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Newsletter for Sage PFW

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## Headline News

Sage Software offers free Web seminars designed to help you better manage your business.

Current offerings include:

- Reach Your Full Potential With Customer Insights
- FRx Add-On Module

For the Sage PFW ERP Webcast schedule or to register [click here](#).



## The Premier Budgeting And Advanced Allocations Modules

Statistics show that 78 percent of small and medium-size businesses still rely solely on spreadsheets for budgeting. Spreadsheet software, such as Microsoft Excel, is very capable, supporting the formulas and formats needed for budget and allocation calculations. However, once the annual budget is approved, is the spreadsheet filed away and rarely looked at again until the next annual planning cycle?

What if a significant event impacts your organization, such as the need to recall a major product line from the market? How quickly can you assess the budget impact and effectively reallocate resources to minimize losses? In today's fast-changing business environment, those companies looking for a competitive edge review and reallocate their budgets more frequently to be more agile in responding to unexpected events and market dynamics.

If you need to revisit your budget more frequently, spreadsheet-based budgets become cumbersome, and maintaining and tracking multiple revision cycles—a nightmare. If this sounds like the situation in your organization, it may be time to take a look at the Sage PFW ERP **Premier Budgeting** and **Advanced Allocations** modules. These two modules work much like the spreadsheets you know and use, but the dynamic interaction with the General Ledger or Premier Ledger modules expands Sage PFW into a powerful planning and analytical tool. Let's take a closer look.



### Easy Navigation

With intuitive navigation, both the Premier Budgeting and Advanced Allocations modules are easy to learn and to use. A cascading user interface allows you to quickly access the data you need. It is comprised of three main panes: My Tasks, Tasks, and Selection List.

My Tasks allows you to save shortcuts to favorite Premier Budgeting and Advanced Allocations components such as plan sheets, allocations, and formulas. Each user can create a custom view of commonly accessed components.

Tasks offers a familiar tree-style menu that displays all the Premier Budgeting and Advanced Allocations functions, including Plans and Analysis for Budgeting, Process Allocations, and Batches for Allocations.

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## The Premier Budgeting And Advanced Allocations Modules

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Selection List contains a list of items associated with each component in the Tasks pane. For example, if the Plan Sheets mode is highlighted in the Tasks pane, a list of plan sheet definitions displays in the Selection List pane. These items can be sorted by column for easy retrieval.

### A Look At Premier Budgeting

Here are some highlights of the things you can do with Premier Budgeting:

- » Develop rolling budgets
- » Create multiple-year budgets
- » Perform calculations on a period-by-period basis, or calculate annually
- » Preview calculation results at any time, and use special calculations to create what-if scenarios
- » Consolidate multiple budgets with dissimilar formats
- » Create a year-end forecast at any point in time by combining closed period actual costs with future period budgets
- » Produce rolling quarter forecasts

You can import data from your existing budget spreadsheets, saving time and keystrokes. Your plan sheet columns are easily mapped to General Ledger fiscal periods, and General Ledger account numbers can be inserted into the budget plan sheets, allowing you to start the budgeting or budget revision process very quickly. Versatile formulas allow you to create more realistic and accurate budgets to help your organization meet its goals.

### Security And Business Integrity

Security levels allow you to grant access at the plan level, sheet level, or even down to the individual cell. With the Premier Budgeting module, you can distribute the budgeting workload among appropriate staff without fear of compromising sensitive information.

### A Look At Advanced Allocations

If you base your budgets on prior year actuals, the accuracy of your budgeting is only as good as the expense entries posted to the General Ledger. This is where the Advanced Allocations module comes in. You can dynamically allocate expenses such as electricity, telephone, and rent across the departments within your organization, and precisely track the overhead and other costs associated with each activity with minimal effort.

### Powerful Capabilities

The power of the Advanced Allocations module can be found in two main areas:

- » Robust formula capabilities to allocate costs based on virtually any parameter you might need
- » The Journal Transaction Generator to automatically create all the offline journal entries you require during the accounting cycle.

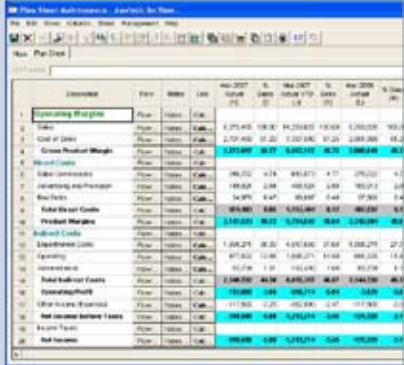
Using formulas, you can create basis allocations from values found in sales accounts, number of purchase orders, and more. You can process calculated accruals such as payroll tax liability and commissions and create activity-based calculations. You also can utilize statistical factors from external spreadsheets, such as payroll head count.

You can process allocations among multiple companies and roll up allocations to parent organizations and process allocations using multiple currencies. Processing across multiple companies is easy when you use special filters that provide the ability to include multiple source and recipient companies in a single allocation transaction. Whether you need to incorporate multiple currencies in a single basis formula, or define allocation source currencies separately from recipient currencies, the Advanced Allocations module makes it

easy to create and efficiently manage inter-company and multicurrency allocations.

The power of the Advanced Allocations module can be extended. This allows you to access other software applications using database queries in formulas to calculate and deploy values from other databases.

ZOOM IN



A cascading user interface allows you to quickly access the data you need.

### Beyond Spreadsheets

The Premier Budgeting and Advanced Allocations modules build on the power and flexibility of spreadsheets, adding advanced functionality specific to your Sage PFW software. Now is the time for your organization to consider adding these powerful tools to your Sage PFW system. Please give us a call to discuss your needs.