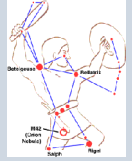




Stellar Times



April 2009 Newsletter for Orion Business & Accounting Solutions

April is National Garden Month



Every April communities, organizations, and individuals nationwide celebrate gardening during National Garden Month. Gardeners know, and research confirms, that nurturing plants is good for us: attitudes toward health and nutrition improve, kids perform better at school, and community spirit grows.

Here are some tips for getting your children interested in gardening with you.

Start small and let kids choose what to plant. Offer guidance and make sure there are some sure-success plants among their picks.

Relax your standards. Crooked rows and a few weeds are fine.

Transplanting is fun, even if your child plays with plants the way they move their toys around. Just remind them that plant's roots need some time to grow in one place.

Leave room for good old-fashioned digging. Holes are a highly popular landscape feature. Look for worms.

Let kids express themselves by coloring signs and decorating the garden in their own personal way. Action figures in the garden are okay.

Include a fun structure - perhaps a sunflower house or bean tepee - to provide a seasonal hideout and playhouse.

Remember: One of the best things you ever grow may be a future gardener.

I Got a Fever, Spring Fever!



Odds and Ends from Orion:

- Just like we all need "More Cowbell", we also need more warm Spring Days!
- Next month we'll be attending the annual Sage Partner Conference, stay tuned for updates on the future direction of MAS90 and MAS200!
- For those on Level 4.1, Level 4.2 and Level 4.3. Sage has been consistently releasing a new service update for 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 on a monthly/bi-monthly basis. Level 4.1 is on service update number 22, Level 4.2 is on service update number 23 (both of these are their Microsoft Vista compliant releases) and 4.3 is on service update number 10. These updates are available to you as part of your Client Care subscription with Sage. If you need help installing any of the service updates or have any questions, please give us a call.

Till Next Month,



MAS90/200 Performance Tips!

The MAS 90/200 team has been working hard for the past 5 years to complete the transition to the new 4.x Business Framework. The 4.x Business Framework represents a complete re-write of the core MAS 90 functionality (which should be completed on the next release due in the fall, Level 4.4). The 4.x effort has solidified the MAS 90/200 foundation with modern software engineering principles. In addition, the MAS 90/200 team has adopted modern software development methodologies to help improve code quality and reliability.

With that said, 4.x also brings a number of performance "challenges," especially for older client machines. The 4.x framework increases network traffic as well as client memory overhead. Following are some common performance issues and their solutions:

Performance Considerations on MAS 90 or 200

For client workstations, make sure to exclude virus scanning pointed at your network MAS 90/200 installation folder. Since these files are in constant change, an anti-virus scanner will attempt to "scan" each file every time this happens, causing significant performance issues. Note: MAS 90/200 supports only corporate editions of anti-virus packages.

All modern versions of MS Windows can benefit from more RAM. If you are running less than 1 GB of RAM, consider upgrading to at least 1 GB (those running Vista should be a minimum of 2GB). More is always better, in this case. The overall performance improvement in all Windows applications will be significant.

Network performance is critical. Make sure you are running at least 100MB network interface cards (in full duplex mode) and your workstation and cabling can support these speeds (Cat 5 10Base-T cabling is a good choice). If you are running a large installation with 20+ workstations, consider using a managed Ethernet switch to support high throughput. Gigabit (or 1000MB) network components

MAS90/200 PERFORMANCE TIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are available and are quickly becoming the standard as people replace older network infrastructure.

Printing, if you are running MAS 90 and experience intermittent hanging of the application, make sure all the printers in the windows printer manager are valid printers. If a printer has been removed from the network but not removed from the Windows printer manager, you may see intermittent hanging as MAS 90 attempts to connect to a printer.

Though there are many online resources to help you tune your Windows PC performance, here are a few that provide the biggest “bang for the buck:”

☆General performance – remove all unused applications. Go to “control panel” → “add/remove programs” and uninstall everything you don’t use. You will be surprised how many applications you really don’t need or use. If you are not sure what the program is, don’t remove it. And don’t remove anything labeled as a “Hotfix” or “patch.”

☆Hard drive performance – clean up your hard drives. Go to My Computer and right-click “local disk” and select properties. On the “general” tab, select “Disk Cleanup.” The utility will analyze your hard drive and recommend areas to be cleaned. Select the file types that can be removed and select “ok” and the utility will clean things up.

As the Windows operating system gets more sophisticated, the demand on PC hardware also increases. With the economy being so tight, many companies are delaying the purchase of new PC equipment until it is absolutely necessary. As businesses, we need to manage costs but we also need to manage productivity. If a sales person can enter 10% more sales orders per day, the cost of new hardware would pay for itself in a matter of weeks.

Feel Free to call us for more information on increasing the performance of your MAS90/200 system.

Exciting Spring Promotions from SAGE!

SAVE BIG in April on Credit Card Processing and MAS90 EES!



Enroll in Sage Payment Solutions and save \$1,100 on the Sage MAS 90 and 200 Cash Flow bundle
In today's economy, it is crucial for businesses to take measures to improve and promote healthy cash flow. For a limited time only, Sage MAS 90 and 200 customers who enroll in Sage Payment Solutions will be eligible to have the cost of the Credit Card Processing module waived - a savings of \$1,100 (excluding subscription cost)! Note: Valid proof of enrollment in Sage Payment Solutions is required.

MAS 90 Grandfathered Customers can migrate to Sage MAS 90 or 200 Extended Enterprise at great cost savings!

Sage's newest product offering for the MAS90 product line **MAS90 (and MAS200) Extended Enterprise Suite** (SageCRM + MAS 90 or 200 + Sage Fixed Assets) has a promotion for “Grandfathered” MAS90 clients to upgrade to MAS90 Extended Enterprise Suite at a great cost savings! Grandfathered MAS90 clients are those customers who originally purchased their system prior to October 1, 2003. Starting now, and continuing through the end of June 2009, grandfathered customers will only pay a flat per-user maintenance fee, in addition to migration fees.

- ⚙ Customers save on Sage MAS 90 to Extended Enterprise Suite migration
- ⚙ Grandfathered status gives them over 50% savings

Follow this link for more information on the [MAS90 Extended Enterprise Suite](#).

The spring 2009 Sage promotions that offer promotional pricing on are calculated off of the product portion of the sale and do not apply to maintenance. Maintenance is calculated based off of full sales list price. These offers cannot be combined with any other offers. Promotions are not valid on Sage MAS 90 or Sage MAS 500 - Small Business Edition orders unless specified and cannot be applied to previously placed orders.

Sage Spring Promotions valid through June 30, 2009. Please contact Jim Steele for more information.

Windows Tip

Customize your Folder View in Windows Explorer

How many times have you wanted to view the detailed view of a folder or a thumbnail view and started cursing Windows Explorer?

The good news is that there is an often overlooked feature in Windows Explorer Folder Options that allows you to do that easily. Open up an Explorer Window. Set the view to the custom view you want to apply as a default for all folders i.e. Thumbnails, Tiles, Icons, List, or Details. Then just click on the Windows Explorer Tool Bar "Tools" Menu. Then choose Folder Options. Then choose View. Apply to All Folders.

Now each time you open Windows Explorer your default view will be set to the exact view you like. If you want to change it back or to reset it to another custom view just go back to the Tools menu and choose Folder options and click View. Then click on Reset All Folders. That's it.

