



Traffic management manufacturer steamrolls through payroll processing and inventory management with Sage Accpac ERP 5.5

Controlled Release Program Ensures Quality

“With the help of Caron Business Solutions, we upgraded to Sage Accpac ERP 5.5 running on a SQL Server. Now we can rapidly access the information we need to do our jobs and can rest assured that it is not incorrect due to poor data quality. Many incremental feature improvements allow us to operate more efficiently and effectively, with a direct impact on our bottom line.”

—Trevor Paine, Controller, Valley Traffic Systems

In addition to manufacturing road signage for the province of British Columbia (BC), Valley Traffic provides traffic safety equipment and personnel to construction sites across BC and Alberta. Construction in both provinces has been booming and over the last five years Valley Traffic has experienced rapid growth in inventory, orders and staffing requests. In BC, they hold large contracts for many high-profile projects like the Canada Line and 2010 construction projects. Valley Traffic uses Sage Accpac ERP for inventory, accounts payable and receivable, purchasing and payroll as well as for accounting and financial reporting.

Sage Software business partner Caron Business Solutions has been working with Valley Traffic for 4.5 years – ever since they originally converted them from QuickBooks to Sage Accpac ERP.

“Valley Traffic started out with the Sage Accpac 100 edition and have steadily increased their needs so that today they are using Sage Accpac ERP 500 version 5.5,” says Fan Chun, co-owner of Caron. “The nice thing about Sage Accpac ERP is that it scales as a business grows, which allowed us to easily match the rapid growth at Valley Traffic. So far, this latest version is fast and very stable. We have received zero issues specifically related to 5.5 since installing it at Valley Traffic.”

Improved Payroll Processing Speed

With over 350 employees and very high turnover, Valley Traffic had moved a previously external payroll system in-house using Sage Accpac. “With a lot of summer students working on construction sites and particularly roadways during the summer months, in a given year 200 people can turn over,” says Trevor Paine, controller at Valley Traffic. “The cost savings of bringing payroll in-house far outweighed the investment in technology.”

Customer:

Valley Traffic Systems

Industry:

Roadway and Construction
Signage and Safety Products

Location:

Langley, British Columbia

System:

Sage Accpac ERP 5.5

CHALLENGE

Rapid growth led Valley Traffic to require continuous upgrades and improvements to existing payroll processes and inventory management.

SOLUTION

Sage Accpac partner, Caron Business Solutions migrated the system to Sage Accpac ERP 5.5 running on a new Microsoft SQL Server back end to provide the company with efficiencies based on new functionality in key modules.

RESULTS

In addition to better overall system performance, new functionality in Accpac ERP 5.5 speeds information look up in all modules, particularly in payroll and inventory systems.

“One of the reasons we decided to go ahead with the upgrade to 5.5 was new functionality in the payroll area, which we could see would make generating tax T4 forms easier and faster,” says Paine. “The new version provides us with an easier way to merge T4 documents with employee information and print them automatically, as opposed to the manual method. This process is completely integrated with 5.5 -- reducing the time it takes to produce T4s dramatically each year.”

Sage Accpac 5.5 also provides a much improved employee activity inquiry, so that payroll professionals can take a look at an employee's pay history at any point in time without having to create a report. Because pay history is integrated with the employee record, payroll staff can drill down into history from the employee record.

Spiraling Inventory Now More Manageable

Improvements to inventory have made operations more efficient as well. Valley Traffic Systems manufactures and produces tens of thousands of signs using a just in time method to reduce storage costs. Today, with thousands of different products, the organization processes over ten thousand orders per year.

“Our inventory grew steadily due to new items as a result of government regulatory changes, but we were reluctant to eliminate obsolete items to preserve order history, so the database became really large very quickly,” said Paine. “As orders grew, so did purchasing and receivables, which we also used to manage our personnel services.”

“Their system grew from only 200 megabytes of data in 2003 to well over 4 gigabytes in just four years,” says Chun. “We used the opportunity to upgrade to 5.5 to also move to a Microsoft® SQL Server® Server to improve security and data integrity. We also upgraded to the most recent version of Crystal Reports®,” he says. “The combination of the new database and the new release with 5.5 provides Valley Traffic with a more powerful and efficient system that will keep up with their growth curve for a long time to come.”

Valley Traffic warehouse staff also really appreciate the new functionality for adding items through the inventory wizard, which prior to this release involved moving from one module to another and multiple screens. Today, the wizard takes care of adding a supplier and asks a series of questions all from one screen. Now they can enter a new sku number in under five minutes.

Incremental improvements go Straight to the Bottom Line

“Sage Accpac ERP 5.5 offers us many beneficial new features. The new drilldown features in Purchase Orders, Order Entry and Inventory Control are particularly useful, because we don't have to hunt around in the program for information related to a record,” says Paine. “Now, pretty much anything you need to know, you can access from a single screen. It's improvements like that which make us more efficient and that goes straight to the bottom line.”

About Sage Software

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