

Sage Abra HRMS Employee Management Software Newsletter



CMS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

SAGE UPGRADES ABRA HUMAN RESOURCES

SAGE ABRA

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## <u>CMS FYI</u> Visit CMS online any time for Abra news, webinars, and our regularly updated

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regularly updated Abra news Blog. www.cmshris.com



its latest versions (7.6 and 8.3) of Sage Abra HRMS, the company's human resource management system for small and midsized businesses and organizations in North America. The upgrade features Employer Information Report EEO-1 and compatibility with the Microsoft Windows Vista operating system.

Sage Software has unveiled

Sage Abra has been updated in an effort to make it easy for customers to collect and report on necessary job categories and employee ethnicity to comply with the 2007 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission category changes, effective Sept. 30, 2007.

"One major reason companies implement an HR management system is to help them accurately manage



requirements for government compliance," said Jessica Simmons, V.P. and general manager for Sage Abra HRMS at Sage Software.

"With these latest versions, Sage Abra HRMS includes the code table and report changes necessary to comply with the new EEO-1 requirements which employers must begin reporting Sept. 30."

Sage Abra is Sage Software's flagship HR and Payroll offering from its portfolio of complementary front- and back-office systems, including accounting, fixed asset management, customer relationship management and software for specific vertical industries. (continues on page 2)



November 3-6, 2007 McCormick West Convention Center I Chicago



# ATTEND THE ANNUAL SAGE SUMMIT IN CHICAGO

Sage Summit is the annual conference and trade show for all Sage Software customers. It's the only spot where you can become a part of your product community by connecting with fellow software users, product experts, support analysts, and product leadership—all under one roof.

Sage Summit provides the most comprehensive training

and peer learning event for Sage Abra customers. Some of the highlights include: Peer2Peer Round table Discussions, Meet and Greet Receptions, Information Packed Breakout Sessions, Support Center, Sage Summit Trade Show, Networking, Keynote Speakers and A Night of Comedy at The Chicago Theatre with Second City Improv troupe. Several of our customers are already registered. Please let us know if you plan to attend, and we will see you in the Windy City!

November 3—6, 2007, McCormick West Convention Center, Chicago, IL. For more information, including registration, please visit: www.sagesummit.com

# SAGE SOFTWARE UPGRADES ABRA HUMAN RESOURCES

(from page 1) In addition, Sage Abra integrates with Sage Software's Sage MAS 90 ERP, Sage MAS 200 ERP, Sage MAS 500 ERP, Sage MIP Fund Accounting, Sage Accpac ERP, and Sage Timberline Office, plus its Sage Payroll Services and Sage Compliance Services offerings, as well as third-party solutions for midsized businesses. Updates include:

#### **Complex Passwords**

Create more complex passwords up to 10 characters, uppercase and lowercase characters, alpha, numeric and some special characters.

# **Updated Upsizing Wizard**

Supports the ability to move data from Abra v7.5 or Abra v7.6 to Abra

v8.3. Continued support for moving data from v7.3 or v7.4 to Abra v8.3.

## Microsoft Vista compatibility

Both Sage Abra Suite 7.6 and Sage Abra HRMS 8.3 are compatible with Microsoft Windows Vista. Earlier versions of Sage Abra are not compatible with Vista and are not supported as such.

#### **Crystal Reports v10**

Note that although there are changes to Crystal Reports v10 the core functionality has not changed.

## EEO-1 Reporting Changes

Abra HR has been updated to collect and report on job categories and employee ethnicity to support the 2007 EEOC category changes. Abra HR provides the code table and report changes necessary to support the new EEO-1 categories on which employers must report effective September 30, 2007.

# FREE ABRA HR CLASS

This 2 hour online class provides a detailed overview of Abra for new users. Learn how to use sample data, define user preferences,

customize reports, use the scheduler and perform practice exercises along with your instructor and much more.

