



## SAGE NONPROFIT SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER

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## A PICTURE SAYS A THOUSAND WORDS

One of the most exciting additions to Sage MIP Fund Accounting Version 10 is the new **Visual Analyzer** module. It consolidates the vast amount of information within your Sage MIP fund accounting system and converts the data into **graphic charts and visual dashboards** making it easier than ever to perform detailed financial analysis, spot emerging trends, and make quick business decisions. Let's take a closer look at this fantastic new module.

### Keep Your Eyes on the Dashboard

Business Intelligence, or simply "BI," is a concept that has gained popularity over the last several years. Broadly, BI encompasses tools and technology used to gather, interpret, and present business data to facilitate timely and effective decision-making. Dashboards are a component of BI and are used in the new Visual Analyzer module. One glance at the dashboard in your car tells you everything you need to know about your speed, fuel, and other vital systems to ensure your vehicle runs smoothly. The same can be said for the dashboards embedded within Visual Analyzer that gather data from across your Sage MIP Fund Accounting system and present it in a graphical, easy-to-read format that's simple to interpret at a glance. Some of the dashboards within Visual Analyzer include Budget, Revenue & Expense Analysis, Financials, Trend Analysis, Net Assets, Cash Management, Accounts Payable, and Accounts Receivable.



### Using Visual Analyzer

Start by opening the dashboard of your choice that contains charts, graphs, tables, and ratios that serve as a snapshot or starting point for your analysis. If something catches your eye, you can generate a pivot table or report at the click of a button, sort and filter the data for a different look, or "drill down" directly to the underlying Sage MIP transaction data that makes up the current dashboard view. The drill up, drill down, and drill around capability is endless. As you perform your analysis, here are some features that may prove helpful:

- **Direct Export to Microsoft Excel** - at the click of a button, the data in your dashboard view is exported to Excel in table format.
- **Chart Options** - the "Fast Change" button allows you to quickly switch from one type of chart to another, such as converting a bar chart to a straight table.
- **User-Defined Fields** - in many cases, the dashboard will display data from the user-defined fields that you've created in your Sage MIP Fund Accounting database.
- **Bookmarks** - allow you to quickly launch some of your favorite dashboard views and settings.

The success of your organization depends upon effectively utilizing information in order to deliver on your mission, demonstrate accountability, and win the competition for tightening grant and contribution dollars. The new Visual Analyzer can help you accomplish those objectives. Contact us for more information about this fantastic new tool for your Sage MIP Fund Accounting system.

# A CLOSER LOOK AT BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

As mentioned in our previous article, the new Visual Analyzer module is considered a Business Intelligence (“BI”) tool. Since BI is a relatively new concept, we thought we’d take a closer look at how it can impact your nonprofit organization.

## What is BI?

According to Wikipedia, the definition of Business Intelligence goes like this ... “BI refers to technologies, applications and practices for collection, integration, analysis and presentation of business information.” BI provides a framework for organizing your business data into graphical views, charts, and meaningful reports – the ultimate objective is to support better decision making. Without the tools that BI offers, the volumes of data across various modules in your Sage MIP Fund Accounting system can result in “information overload.”

## Just the Important Stuff Please

In our previous article, we drew the parallel between a business intelligence dashboard and the dashboard in your car. In your car, you wouldn’t necessarily monitor your tire pressure or brake fluid every 5 minutes using a dashboard gauge. The same holds true with BI dashboards that can be customized to present only the information that you feel is vital to the smooth operation of your organization. These vital bits of data and critical metrics are sometimes referred to as Key Performance Indicators, or KPIs. KPIs help “tune out the noise” by extracting and delivering the most important data quickly and often.

## BI vs. Standard Reports

You might ask yourself “how does BI differ from the standard reports in my system?” The short answer is that BI tools tend to deliver more instantaneous, real-time information than a hard copy report that often displays data several weeks “after-the-fact.” This can delay important decisions and expose your company to potentially costly mistakes or missed opportunities. In addition, BI delivers critical data to your screen in a visually-oriented graphical format that’s often easier to read, simpler to interpret, and refreshed more often.

Without question, BI tools improve the quality and timeliness of decisions throughout the organization. Additionally, they improve communication between departments so that the organization becomes more agile. Contact us about leveraging BI tools in your nonprofit organization or click below to request a copy of “Turning Data Into Action: Business Intelligence for the Public Sector.”



## Turning Data Into Action: Business Intelligence for the Public Sector

[Email Us](#) to request a copy of this brief guide that explains how organizations in the public sector are leveraging business intelligence to strengthen programs and do more with fewer resources.

## NEWS BYTES

**Sage MIP Wins Again!** - Sage MIP Fund Accounting has won a 3rd consecutive Campbell award from Campbell Rinker, an independent market research firm. Based on a 2007 survey of 2,400 nonprofit accounting software customers, Sage MIP Fund Accounting was the most recommended accounting solution for nonprofits with annual revenue of \$5 million and above.

**Sage Summit** - This annual conference for Sage Software customers is coming again this year in November. It’s an opportunity to network with peers and discover new ways to use your Sage MIP Fund Accounting software. For details or to register, visit [www.sagesummit.com](http://www.sagesummit.com).

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