



# GRANT THORNTON LLP TRUSTS ITS OPERATIONS TO SAGE 300

International accountancy firm uses and recommends Sage 300



## Customer

**Grant Thornton LLP**

## Industry

**Services**

## Headquarters

**Toronto, Ontario**

## System

**Sage 300**

Grant Thornton LLP is one of the Canadian members of Grant Thornton International Ltd., one of the world's leading organizations of independently owned and managed accounting and consulting firms, with over 40,000 employees across 130 countries. The Canadian firm operates from locations spanning from Victoria, B.C., to St. John's, N.L., and employs more than 4,000 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 LLP trusts its operations on Sage 300.

## Standardize operations

"We standardized our operations on Sage 300 back in 1999," recalls Jim Bromilow, senior manager of MIS for Grant Thornton LLP. "It is a strong, secure application and a very good fit for us."

## Centralize financial management

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 300 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 300 on our Toronto servers, and each office has access to the server using Citrix."

The benefits resulting from the consolidation are significant. Bromilow summarizes the benefits as: "Consistency, security, and control. 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 setup is proper and consistent.”

## Streamline intercompany transactions

The firm’s business units are represented as individual companies in the Sage 300 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 300 is the tool that delivers its intelligence data. Sage 300 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 300, 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 300 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.”

Sage 300 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 Sage 300, we can look at each service line as a whole or broken down by business unit. We also can incorporate nonfinancial data such as number of billable hours and head counts in our analyses.”

## Recommended solution

In addition to being active users of Sage 300, Grant Thornton LLP also is a Sage Authorized Partner, implementing the business management solution for clients across Canada. “At Grant Thornton LLP, we place our confidence and trust in Sage 300,” concludes Bromilow. “We recommend it without hesitation.”

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Jim Bromilow, senior manager—MIS, Grant Thornton LLP