



June has the Summer Solstice



What does the summer solstice mean? It is the day when the sun is at its furthest point from the equator, resulting in the longest day of the year depending on which hemisphere you live in. The word "solstice" originates from the Latin word solstitium which means "sun-stopping." This is because, the point in the sky where the sun appears to rise and set, well it stops...then reverses direction after this day.

The summer solstice is observed on either June 21 or June 22 of each year in the Northern Hemisphere. And, on December 21 or 22 in the Southern Hemisphere. Today, the observation isn't as popular as it was in ancient times throughout Europe, the British Isles, China, Egypt, North Africa and Scandinavia.

Bonfires have always been a part of ancient rituals. Lighting a bonfire is one of the most universal observances for the Summer Solstice, mostly in the Northern Hemisphere today.

In Denmark and Norway, they believed that the fires prevented their cattle from being struck by disease. The Germans looked at the fires through larkspur branches, believing that by doing this it would keep their eyes healthy. In Scotland, cowherds would walk around their cattle three times carrying burning torches. They felt by doing this it would purify and protect their animals.

Let's Go Red Wings!



Odds and Ends from Orion:

- June is a great month filled with Dads and Grads and if you have little ones like me, ballet recitals.
- Don't forget to mark you calendars for our summer holiday schedule this year. We will be closed July 3rd for the Independence Day Holiday and September 7th for Labor Day. Please give us advanced notification if you are planning any big projects or system changes around those days.
- 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 23, Level 4.2 is on service update number 24 (both of these are their Microsoft Vista compliant releases) and 4.3 is on service update number 12. 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 The Road Ahead



Last month, Sage Software hosted their annual partner conference in Nashville. It's a great opportunity for us partners to attend to learn more about Sage, MAS90 and the future plans for the software. In their "MAS90 the Road Ahead" session we got some insight on what will be coming in the next release, Level 4.4 (targeted to be released in 1st Quarter 2010). Here are some highlights of that session (in no particular order).

Customer number will be 20 characters. For existing users there is a setting to convert from seven characters, but once that setting is changed, there is no going back.

Item numbers will be 30 characters. Same situation as the customer number. Existing users can choose to move up.

Inventory transactions can now go up to four decimal places to match work orders. If you use the decimal places you no longer lose digits to the left of the decimal. This setting will be in Common Information. Also, standard cost items can now be valued and relieved from inventory at zero dollars.

Custom Office, they will be adding scripting functionality to specific MAS 90/200 events that no longer require user interactions (no buttons). You can establish validations on any column and works with the user interface, visual integrator, and the business objects,

Summer Solstice continued



But, bonfires weren't just for protection. Many were associated with fertility and courtship.

In Bohemia, girls and boys stood on opposite sides of the fire and look at one another through handmade wreaths. This was to see whether or not they would be true to each other and who would marry whom.

Afterwards, the girls would toss their wreaths across the flames toward their sweethearts. The singed wreaths were then taken home afterwards and kept in the house. Why? They felt this offered protection from illness and thunderstorms throughout the year. When the fire had burned down a little, the couples would then join hands and leap across the embers three times.

In Spain, people still build a bonfire and light it at 6:00 pm on Midsummer Eve. This is done in San Pedro Manrique. Then at midnight, they spread it's coals into a carpet and walk barefoot across the glowing path carrying another person on his/her back.

In North Africa, you also see Midsummer bonfires, even though the Islamic calendar is lunar there and independent of the seasons. Therefore, to some this suggests that the lighting of bonfires is even older than the arrival of Islam.

Sounds like fun to me! and don't forget to bring the hot-dogs and marshmallows!

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You will be able to automatically total detail numeric UDFs (User Defined Field) to the header object and create cumulative calculations on multiple records and save to table or UDT (User Defined Table) during update. Example given was if you are totaling quantity sold by salesperson, you could have them update to a UDT or to a UDF in the salesperson table when the invoices are updated. In addition, going forward all VB scripting customizations will survive upgrades.

FRx, Microsoft (which owns FRx) has discontinued development as of the latest release level 6.7. Sage's OEM distribution rights end 12/31/2010 and Microsoft will end support of the product 12/31/2011. Sage is currently evaluating the options (we are still 2 ½ years away from the end of support from Microsoft). So the good news for FRx users, is that it is still going to work for a long time and Sage is working on a replacement or different option.

PA-DSS compliance or Payment Application Data Security Standards. These are the rules that require credit numbers to be stored only in encrypted form and standards designed to protect consumers from credit card fraud. Sage is working with an audit firm to get them certified later this year.

Level 4.4 will conclude their mission to put all the modules in the New **Business Framework**. The good news, Yay! no more parallel upgrades. The bad news, that leaves out Payroll, Work Order Processing and Job Cost out. I didn't hear any official plans, but I got the feeling that these will either be moved up on a single module basis or they will offer a different Sage product to tie into MAS90 and replace the functionality of that module. For example (and I'm not saying this is going to happen – I don't have any official word from Sage, but it would make some sense) they could offer a product like Sage Abra (payroll/HR module) to replace MAS90's payroll.

Beyond Level 4.4 Some of the customer requested changes they are considering; electronic payments, electronic bank reconciliations, sales history for drop ships, one click journal entry reversals, multi-bin in inventory, expand other field lengths (AP Vendor), and some popular extended solutions will be added to the base product.

As usual, I will keep you posted on any future MAS90 product plans from Sage.

Windows Tip**Easy Expansion in Windows Explorer (XP)**

When you work with Windows Explorer, you frequently need to expand and collapse the folders. You can do this with the mouse, of course, but this isn't the only way. You can use keyboard shortcuts to expand and collapse folders and subfolders in Windows Explorer.

In a recent tip, we suggested using the asterisk, plus, and minus keys on the numeric keypad to expand and collapse folders and subfolders in Windows Explorer. An even easier way is to use the arrow keys adjacent to the numeric keypad. Use the right arrow to expand and the left arrow to collapse the selected folder.

Using this method allows you to move up, down, and expand or collapse the folders without moving your hands across the keyboard to do all four of these functions.

Q2 2009 Payroll Tax Table Updates Available

Sage has a new Tax Table Update TTU for Payroll (revised June 1, 2009) available for those on a current Sage Software Maintenance Plan. These updates may be used for Library Master versions 4.x and 3.71, 3.72, and 3.73.



Here is a link to view a list of the changes made in the tax table <http://support.sagesoftwareonline.com/mas/readme/PR3033-C-KBA.htm>

Please contact us if you need help downloading or installing your 2009 TTU.

Exciting Spring Promotions from SAGE!**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. Plus, Sage MAS 90 and 200 customers who participate in this promotion can also take advantage of Sage KnowledgeSync Professional for \$0 (\$399 annual service fee required).



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

We encourage you to provide us with your feedback, comments and suggestions on how we can better serve your business needs. Contact us at **248-893-1060** or email to jimsteele@orionbas.com