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SAGE NONPROFIT SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER

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Growing Scrutiny and Legal Changes in the Nonprofit Sector

According to an article published on the www.onphilanthropy.com website in July 2007, there have been increasing reports of scandal and inefficiency in the nonprofit sector. In fact, there is currently a bitter lawsuit underway between Princeton University and the Robertson Foundation which was initiated in 2002 and represents one of the largest "donor intent" cases in U.S. history with alleged abuses of more than \$207 million in restricted funds. Some feel that the outcome of this lawsuit will likely define the concept of "donor intent" for the 21st century. Combine this with a robust and growing nonprofit sector that now, according to onPhilanthropy.com, represents 8.5% of our national income and it's no wonder that donors, congress and the IRS are applying increasing scrutiny on nonprofit organizations. In addition, there have been a few legislative and IRS rule changes that affect nonprofits. Here is a summary of 2 of them:

Pension Protection Act

Enacted in 2006, this act represents one of the most sweeping changes to America's pension laws in over 30 years. At first glance, the act may appear targeted at for-profit businesses however a closer look reveals implications for the nonprofit sector as well. While on the positive side it provides for tax-free distributions from IRAs for charitable gifts, it also provides for reforms that create more paperwork for charities. Some of these reforms include the following:

- ▶ **ALL** charitable gifts must be verified by a bank record or written receipt from the charity recipient. In the past only gifts of \$250 or more required such documentation.
- ▶ Deductions for contributing clothing and household items must be in "**good or better**" condition before being deductible, thus placing burden on the nonprofit to evaluate and define goods as such.
- ▶ Nonprofits with gross incomes of **less than \$25,000**, which until now were **not** required to file annually with the IRS, must now send in an e-Postcard Form 990-N each year.

Changes to IRS Form 990

The IRS has overhauled its Form 990 (the form for charities with over \$25,000 in gross income) to include, among other things, more information on board members' relationships with their nonprofits including all financial and/or familial relationships between board members and the organization. Although still in draft form and open to public comment until September 14th 2007, the primary changes relate to governance, conflicts of interest, financial transparency and accountability reporting.

Additional Online Resources

[Click Here](#) to visit OnPhilanthropy.com for more detail about these changes.

[Click Here](#) to read "The Pension Protection Act and It's Impact on Nonprofits."

[Click Here](#) to read "Form 990 – Tough Love in Philanthropy."



New Inventory Control Module for Sage MIP Version 8

Introduced with the release of MIP Fund Accounting Version 8 last year, the new Inventory Control Module allows you to easily manage inventory levels through automated receiving, returns, manual adjustments, and other time-saving features. The module operates in compliance with GAAP and enables complete control over your inventory with easy-to-use inquiry tools that can be used to verify up-to-the-minute inventory quantities available at sales order entry or at purchase reorder point. The Inventory Control Module also features a complete set of inventory reports including physical count worksheets, Item valuation report, inventory aging, and many more that are available within the Sage MIP Fund Accounting report writer.



[Contact Us](#) for information about how to save valuable time and maintain complete control over your inventory processes with the new Inventory Control Module.

Sage Summit Customer Conference in November 2007

Sage Summit is an annual conference and trade show for all Sage Software customers. It's opportunity to learn about upcoming product developments and become a part of your Sage MIP Fund Accounting community by connecting with colleagues and fellow software users, product experts, support analysts, and Sage executives—all under one roof. At this 4-day event you'll learn about best practices and proven strategies for leveraging your software investment to make your job easier and organization more efficient.

November 3-6, 2007 | McCormick West Convention Center | Chicago, IL

[Click Here](#) for more information online or to register for Sage Summit

Productivity Tip: Deleting Rows with Duplicate Data in Excel

Sometimes data received in an Excel spreadsheet can be messy ... especially if it was received from an external source. You may need to clean the data before it can be used, imported, or referenced. In this tip we'll discover how to delete rows that contain duplicate data. In this example, a duplicate row is one where all values in a row are an exact match of all the values in another row. Also, the original list must contain column headers.

Note: It's a good idea to copy your original data to another worksheet before testing this tip to avoid permanent loss of data. Also, this tip is valid for Microsoft Excel Version 2002 and 2003. For online instructions in the new Excel 2007, [Click Here](#).

1. Select all the rows, including column headers, in the list you want to filter.
2. On the **DATA** menu, click **FILTER**, then **ADVANCED FILTER**
3. In the dialogue box, select the option for **FILTER THE LIST IN PLACE**
4. Select the **UNIQUE RECORDS ONLY** check box, and then click **OK**

The filtered list containing only unique records (or in other words, duplicate-free) is now displayed with the duplicate records hidden. It's probably a good idea to copy the newly-filtered list to another worksheet and restore your original list to retain its integrity (duplicates and all). To do so, follow these steps:

1. Select all the data in your new, filtered list and copy to another location.
2. Go back to your original list, select **DATA** from the menu, click **FILTER**, then **SHOW ALL**. This will restore the duplicate records in your original list.



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