



## 2010 will be an exciting year for our Sage 500 customers...

In summer 2010 Sage will release the single biggest upgrade to their Sage 500 mid-market ERP software in more than ten years. The new release is called Sage 1000v3, which may seem a little confusing to Sage 500 users but here's why it will be important to you:

Sage 1000v3 is a major departure from previous versions of Sage 1000 which only included a subset of the Sage 500 function set and came bundled with Sage CRM. Sage 1000v3 is a development of Sage 500 and is, in essence, Sage 500 v8 with the option to seamlessly integrate with Sage SalesLogix or Sage CRM. However, Sage 1000v3 has a new and enticing user interface and many other usability features that should overcome many of the user interface limitations of Sage 500. If you've been forced to develop a host of reports to analyse basic data sets then you may well be able to ditch them with Sage 1000v3 which provides functionality to enable you to analyse your ERP data from many angles without leaving the main user interface. Imagine being able to slice, dice and drill into your ERP data without leaving your browse screens and you'll have some idea of the improvements that Sage 1000v3 brings to Sage 500.

The other major improvement in Sage 1000v3 is a simplified data schema. The new schema simplifies the presentation of data held in Sage 500 enabling you to query and analyse your ERP assets using external tools such as Microsoft Excel and Crystal Reports without needing to understand the complex web of joins between tables and the technical names for data objects. Additionally, Sage 1000v3 introduces sData for application integration. What does this mean? sData is Sage's open integration methodology and it will enable any part of Sage 1000v3 to be integrated with any part of other key Sage platforms such as Sage SalesLogix for CRM over the Internet. In this way it is remarkably quick to develop sophisticated applications that seamlessly blend elements of ERP and CRM to create a total business solution that meets the needs of finance, marketing, sales and operations, even in geographically distributed environments.

Interested? Then look out for more information about Sage 1000v3 as we release it over the coming months. We will be running a series of introductory seminars in the run-up to the summer launch where we will demonstrate the new functionality and discuss the benefits it could bring to your business. In the meantime now would be a great time to consider upgrading to the latest version of Sage 500 since this is the easiest way to guarantee a smooth transition to Sage 1000v3. We will be carrying out an analysis of all our Sage 500 customers' implementations and building a set of recommendations for each of you that will help you to understand where you might save money, improve efficiencies and gain competitive edge by upgrading and we will share this information with you as soon as we can.

In the meantime, if you have any questions then please contact Richard Thomas on 01256 744079 to discuss your Sage 500/1000 strategy.