



THE BOTTOM LINE

The Independent Voice for Canada's Accounting and Financial Professionals

by Alan Salmon

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Adagio — the 'natural' upgrade for ACCPAC Plus

Since ACCPAC (Sage) has officially discontinued ACCPAC Plus this year, thousands of Plus users have a difficult decision to make.

What accounting software will meet their needs, at a price they can afford, and move them gracefully into the 21st century with a minimum of staff re-training?

Adagio, from Softrak Systems Inc. in Vancouver, should certainly be considered a major contender for anyone looking to upgrade from ACCPAC Plus. Now a 19 module, fully multi-currency suite—with an extensive 3rd Party developer program providing tightly integrated Payroll, Purchase Order, Point-of-Sale and manufacturing solutions—Adagio offers one benefit to ACCPAC Plus users that no other accounting vendor can claim—a virtually seamless transition to Windows.

Adagio allows an ACCPAC Plus user move from DOS to Windows with no data conversion—allowing the smoothest of accounting department transitions.

So what will the accounting department discover after the transition?

Well, some things will be familiar. Adagio is batch oriented—allowing easy period ends and committed to the accounting files. The entire application can be driven from the keyboard—a boon for keyboard-centric DOS data entry staff. Menus, business processes and error messages remain constant, allowing an easy roll out of the system through the company.

However, some things will represent significant and welcome improvements over the old way of working in ACCPAC Plus.

General Ledger users can unpost and copy batches and departments. An award-winning spreadsheet-based financial reporter makes complicated presentation-quality financial statements possible with a minimum of expertise.

Side-by-side departmental, budget and prior year comparatives are easy to create. Complete statement sets can be printed or sent to an Excel workbook fully formatted. Unexpected figures on the financial statement can be resolved by drilling down from the number all the way to the posted transaction detail.

Accounts Payable users can print CPA compliant cheques on blank laser stock, complete with the bank account MICR number. Alternatively, you can send vendor payments electronically using EFT through TelPay Business Connect.

Inquiries automatically match payments to invoices, and display the complete general ledger distribution of every transaction. Unlimited additional comments and chronological note history track vendor interactions. Pop-up “alerts” can be set up to require acknowledgment when a vendor is referenced.

Accounts Receivable users can e-mail or fax statements directly from Adagio. Forms are sent as PDF

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attachments to e-mails with personalized cover sheets. All the software for fax and emailing is included within Adagio – there is no requirement to purchase or set up a separate fax or e-mail server. Pop-up alerts can be created for customers too, and they automatically display whenever the customer is referenced in Adagio OrderEntry or Invoices or Time&Billing. Transaction inquiries allow “drilling across” to the source documents in OrderEntry or Invoices. Different e-mail addresses are saved for the primary company contact, the statement and invoice recipients.

Adagio is one of the few midrange accounting products not to use Crystal Reports to design invoices, cheques, statements and other user forms. A simple to use, drag-and-drop forms designer makes it easy to customize these forms to your requirements. Multipart forms are directly supported, with user control of which elements print on which copy of each form.

Different business invoicing models are accommodated by using one (or more) of Adagio’s three invoicing solutions. All the invoicing modules allow e-mailing of their customizable invoices, credit notes and order confirmations.

Adagio Invoices offers specialized features for service industries and companies with a recurring invoice requirement, such as property managers, trade associations or alarm companies. Adagio Invoices allows the customizable invoice to change “shape” as different items are added. Part sales can be printed out in one format, while service items can have another format with a 750 character description and date of service.

Adagio OrderEntry has specialized features of interest to wholesale distribution companies. It runs with either a simple, integrated price list, or linked online with Adagio Inventory. Backorders, future orders, and partial shipments are all managed—with the option to produce multiple invoices from a single order. Product returns are easily credited, and optionally returned to inventory. Adagio Inventory supports five costing methods (average, FIFO, LIFO, standard and user defined), multiple locations and a 16 character item number in 4 user defined segments.

Adagio Time&Billing is a good solution for professionals such as engineers or advertising consultants with a central-

ized timesheet entry model. Desktop based timekeeping captures hours worked at source, yet provides an opportunity to review time allocation and expense charges prior to posting them to a client project.

Time&Billing’s direct integration with Adagio Payables means that re-billable disbursements are entered once and can be automatically marked up on retrieval. For construction and similar companies, Adagio JobCost offers five revenue recognition methods and integration with Payables, Invoices and Payroll.

The typical company for Adagio is large enough to have a full time accounting department (or staff person), but generally not large enough to have their own IT department.

Adagio users need powerful reporting tools, in an accounting solution that doesn’t require constant attention to keep up and running. Like many accounting systems, Adagio uses Crystal Reports for all its management reporting. Standard reports can be customized using Crystal Reports for Adagio, and custom reports can be added to any module’s Reports menu.

For simpler reporting needs, Adagio GridView has a very simple user interface for retrieving data from the accounting database in summary or detail form. It allows accounting data to be displayed for a user without requiring that they have access to the accounting software itself.

For an organization with \$1 to \$100 million in revenue, with a full time accounting department and no IT department, Adagio offers a robust, stable accounting platform with unique reporting strengths for financial statement preparation and user access to the data. While it is an excellent solution for businesses currently running ACCPAC Plus it should not be ignored by other businesses who have outgrown their current accounting software.

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