

NEWS

SAGE
TIMBERLINE
OFFICE
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

Consultant's Corner



Welcome to the Consultant's Corner, dedicated to providing you with tips and hints for more efficient and effective use of Sage Timberline software. Each month, one of our Timberline consultants will provide you with tips on how to get more bang for your buck!

Our Consultant's Corner expert this month is Dan Henegan. The following are Dan's tips for this month:

The Sage Timberline Office Desktop is an incredibly



We're Supporting You

Are you concerned about VISTA compliance?

Here are some answers to the most common questions concerning Microsoft Vista.

Q: Is Sage Timberline Office compatible with Microsoft Vista?

A: Version 9.4.1, Sage's current release of Sage Timberline Office, as well as earlier releases, are not compatible with the Microsoft Vista operating system. The next major release, version 9.5, will be Vista-compatible.

Q: When will the Vista compatible version of Sage software be available?

A: The release of version 9.5 is expected toward the end of the year.

Q: What options do I have if I want to buy new computers and still run my Sage Timberline Office software?

A: Most retail stores only offer Windows Vista as the pre-loaded Windows operating system on new computers. However, new computer systems are available pre-loaded with Windows XP Professional. Please check with your supplier for availability. The following companies are known to be supplying systems with the Windows XP Professional operating system:

Dell: <http://www.dell.com>

Gateway: <http://www.gateway.com>

Hewlett Packard: <http://www.hp.com>

If you would like to purchase a Vista machine and still be able to run your Sage Timberline Office software, the recommended technical solution is to use Microsoft Terminal Services (see the

powerful business tool that can replace and organize the short cuts that clutter your Windows desktop with easily accessible, single click links that appear in the My Tasks window. The Desktop is intended to provide more focus to how you use your computer during the course of a busy work day.

The notes below apply to Sage Timberline Office CD versions 9.2.0 and greater.

Here's how: From the Sage Desktop (which is accessible on the Windows Start Menu > All Programs > Sage Software > Sage Desktop), find the My Tasks window. When launched for the first time, My Tasks will appear as the second window from the left. Right click any where in the open space and select Add New Group. Let's name one Group Microsoft Office. Next, resize Sage Desktop, push it over to the right of your screen so that My Tasks is lined up about in the middle of the screen. Now click on the Start Menu, navigate to All Programs > Microsoft Office > Microsoft Excel. Click, hold, drag and drop Microsoft Excel item into the Microsoft Office group in My Tasks. Navigate back to the My Tasks > Microsoft Office > Microsoft Excel link and click once. Voila!! Microsoft Excel starts up.

Next, maximize Sage Desktop. We'll add some Timberline elements to My Tasks. Add another Group to My Tasks called Workflows. Navigate to the Tasks window. Click on a plus sign, or double click on an item with a plus sign, (for instance, Sage Timberline Office > Additional Tools). In

following Q&A for more information).

Q: The Microsoft Website indicates that Microsoft Virtual PC is the recommended solution for running legacy application on a Vista platform. Is that recommended for my Sage Timberline Office software?

A: Sage does not recommend the use of Microsoft Virtual PC as a solution for the continued operation of your Sage Timberline Office software in a Windows Vista environment. Based on their quality assurance testing, Sage cannot guarantee the performance of Sage Timberline Office software when used in conjunction with Microsoft Virtual PC, and so they do not provide support for that configuration.

Q: Why aren't Sage's current releases Vista compatible?

A: Quality assurance testing of the software on pre-release versions of Microsoft Vista began as soon as these versions were made available to developers by Microsoft. Multiple updates made to the Vista operating system resulted in the need for multiple retesting on Sage's part, which delayed the compliance efforts past the release dates of the current versions of software.

Q: Why hasn't Sage provided a patch or new release to make the currently available software Vista compliant?

A: Sage's continued quality assurance testing in the Vista environment demonstrated that significant updates would be required in order to make the current versions of Sage Timberline Office software Vista-compatible. Sage knows that their clients want to be certain that the products will operate reliably on this new operating system, and so Sage needed to invest the proper time in development and testing to ensure that all compliance issues were thoroughly resolved. Also, Sage conducted a large survey of clients to determine their purchase plans for computers with Vista operating systems and found that 70% were planning on waiting 10 months or more to make any Vista-related purchase. Many clients indicated that they will consider migrating to Microsoft Vista only after the release of Vista-compliant Sage software. Based on this information, Sage has decided that waiting until the next major releases of Sage Timberline Office software for Vista-compatibility would have little impact on the operations of Sage's clients.

Q: I've already purchased Microsoft Vista computers. Can I use them with my Sage Timberline Office Software?

