Business Alerts for Sage MAS 90 and MAS 200

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is Business Alerts?

Business Alerts is an application that monitors your Sage MAS 90 or MAS 200 database for specific criteria and sends out a notification via e-mail when those criteria are met.

How does the application "talk to" my MAS 90 or MAS 200 database?

Business Alerts communicates with the MAS 90 or MAS 200 database via ODBC and operates in a fashion similar to Crystal Reports.

Is Business Alerts available for MAS 200 for SQL Server?

The initial release of Business Alerts is for Sage MAS 90 and MAS 200 (Client/Server). We plan to make this application available for MAS 200 for SQL Server very soon after the initial release.

Does Business Alerts come with any predefined processes (alerts)?

Yes. Business Alerts ships with numerous predefined processes. See the Business Alerts Specification Sheet for a complete listing.

Can I modify the predefined alerts?

Yes. All of the predefined alerts can be modified by the user.

Can I modify the SQL Statement automatically generated when I build a new query?

Business Alerts generates SQL Statements automatically when a query is generated. It is recommended to use the SQL Command created by the Query Builder in Business Alerts for optimal results. Troubleshooting modified SQL commands is beyond our normal scope of support. We may not be able to assist you if your SQL Statement has been manually modified. You should consult with a database administrator or local SQL expert for proper use of SQL Syntax.

Can I create my own alerts?

Yes. You can create as many alerts as you want.

Can I send alerts to customers?

Yes. Business Alerts has the capability of obtaining the e-mail address from the data source, so any e-mail address stored within the database can be used. This includes customers, vendors and salespeople. Additionally, you may create a user-defined field to store e-mail addresses.

Is Business Alerts available for prior versions of MAS 90 and MAS 200?

Business Alerts is designed to function with MAS 90 and MAS 200 version 3.5. Business Alerts will function with MAS 90 version 3.41, however, the included predefined alerts will not function properly because of the database schema changes that were made for 3.5. Sage Customer Support Services will not provide support for Business Alerts with MAS 90 version 3.41 or earlier.

Are there any certification requirements to resell Business Alerts or Data Agent Server?

There are no certification requirements at this time; however, you will need to purchase a reference library in order to resell the product.

Is source code available for Business Alerts?

No, just as there is no source code available for Crystal Reports or FRx. And, since you can add new alerts without it, there is no plan to make source code available at this time.

Does the MAS 200 host program/service need to be running for Business Alerts to function?

No. The Business Alerts service functions independently of the MAS 200 Host program/service.

Do I need a separate server for Business Alerts?

No. However, depending upon the number of users that utilize your accounting server, the size of your database and the number and type of processes that are active, you may want to operate Business Alerts on a separate machine.

What are the system requirements for Business Alerts?

Because Business Alerts is a database product, the alerts and processes run on a server. The requirements below are for the server. Alerts can be received on any workstation configured to received e-mail in the supported formats.

The minimum system requirements are:
233 MHz Pentium processor *(Pentium II or better recommended)*
Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 with Service Pack 5 or later or Microsoft Windows 2000 *(Service Pack 1 recommended)*
Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.01 or later
128 MB of RAM (More memory is recommended if you plan to run Business Alerts on your Sage MAS 90 or MAS 200 server)
30 MB free disk space for product installation

Are there any additional requirements?

Yes. In order to send e-mails the Business Alerts application needs to be able to communicate with an SMTP mail server via TCP/IP, with a local e-mail client using MAPI or with a Microsoft Exchange Server. Microsoft Outlook is the supported e-mail client for MAPI applications.

Will any version of Outlook work?

No. If you are running Business Alerts on Windows NT 4.0 You will need Outlook 97 or later. If you are using Windows 2000 you will need to install Outlook 98 or later. Outlook 2000 is recommended.

Can I use Business Alerts if my MAS 200 database is on a UNIX server?

Yes. You will need the appropriate Windows connectivity tool to connect to the UNIX server, such as FacetWin. See the Crystal Reports for MAS 90 and MAS 200 Manual for details and requirements.

How are the applications priced?

Business Alerts has a suggested list price of $1,450.

When will the product be available?

Business Alerts is planned for release in September 2000.