

ARTICLE

Future Forward

Automating the Tasks of the Office of Finance



In 2017, [IDC forecasted a 10-fold rise](#) in worldwide data by 2025 led by enterprise organizations who will create and manage the majority of this surge. We're about halfway to realizing the benchmark and it's clear; finance executives fully understand the accompanying challenges. In fact, [Sage research](#) revealed the top priorities for today's CFOs include thwarting competitor efforts, meeting growth expectations, reducing costs, addressing customer expectations, and ensuring compliance. All of which require not only data collection but, more importantly, timely data analysis capabilities; a significant burden felt by the office of finance.

Office of Finance: Data Challenges

With the level of complexity in data capture technology growing, it's easy to assume that's where the roadblock lies but for the most part, it's not. The vast majority of enterprise organizations have been capturing production and transactional data for years and systematically storing it with an understanding that it will help them deliver on their digitization efforts in the future. The real challenge lies in how to quickly cull-and-pull the information from disparate sources into a report upon which organizational executives can make educated and strategic decisions.

Why ERPs are not enough

An Enterprise Resource Management system (ERP) is a collection of transactional systems that compile large amounts of data from multiple sources across the entire organization but they're not designed to handle analytics. Sage X3 is a robust ERP solution that digitizes the workflows across a company's value chain including human resources, payroll, accounting and budgets, production, purchase management, inventory and warehousing, manufacturing, sales, service, and eCommerce. It helps with process optimization, supply chain planning, product lifecycle management and manufacturing execution. All of which significantly improves business processes but in order to make the leap forward, it's time to put that stored data to use.

Analytic Processes Require Dynamic Systems

Welcome to Sage Data and Analytics, a data management, analytics, and Business Intelligence (BI) platform that adjusts inputs, rules, and assumptions without affecting transactional data, rules, and structure. In doing so, it integrates information from Sage x3 as well as many other sources; Salesforce, Microsoft Dynamics, cloud storage services, and more.

The Value of Sage Data and Analytics

Sage Data and Analytics simplifies the process of pulling information from disparate systems and transferring selected data points to a dashboard where reports can be easily and automatically generated. It's a time saver for those in roles such as in finance where [80 percent of time is spent gathering data](#) and manually distilling useful information; a task that often doesn't occur quickly enough for executives to leverage it for decision making.

“Sage Data and Analytics is the central hub, there is no more manual processing of data and it’s extremely fast and simple to implement.”

- Frederic Carricauburu CIO SFA/SANIFLO

Sage Data and Analytics brings everything together by marrying business applications to a company's ecosystem. It's also designed for non-tech roles to easily manipulate and distill data needed for role-based decisions, allowing everyone; salespeople, HR and accounting, inventory management, as well as executives to self-serve information at any given time.

Key features include:

- Automated data collection from business-wide systems fully integrated into one up-to-date, accurate, and secure hub
- Prepackaged data models with intuitive UI that enables filtering without a need for SQL coding
- Best-practice analytics, calculations, and KPIs that deliver instant access to performance measurements
- Pre-packaged, role-based dashboards produce relevant information from across all business functions in graphs, charts, and other visual formats
- The hub can be accessed securely from the platform, a browser, and any mobile device

To address top growth priorities of CFOs and the enormous, ongoing rise in data generation, collection, and storage, the office of finance must pivot. Currently, a majority of time is spent manipulating spreadsheets and culling data from various sources. That must shift toward analyzing and leveraging data to make informed decisions, timely. Sage Data and Analytics is the bridge to future growth and remaining relevant in a fast paced market.

MicroAccounting

MicroAccounting helps companies select and implement ERP and business management solutions that streamline processes and deliver the insight to make faster, smarter decisions.

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