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A LOOK AT THE NEW PRODUCTION SCHEDULER

With the release of Sage X3 Version 11, a new Production Scheduler was introduced in the product, replacing the previous feature called Manufacturing Scheduler or Gantt module. In this article, we’ll take a look at this new planning and scheduling component of Sage X3.

What Is Production Scheduler?

The new Sage X3 Production Scheduler enables manufacturers to better control lead times, accelerate production cycles, and increase adaptability of their production schedule. Natively designed for multi-user planning and scheduling, it allows you to centralize planning and share information more effectively with internal and external customers and suppliers.

Production Scheduler delivers real-time visibility into your manufacturing process to support quick decisions on lead-times, resource bottlenecks, and other production issues such as capacity sizing, work order time-shifting, etc. What’s more, the interactive planning capabilities and constraint-based finite capacity scheduling algorithms that are built into Production Scheduler are integrated in real-time with the Sage X3 manufacturing process.

Key Features

Key features of the Sage X3 Production Scheduler include:

- Constraint-based finite-capacity scheduling
- Load balancing optimization with a list of useable work or machine centers
- Graphical and interactive schedules with configurable visual markers
- Modifications that occur in the plan or in Sage X3 are synched up in real-time
- Takes raw material availability into account through the integration of MRP calculations
- Allows partial scheduling with frozen periods to align the planning process with known constraints and planned down times

Other Manufacturing Enhancements

In addition to the new Production Scheduler, Sage X3 Version 11 also featured enhancements to Versioning Management and Shop Floor Tracking. Originally rolled out in Version 9, **Versioning Management** now incorporates routings. The versioning in a Routing is similar to the management of versions for the BOMs. You can manage the major and minor version number in order to ensure the traceability of changes.

New **Shop Floor Tracking** capabilities provide real-time tracking of actual labor transactions of both direct and indirect time. Shop Floor Tracking functions include time and attendance, indirect time entry, break time entry, team entry, and a new workbench for shop employees to enter the data.

 Be sure to contact us with your questions or for help upgrading to Sage X3 Version 11.

THE “WHY” OF BI

What’s the Big Deal with Business Intelligence (BI) Anyway?

Compared with established business technology like ERP systems or warehouse management software (WMS), **Business Intelligence (BI)** is a relative newcomer. But that hasn’t kept BI from quickly becoming an important topic of conversation in many business circles.

Even though BI has become very popular, some companies still don’t fully understand what it is and why you’d need it. In short, they’re wondering what the big deal is with business intelligence reporting. In this article, we’ll try and clear things up.

It’s All About Supporting Informed Business Decisions

In a nutshell, the concept of business intelligence reporting comprises a set of strategies, processes, and technology that support informed business decisions. BI reporting tools - like [Sage Intelligence](#) - can gather large volumes of data across multiple systems and sources, and then present all that data in a way that’s easier to digest and analyze.

Beyond traditional reports that often present static data in lines and columns, BI aims to make the reporting process more visual and dynamic by combining some of those numbers with charts, graphs, pivot tables, and dashboards.

Gaining Control of Your Business

Having simple access to accurate, real-time analysis sets the stage for faster, more informed business decisions. Gone are the days of dumping data into Excel, patching it together, and hoping all of your formulas are accurate. Or worse yet, waiting weeks for the IT department to create the custom reports you requested. By the time the reports



are ready, it may be too late to take advantage of an opportunity or address a problem that has only become worse during the days/weeks you were waiting on reports.

BI Delivers the Full Picture

BI reporting platforms like Sage Intelligence empowers non-technical people with the tools to create, customize, and generate complex, multi-sourced reports that in the past, would have taken an IT technician to develop.

Without BI, some executives try and make due with what they have, but often find themselves plagued with “keyhole syndrome” - that is, trying to see what’s happening in a room by looking through the keyhole of a door. With that narrow view, you’re forced to make critical decisions with only a small portion of the data.

With BI, you can kick open the door and get the full picture of what’s going on in your business by tapping into **ALL** of the data collected in your ERP and other software systems.

Be sure to get in touch if you’d like to learn more about BI reporting or if you’re ready to put Sage Intelligence to work more effectively for your business.

“Your Tagline Goes Here”

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