

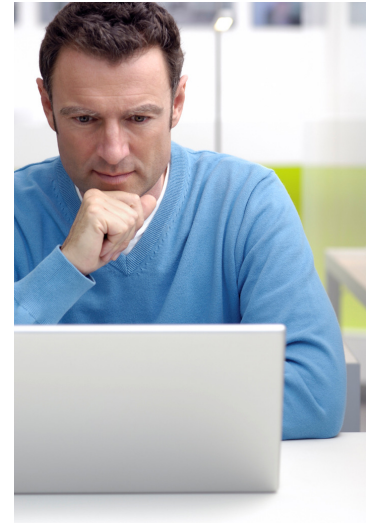
Defining Business Intelligence

Over the last 10 years a majority of small and mid-sized businesses have implemented one or more generations of the ERP systems to help manage their day-to-day business process. During this time there has been an increased demand for access to key information in order for businesses to make more informed decisions and improve their overall business health. This is where the term Business Intelligence (BI) was introduced.

Business Intelligence is a broad category of applications and technologies for gathering, storing, analyzing, and providing access to data to help enterprise users make better business decisions. BI applications include the activities of decision support systems, query and reporting, online analytical processing, statistical analysis, forecasting, and data mining.

Business intelligence applications can be mission-critical and integral to an enterprise's operations or occasionally used to meet a special requirement. It can also be enterprise-wide or local to one division, department, or project centrally initiated or driven by user demand.

Leveraging your existing technology investment and finding cost-effective, easy-to-use BI solutions that integrate with your current system is highly recommended. However, more advanced BI tools can now deliver multi-dimensional analysis, graphing, charting and more for a fraction of the cost of an expensive Online Analytical Processing solution. Moreover these tools should be modifiable by a user without requiring extensive programming skills.



In this Issue:

- **Defining Business Intelligence**
- **Sage Accpac is Compliant with IFRS Standards**
- **Sage Accpac 2010...the next generation**
- **What is Cloud Computing?**
- **New Intelligence product from Sage**

Sage Accpac ERP 2010: the next generation

In 2010, the next generation of Sage Accpac ERP will be launched and will harness the power of Web 2.0 technology to deliver better user experience, lower total cost of ownership, and enhanced functionality. Visit the news page on our website to read the white paper recently produced by Sage to find out about Sage Software's development objectives.

Sage Accpac is Compliant with IFRS Standards

IFRS, or International Financial Reporting Standards, are a single set of global financial accounting/reporting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board for the purpose of creating uniform financial statement preparation and disclosure. The Canadian Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) has confirmed that IFRS will replace Canadian GAAP effective January 1, 2011, for "publicly accountable profit-oriented enterprises." This means that applicable companies will need to restate statements under IFRS in the fiscal year 2010 in order to be able to file comparatives in 2011.

The good news is that if you currently use Sage Accpac ERP the transition to IFRS standards will be easier because Sage Accpac has features and functionality that will support the transition. If your Sage Accpac system has not been configured to meet the IFRS compliance or if you are using a different system that needs to be made compliant we highly recommend you start planning for this change now. If you would like to learn more about these new standards please visit our website and download our IFRS Guide. Or please give us a call as we'd be happy to discuss the new standards and how to make your system compliant.

What is Cloud Computing aka: Software as a Service (SaaS)?

In the last year or so the idea of software as a service has become quite a hot topic. Cloud Computing is a new technology which is best described as an architecture in which companies can 'rent' technology services on the internet, rather than 'owning' their own.

Consisting of a shared data center where you can log in, customize applications can be up and running in under a week, and with a plethora of apps to choose from - CRM to HR and Accounting to custom - the possibilities seem endless. At a fraction of the cost of in-house systems, this looks like a great way for SMB's to better manage overhead cost and ROI in terms of a new IT investment, not to mention the ability to utilize employees to generate more business (instead of managing the system.)

Sage Accpac Intelligence

Sage recently announced their new BI product: **Sage Accpac Intelligence**. This new solution empowers managers to get the information they need out of Accpac to support their operations and strategic planning. It lets managers easily create reports and analyze data, based on the familiar Microsoft Excel application.

Sage Accpac Intelligence will be released in December 2009. A free user license of Accpac Intelligence will be bundled with the Sage Accpac v5.6 release. Accpac Intelligence will be available for customers on v5.5 in February 2010.

For more information please give our office a call.

As an up and coming trend, Cloud Computing is behind many of the online conferences and marketing trends in development today.

Some features and benefits include:

- Built-in security, reliability, & upgradeability
- Minimized risk involving application development and implementation
- Web-services integration
- Analytics, offline access and mobile deployment speed application development
- Automated upgrades & real-time reporting
- Multiple languages and currencies

On the other side of the spectrum, however, there are those that say Cloud Computing vendors still aren't fully prepared to meet today's corporate information technology requirements. Some of the major concerns within the industry include the market's immaturity, reliability, lack of proven security, and data lock-in. Once the time is spent to customize apps, pay for and use a Cloud Computing system more and more SMB's are wanting assurance that if they're unhappy with a certain vendor, they will be able to move their data and applications to another with minimal cost and effort, and right now that doesn't appear to be the case. Additionally, if you require specialized interfaces and application programming it may be even harder for you to make Cloud Computing work for you, as well as have multiple options when it comes to choosing a vendor.

Cloud Computing may prove to be a viable option in today's business environments. Given more time there will certainly be more standards and assurance for the consumer. Our best advice would be to research potential vendors thoroughly, check references, start slow, and read your

Noted & Quoted

"The IWI team is always available when we need them. Over a holiday weekend we experienced some problems and they came in to lend an extra set of hands. It's comforting to know that they are there for us and that we can rely on them. IWI is a great company to work with because they don't come in and tell you how they're going to do it, but they bring their expertise and tailor the system to meet your specific needs, thus providing the perfect end-result for your company."

Peter Winkley, Vice President of Finance and CFO, Therapure Biopharma, Inc.



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