# OCT. 26th 10:00 am—12:00 pm

To register please call CMS directly at 800-517-9099 or visit our website at www.cmshris.com

# SAGE SOFTWARE TRAINING OPTIONS

Dedicated to the continuing professional success of our customers, Sage Software offers a comprehensive nationwide training series featuring year-round basic through advanced interactive product instruction.

Thousands of customers have attended instructor-led Sage Software classes to increase their productivity even further and learn practical, time-saving shortcuts directly from the nation's top fixed asset, human resources, and payroll experts.

In addition, Sage Software also offers the flexibility of private On-Site Training at the client's facility, scheduled at the client's convenience for groups of all sizes. Most classes offer continuing professional education credits including HRCI, CPP, and CPE.

#### Sage Abra Classroom

Instructor-led classroom training directly through Sage Software training facilities, and through a

network of Authorized Training Centers (ATC).

#### Sage Abra Anytime Learning

Anytime Learning provides access to an online class anytime, day or night, offering pre-recorded instructor-led sessions that are easy to use, always accessible, and ready when you are.

#### Sage Abra Web-Based Training

Offering live instruction in a limited timeframe and at an affordable price. View processes and techniques through online Web-conferencing with the instructors and receive printed course materials for future reference.

#### Sage Abra Payroll Year-End Classes (Web Based)

Designed to make you proficient in closing year-end, producing yearend forms, and creating electronic and magnetic media files for IRS compliance using Abra Payroll.

Course 1 - Fundamentals of Regulatory Setup

Course 2 - Managing Exception



Processing Requirements

Course 3 - Processes of Year End Closure

Course 4 - Filing of Regulatory Tax Documents

#### **Dates Available:**

November 12—13 2007 December 17—18, & 20—21 2007

For more information on training please visit:

www.cmshris.com/training.html

Or call CMS directly at 800-517-9099.

# SPOTLIGHT ON ABRA BENEFITS ENROLLMENT

Save countless hours and piles of paperwork by moving benefits open enrollment online. Abra Benefits **Enrollment** takes the powerful benefits management solution of Abra HR to the next level by empowering employees to make their own benefits elections via the Internet or Intranet. Easy, step-bystep wizards guide administrators through the benefit plan set-up process, and walk employees through open enrollment. Abra Benefits Enrollment even includes year-round life events management that allows employees to update information such as marital status and dependents.

Abra Benefits Enrollment can provide invaluable cost and time savings for any organization. It saves paper/postage fees by eliminating the need for printed documents, and significantly reduces time delays due to manual processing by having employees enter their own benefit elections. It can even increase employee satisfaction by giving everyone full and detailed 24/7 access to benefit plans, and including links to providers who often answer key benefits questions on their web sites.

When combined with Abra HR, it provides a powerful, reliable, secure, and complete benefits management solution for any mid-sized organization.

#### Highlights include:

# Integration to Abra HR and Payroll

Once approved by the appropriate administrator, changes made to benefit elections during the open enrollment period are automatically updated in Abra HR. When also installed with Abra Payroll, benefit deduction changes are also automatically updated with synchronized future start dates, eliminating hours of duplicate data entry.

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K.	Check for New Messages	About A	WC   Log off	Welcome, N. Chin	
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Message Center			Back To List	add and update, enter information for a new	
	Name Peter Chin	< >		dependent/ beneficiary or change existing	
Personal Life Events	First Name * Peter			information as necessary.	
Open Enrollment				Make sure you Save after you make changes	
Time Off	Middle Initial			and before you select another dependent.	
Payroll +	Last Name * Chin				
Current Benefits	Type * Both			If a change requires approval, you will be	
Employment +	Relationship • Dependent Child		approved. change is	approved. Of change is effi	notified when it has been approved. Otherwise, the
Training +					change is effective immediately.
Company +	Birth Date 4/21/1991				
Manager 🔅	Age 16			Select the Current Benefits link below to review current benefit elections for your dependents and beneficiaries.	
Time Off	SSN 🔽 555-55-5555				
Employees +	Gender Male				
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Form					
Org Chart					
157 				SAGE ABRA	
ystem Administrator 🙁					
Benefit Setup 🖡					
Benefit Updates +	Dependent Coverage				

#### Flexible Project Creation and Set-

**Up** Wizards in Abra Benefits Enrollment support multiple open enrollment projects, and guide administrators through the process of setting up benefit plan information, including open enrollment start and end dates, applicable companies, applicable organizational levels, dependent eligibility, and more. During the open enrollment process, employees will only be able to choose from those plans applicable to them, based on the criteria you set up.

