuming the date moves out by 10 days, rather than bring that new component into line with all others, it simply adds 10 days to every component. So the additional component could still be outside the requirement of the overall assembly. The coding has apparently been done in this simple manner and fails the fundamental manufacturing process.

The workaround for this is that when you add an item due to an engineering change, the user needs to take notice of the first original item on the works order to determine when the component dates are required and then manually use that date in any additional components, in effect overtyping the date required given with the date the user needs to see the part. That way it will always reschedule in line with all other parts required to meet the overall goal.

In the ideal world the developers need to go back around the park and review the effects of changes to works orders and bring this up to date.

Newsletter Articles

Please can you send any articles for the next newsletter to Nicole James, Sage User Network Technical Director. Anything you would like to be published is acceptable – letters to the editor, user stories, hints and tips, comments on Istug and the way we do, or do not, fulfil members requirements. We are here for YOU and this is YOUR newsletter.

Subscription Renewals

Please can you ensure that your subscription renewal is paid promptly; April invoices should be paid by 1 April.

Dates for your Diary 2007

24/04/07 - Committee Meeting
Sage Winnersh

23/05/07 - Launch Meeting for Line 100 &
MMS Users, Sage Winnersh

24/05/07 - Meeting / Awareness Day
Sage Winnersh

11/09/07 - Committee Meeting
Sage Winnersh

15-16 Oct 07 2007 Conference
Belton Woods, Nr Grantham

The agenda for all the above meetings where relevant will be published on the Sage User Network web site; book online at

www.SageUserNetwork.com

**Are You a Line 100
or MMS User?
Join us on
23 May 2007
at Sage Winnersh to
find out what we can
offer you**

Sage will be presenting the Sage 200 suite; what it means to Sage Line 100 and Sage MMS users, overview demonstration and what's next. This event is FREE to attend.

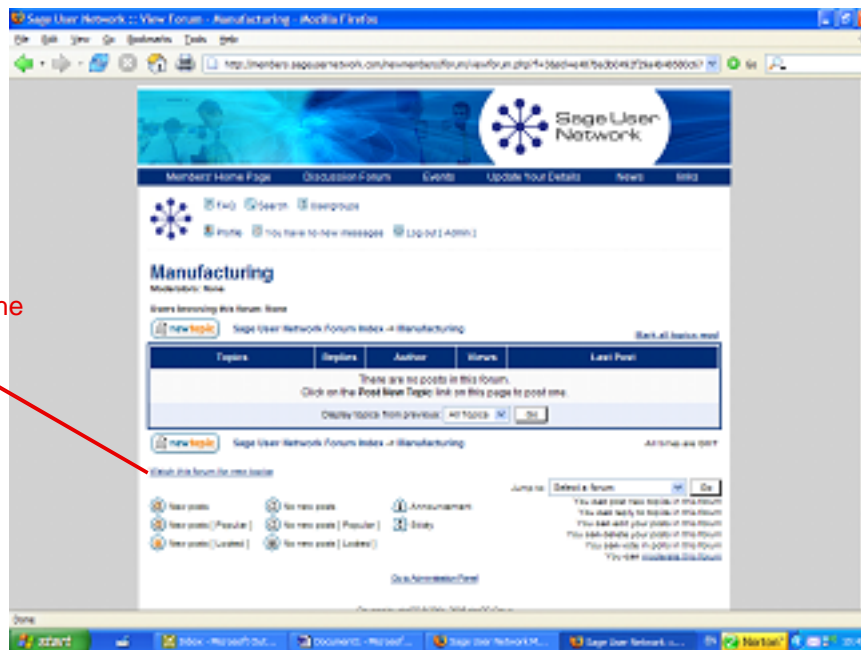
The NEW Sage User Network Discussion Forum

How to "watch" a Forum or Topic

In order to receive e-mail notification of postings you must update your profile to add your e-mail address. This will NOT be visible to other members of the forum.



Once you have added your e-mail address you are then able to "watch" a forum (see screen below): you will be notified via e-mail of any new postings in that forum. If a new posting is made within a forum you are watching, you will receive an e-mail with a link to that posting. You will then be able to sign up to "watch" the responses to that posting in the same way that you signed up to watch the forum.



Meeting Topics

If any of you have a specific topic you would like to see covered at a future meeting, please contact Nicole James, Sage User Network Technical Director. We are open to all suggestions. We are also in need of members who are willing to present to the group: if you would like to volunteer, please contact Nicole. If you present throughout the year you will qualify for **50%** off the 2007 Conference fee; if you present at the 2007 Conference, your place will be **FREE!**

Discussion Forum: Additional Functionality

Private Messaging



Private messages allow users on a board to contact each other out of the public eye. Private messages can be described as a cross between email, instant messaging, and forum posting.

To use private messaging, you must be logged in to the board. Look at the top of any page, and click "You have X new message(s)". This will take you to your private messaging center.



Sending

There are three primary ways to send a private message. First, you may go your private messaging center and click New Post. Secondly, you may click Post Reply from a private message you are reading. Finally, you may click the PM link on any user's profile or post.

The posting form is identical to the normal posting form with a few exceptions:

Username - The username of the person you want to receive the message. If you are replying to a PM, or clicked the PM link in someone's profile, this field will be automatically filled for you.

The Outbox

When you send a PM, the message goes to your Outbox. It remains in the Outbox until the recipient visits his/her Inbox, at which point it is moved from your Outbox to their Inbox. While the message remains in your Outbox you may edit or delete your post if you like. The message remains in your control until it is received.

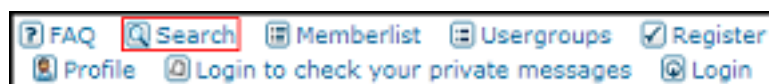
Receiving

There are three ways that one may be notified of a new private message. Most obvious is the Private message link at the top of every page. It will display You have X new message(s), where X is the number of new messages you have. You may click this link to take you to your Inbox.

You may be informed of new PMs by an email sent to the email address your username is registered to. You may also be informed of a new PM by means of a small window that pops up while you are viewing the board. Email and pop-up notification will contain a link to your Inbox. Email and pop-up notification may be enabled/disabled in your Profile (see previous page for where to find this).

Searching

The forum has a search system that will allow you to find topics you are interested in. To get to the search page, click the small Search link at the top of any page.



You may use the asterisk(*) wildcard character to broaden your search. The asterisk will match any number of characters.

WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!

Every quarter the person who has made the highest number of posts in the forum will receive a case of wine as a thank you.

GET POSTING NOW!!