A: Sage Timberline Office software is not currently compatible with computers running Vista operating systems. However, it is possible to run your Sage Timberline Office software on Vista machines if you implement Microsoft Terminal Services on those machines. For more information on the use of Terminal Services, please visit http://www.microsoft.com/technet/community/en-us/terminal/terminal_faq.msp.

the list of Additional Tools, click once on Workflow Centers Introduction, right click on it, select Add To My Tasks. In step 4., toward the bottom of the dialog box that appears, note the drop down menu. Click on the down arrow and select the Workflows group. Click OK. Get back to My Tasks > Workflows and click on the Workflow Centers Introduction item.

One benefit of utilizing the My Tasks window pane in the Sage Desktop is that access to your most used Timberline applications, workflows, tasks, reports or inquiries, and Windows - registered documents or other business tools (Word, Excel, Outlook, Acrobat ...) are available through a single click.

To learn more about how to configure Sage Desktop to meet your computing needs, from the Tasks window, double click on the first item at the top, Get Started.

If you would like to schedule Dan as your consultant, please contact Judy Yannotta at 973-887-8900 x100 or JYannotta@accordantco.com.

Welcome to the Accordant Newsletter! Our goal is to educate Sage Timberline Office users by providing valuable information on products, training, and tricks of the trade. We also plan to share Accordant & Sage Timberline news and upcoming events. Accordant provides leading-edge business solutions to

Q: I'm using or plan to use Microsoft Terminal Services, as recommended, in order to run my Sage Timberline Office software on Vista systems. Will Sage provide technical support for me if I run this configuration?

A: For all customers subscribed to a Maintenance and Support plan, we support our Sage Timberline Office software when running in a Microsoft Terminal Services environment, but we do not provide technical support for the implementation or functionality of the Terminal Services application itself. More information on the Terminal Services application can be found at http://www.microsoft.com/technet/community/en-us/terminal/terminal_faq.msp.

Upcoming Training Classes

For more information or to register for a training class, please click on a link below or call Kathy Morris at 973-887-8900 x103 or email kmorris@accordantco.com. Accordant training classes are held in Parsippany, NJ at the New Horizons Computer Learning Center.

Real Estate Accounting
March 28

Project Management
April 5

Estimating
April 9-11

Crystal Reports
April 18-19

Upcoming Webinars

For more information or to register for a webinar, please click on a link below or call Kathy Morris at 973-887-8900 x103 or email kmorris@accordantco.com.

[Document Management](#)

construction, service & real estate businesses in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. We specialize in the implementation, consulting, and training of Sage Timberline Office Solutions.

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Organize all important documents and files for fast, easy storage, retrieval, and routing. Document Management helps you eliminate the inefficiencies of managing files and paperwork.

March 21

Field2Base

Field2Base is a wireless field service and two way communication tool that allows you to dramatically increase the productivity of your mobile workforce. Field2Base's communication technology gives you the ability to manage your sales force, field service, construction, inspections, homebuilding, and engineering field processes, along with the capability to digitize and optimize information flow to and from the field and back office systems.

April 12

MyAssistant

MyAssistant is an easy-to-use software tool that actively monitors your business and notifies you of the details that keep it running smoothly. Based on your business rules, MyAssistant improves your productivity by automatically screening your database and notifying you of items that are truly important or time sensitive.

March 22

On-Screen Takeoff

On-Screen Takeoff® uses cutting edge technology to generate takeoffs directly from your PC screen. Using common digital image file formats, such as .TIF, .CAL, and most CAD files, you can see your blue prints directly on your computer screen and use the mouse to quantify lengths, areas, volumes and counts.

March 23

Project Management

Project Management simplifies how you manage projects by providing quick and easy access for up-to-the-minute costs, contracts and document information. Through integration with accounting, estimating, and purchasing systems, you're able to issue and see all prime contracts, subcontracts, updated plans and drawings, change orders, purchase orders, meeting minutes, requests for information (RFIs), and other project-related documents.

March 21, April 4

Build a Stronger Business

Are you looking for ways to make your business more profitable and enjoyable without having to work any harder than you already are?

If so, Accordant has found just the place for you to visit! Buildercommunity.com is a site that's laser targeted to your construction success. With frequently updated articles and

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podcasts from leading industry experts on a variety of important business issues -- ranging from hiring practices to better estimating to how to close more (and more desirable) business -- we're sure you'll find lots of valuable information. In addition, there are forums that will allow you to exchange ideas with your peers and to "ask the experts". Please visit www.buildercommunity.com to discover for yourself how to build a stronger business.

Want to Schedule a Consultant?

Please make sure to call the office at 973-887-8900 or 800-363-1002 and ask to speak to Judy Yannotta or Swati Raje. All Accordant consultants are scheduled and managed from the Whippany, NJ office. Thank you.



Please feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments at 800-363-1002 or info@accordantco.com.

Sincerely,

The Accordant Team

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