## Flexible Benefits Eligibility Criteria

Select from an extensive list of benefit plan eligibility criteria, and allow employees to choose only from those plans that are applicable to them based on this criteria.

#### Life Events Management

Employees can update marital status, dependents, dependent status, and more throughout the year as the result of events that impact their benefits.

Monitor Open Enrollment Progress Easily monitor the progress of employees in the open enrollment process, and send customizable reminder e-mails to employees.

#### **Election Comparison**

During the enrollment process, employees can compare current benefit elections with alternative benefit plans.

For more information on Abra's Benefits solutions, please call us at 860-678-4401 or visit us online at: www.cmshris.com/benefits.html

# CMS WELCOMES NEW CUSTOMERS



Allied Community Services, CT Allies, Inc, NJ Associated Centers for Therapy, OK Forrest Solutions, NY National Meats and Foods, Jamaica Navigators Group, NY

Thank you for choosing CMS!

# UPCOMING SAGE ABRA WEBCASTS

Boost your productivity and software knowledge by taking advantage of these upcoming Sage Abra HRMS webinars.

## **Payroll and Tax Compliance** Solutions—Evaluating your

Options "There is no "one size fits all" solution to your payroll management needs. Whether you want the control of in-house software, or the convenience of outsourcing, you need to make informed decisions on what best suits your company's needs. You need "payroll your way." October 11, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm November 22, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm December 13, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm

#### Sage Abra eRecruiter—Online **Recruiting for HR Departments** Abra eRecruiter is the only solution

designed specifically to meet the needs of busy HR departments or recruiting specialists. It's easy to use, has low technical requirements, and has the flexibility to meet the needs of each company.

October 24, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm November 14, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm December 11, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm

Sage Abra—The Power of Abra Workforce Connections See how Abra Workforce Connections can



lower costs, reduce administrative time and overhead, and ensure accurate benefits, attendance, pavroll and HR information. October 25, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm November 15, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm December 12, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm

Sage Software Lattes-Lunch-n-Learn - "HR Compliance...learn how to protect your business." Attend this free educational Webcast hosted by the nation's largest employment law firm. Learn how to protect your business by learning more about HR compliance in the workplace . Complete the survey at the end of the Webcast to receive a free Starbucks card loaded with \$5 (active customers on support only). October 17, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm

Enhance your payroll solution... with Sage Abra HR (Sage Abra

Payroll customers) Learn how you can enhance your Sage Abra Payroll software with comprehensive, fullyintegrated HR and benefits solutions. October 24, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm November 15, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm

### Sage Abra HRMS - Go paperless with Sage Abra's online solutions This Webcast will demo Sage Abra's online solutions, including Abra ESS, Abra eRecruiter and Abra Benefits Enrollment modules. Learn how to go paperless with Sage Abra solutions. October 30, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm November 13, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm December 18, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm

Enhance your HR solution...with Sage Abra Payroll (Sage Abra HR customers) Attend this Webcast and learn of to have all of your HR and payroll information in one place. With seamlessly integrate, you can add Sage Abra Payroll and/or Sage Payroll Services - Abra Edition to your existing Sage Abra HR solution. November 19, 2007, 2 pm - 3 pm

To register for a webcast, please call Linzi at 860-678-4401 or visit our website: www.cmshris.com

# SAGE ABRA HRMS "Employee Management Software"

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www.cmshris.com