



## SAGE NONPROFIT SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER

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## What's New in Version 10.2?

Sage recently released Sage MIP Fund Accounting Version 10.2. Not only does Version 10.2 keep you up-to-date with the latest tax reporting requirements, it also offers a few new features that will make you more productive. Let's take a closer look.

### Form 990 Changes

Last year, the IRS introduced new Form 990 reporting requirements which included some of the most significant changes in a very long time. As such, Sage has enhanced Sage MIP Fund Accounting to help make compliance a little easier. Form 990 reporting now includes Part 1, 8, 9, and 10 in both summary and detailed format. You can also choose to map your Sage MIP Fund Accounting data to the historical 2007 full form 990 or the "new" 2008 Form 990EZ. Version 10.2 and future releases will continue to help you comply with form changes and compliance requirements that pertain to each form type.

### Your Voice Is Heard!

Version 10.2 introduces a new **Customer Enhancement Portal** that will allow you to submit product enhancement requests directly to Sage straight from your desktop. In fact, Sage always takes feedback seriously as we saw with Version 10.1 which incorporated several customer-requested enhancements.

Also launching in conjunction with Version 10.2 are new Sage **Nonprofit and Government Online Communities** that offer a wealth of information to help you make the most of Sage MIP Fund Accounting. You can connect with other Sage customers, participate in community forums, keep track of important product developments, and communicate with Sage product experts to get quick answers to common questions. You can even engage Sage developers online, share your unique experience, and help make the Sage MIP Fund Accounting even better.

### More Reporting Options

A variety of reporting options have been added including **new SUTA reporting fields** that are available within Payroll Pay Codes and Tax History reports, making it easier to reconcile, track, and file your state unemployment taxes. The **GASB module** offers improved settings for agencies in the public sector. Plus, improved **Report Drilling** capabilities from within financial statements allow you to more quickly and accurately search financial records.

### Other Features Worth Noting ...

Version 10.2 introduces a handful of other enhancements that are worth noting including **improved E-mail Functionality** which makes it easier to send mail directly from Sage MIP Fund Accounting, **expanded Import Functionality** for Timesheets and Purchase Orders, and more flexible development tools to improve integration with other technology systems that your organization relies on.



[Contact us](#) if you'd like to learn about Sage MIP Fund Accounting Version 10.2 or to request a copy of the "What's New in Version 10.2" brochure.

**sage**

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# Tips & Tricks: "Shady Characters"

By Kristal Alcazar | Sage Nonprofit Solutions

At one time or another, you've probably been warned to steer clear of shady characters. Associating yourself with such dubious, untrustworthy "types" can negatively influence your thinking, decision-making, and behavior. In much the same way, the valuable data stored in your Sage MIP Fund Accounting database is vulnerable to twisted behavior after coming into contact with shady characters.

## The Problem with Shady Characters

The Sage MIP Fund Accounting database, like other databases, is a collection of information that is organized in table form so that it can be easily accessed, managed, and updated. Problematic database behavior can occur when data using invalid (or "shady") characters is entered into or pulled from the database. This problematic behavior can, for example, take the form of unclear and complex error messages when you're running a report or reconciling a cash account. Or it can be something as simple as being unable to find a commonly used Vendor in the drop down list during Accounts Payable invoice entry.

If you've experienced a problem like this and have called for technical support, it's likely that one of the first questions the analyst asked was "Do you have any invalid characters in your Vendor name (or GL account code, or Customer name, or Vendor code, or Session ID, etc.)?" Then, upon removing the invalid character, your problem is solved.

## But What's the Big Deal?

Now you may ask, "What is it about these seemingly harmless characters that is so problematic? Simply put, most databases use a query language that does not recognize a majority of the non-alphanumeric special characters on your keyboard. Therefore, when the query language comes across one of these characters in the data, the system gets confused and may not behave properly.

## Which Characters to Avoid

Now that we've identified the problem, let's find out who these shady characters are. Below is a list of characters that you should avoid using in your Vendor IDs and Names, Customer IDs and Names, Segment Codes and Titles, Session IDs, and Document IDs:

& * ' < > [ ] = + ? \$ % # ~ ` ( ) ! @ " { }   \ / - ^ , . : ;	Ampersand, Asterisk, Apostrophe Greater than, Less than, Brackets Equal sign, Plus sign, Question mark Dollar sign, Percent, Pound Tilde, Grave accent Parentheses, Exclamation, at sign Quotes, Braces, Vertical bar Slashes, Dash, Caret Comma, Period, Colon, Semicolon
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## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING BACKWARD COMPATIBILITY

In order to take advantage of the latest technology for security and performance, the next major release of Sage MIP Fund Accounting will phase out backward compatibility for several system software components, including SQL 2000 and Windows 2000.

**THIS IS ONLY A WARNING!** While no immediate changes are required to take advantage of the new features in Version 10.2, please be prepared to migrate certain systems within the next 12 months. Please be sure to contact us for clarification.

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