

County Government Enjoys Economic Benefits With Sage Solutions

The County of Essex in southern Ontario enjoys economic prosperity due to a thriving mix of manufacturing, tourism, and agriculture. In recent years, a surge in growth plus increasing complexity in transaction processing and reporting requirements overwhelmed the county's existing database platform. With separate, disconnected databases managing different entities within the government, the county endured widespread inefficiencies, and, without direct access to real-time financial data from its various departments, decision-making and planning were often delayed.

Systemwide Inefficiencies Prompt Search for New System

According to Wendy St. Amour, manager of IT for the County of Essex, "Due to our database indexing problems, locating specific invoices was very time-consuming, and generating management reports was very tedious and inefficient. Getting new budget numbers back into Sage ERP Accpac sometimes took up to a month to complete because we had to ask other staff members to tackle this project in their spare time."

To resolve these inadequacies, the county wanted a system that could reduce the time required to generate annual budget reports, improve remote users' transactional processing, and increase overall productivity.

Fast, One-Week Implementation

Acting on the recommendation of Sage business partner Synergy Plus Solutions, the County of Essex opted for an upgraded version of Sage ERP Accpac. It also implemented Sage ERP Accpac Insight, a comprehensive reporting, budgeting, forecasting, and consolidations tool.

While the implementation figured to take many months to complete, the entire project was completed in just one week. "With multiple databases and such a high volume of transactional data, we figured the implementation would be problematic and very time-intensive," said St. Amour. "Amazingly, a week later, we were going 'live' with the new system, and we have enjoyed the benefits ever since."

Customer

County of Essex

Industry

Municipal Government

Location

Essex County, Ontario

System

Sage ERP Accpac

Sage ERP Accpac Insight



Challenge

The county lacked the tools to efficiently process financial transactions and create reports that conformed to provincial guidelines and to meet the needs of department managers.

Solution

The county implemented Sage ERP Accpac Insight plus an upgraded version of Sage ERP Accpac.

Results

Sage ERP Accpac solutions provide the county with a highly efficient, real-time environment for enhanced transactional processing and streamlined reporting.

Sage ERP Accpac Insight Streamlines Reporting and Budgeting Processes

Sage ERP Accpac Insight has dramatically improved the county's ability to generate financial reports that conform to the provincial government's requirements. Insight has enabled county staff to quickly integrate information into meaningful reports and distribute them across the enterprise in a real-time and secure environment. Insight has also provided secure access to department heads for reporting and drilling down for further analysis on financial data.

"With Sage ERP Accpac Insight on hand, managers of different departments can access the desired reports at any time through a dedicated icon on their desktop," said St. Amour. "In fact, our engineering department can double-click on an icon such as time and materials or budget versus actual expenses on a construction project and get a real-time status update."

Dramatic Cost Reductions and Time Savings

"The economic benefits of this system have been truly amazing," exclaimed St. Amour. "With all the efficiencies of Sage ERP Accpac and Sage ERP Accpac Insight, we have enjoyed greater productivity, improved remote transaction processing (among departments), and the ability to report in a more timely fashion to management and to the provincial government."

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— Wendy St. Amour
Manager of IT
County of Essex

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