

Grant Thornton LLP Trusts Sage ERP Accpac as its Business Management Solution

Grant Thornton LLP is one of the Canadian members of Grant Thornton International, one of the world's leading organizations of independently owned and managed accounting and consulting firms, with over 2,500 partners across 100 countries. The Canadian firm operates from 45 locations, spanning Victoria, BC to St. John's, NL and employs more than 1,700 professionals. As you might imagine, professional accounting firms such as Grant Thornton LLP are very discriminating when it comes to selecting their own internal accounting applications. Grant Thornton trusts its operations on Sage ERP Accpac.

Standardizing Operations

"We standardized our operations on Sage ERP Accpac back in 1999," recalls Jim Bromilow, senior manager of MIS for Grant Thornton. "It is a strong, secure application and a very good fit for us."

Centralizing Financial Operations

Grant Thornton LLP's Canadian operation is comprised of several business units, each made up of one or more office locations. Until 2005, each of the firm's business units ran a separate instance of Sage ERP Accpac software, sending summarized data to the company's headquarters in Toronto. "By 2005, our company's technology infrastructure was sufficient to allow us to centralize the application," explains Bromilow. "Today we run a single instance of Sage ERP Accpac on our Toronto servers and each office has access to the server using Citrix."

The benefits resulting from the consolidation are significant; Bromilow summarizes as: "Consistency, security, and control." He explains, "By centralizing the application we are able to ensure consistency in account structure and avoid duplicates or multiple formats. Security is more easily managed as well, as fewer individuals need access to sensitive administrative data. Control of the database overall, including backups and storage, also is better served." And the firm also finds that the administration and reporting of Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is more easily managed.

Grant Thornton LLP has set up triggers that monitor the SQL database and alert administrators when certain activities occur. "For example, we receive an alert when a new vendor is set up," explains Bromilow. "With early awareness of these activities we are able to ensure the set up is proper and consistent."

Challenge

Grant Thornton LLP demands an internal accounting and financial reporting solution that is scalable, strong, and secure.

Solution

For over a decade, Grant Thornton LLP has trusted its operations to Sage ERP Accpac.

Results

Centralized database increases consistency, security, and control. Intercompany transactions speed allocations. Insight delivers real-time business intelligence.

Customer

Grant Thornton LLP

Industry

Audit, Tax, and Advisory Services

Head Office

Toronto, Ontario

Number of Locations

45

System

Sage ERP Accpac

- System Manager
- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Purchase Orders
- Intercompany Transactions
- Insight



Streamlining Intercompany Transactions

The firm's business units are represented as individual companies in the Sage ERP Accpac system; each has secure access to its company database to enter accounts payable transactions, complete journal entries, and run various reports. Many other transactions, however, originate at a corporate level and need to be allocated across the business units. By using the Intercompany Transactions module, Grant Thornton LLP is able to distribute accounts payable transactions and general ledger journal entries to each business unit in a single transaction. "It makes what would otherwise be a very complex set of allocations very easy," notes Bromilow.

The Benefits of Business Intelligence

Access to timely business intelligence data is vital for any successful enterprise. For Grant Thornton LLP, Sage ERP Accpac Insight is the tool that delivers its intelligence data. The Sage ERP Accpac Insight application facilitates rapid report creation by converting information already set up in the company's accounting system plus other applications into a single SQL-based data warehousing system. It helps Grant Thornton LLP employees in remote offices and disparate departments manage, distribute, and collaborate on data from a single, unified source. The reports can be deployed over the web to key personnel, or sent as a Microsoft Excel® file that they can review on demand.

"Before Sage ERP Accpac Insight, this kind of data consolidation was a manual process," Bromilow says. "Each business unit filled out spreadsheets and we keyed them in at our corporate office. Then updated reports were compiled and distributed manually. Sage ERP Accpac Insight dramatically streamlines this process. For example we have one report that consists of 80 interlinked sheets. What took hours previously, now takes three minutes to update and compile."

About Sage North America

Sage North America is part of The Sage Group plc, a leading global supplier of business management software and services. At Sage, we live and breathe business every day. We are passionate about helping our customers achieve their ambitions. Our range of business software and services is continually evolving as we innovate to answer our customers' needs. Our solutions support accounting, operations, customer relationship management, human resources, time tracking, merchant services, and the specialized needs of the construction, distribution, healthcare, manufacturing, nonprofit, and real estate industries. Sage North America employs 4,000 people and supports more than 3.2 million small and medium-size business customers. The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs 13,400 people and supports more than 6.3 million customers worldwide. For more information, please visit the website at www.SageNorthAmerica.com or call 866-996-7243. Follow Sage North America on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/SageNorthAmerica> and Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/#!/sagenamerica>.

"At Grant Thornton, we place our confidence and trust in Sage ERP Accpac. We recommend it without hesitation."

**Jim Bromilow, Senior Manager - MIS,
Grant Thornton LLP**

The Sage ERP Accpac Insight tool allows Grant Thornton LLP to analyze its operations from any angle. "We have three service lines, Assurance, Tax, and Advisory, and we have the need to look at those service lines in various ways," explains Bromilow. "With the Sage ERP Accpac Insight application, we can look at each service line as a whole, or broken down by business unit. We also can incorporate non-financial data such as number of billable hours and head counts in our analyses."

Recommended Solution

In addition to being active users of Sage ERP Accpac, Grant Thornton LLP also is a Sage Authorized Partner, implementing the ERP solution for clients across Canada. "At Grant Thornton LLP, we place our confidence and trust in Sage ERP Accpac," concludes Bromilow. "We recommend it without hesitation."