



Sage Master Builder

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SAGE MASTER BUILDER

Sage Master Builder – Version 11 is the latest release of the product. This construction industry software is a good fit for midsize construction related companies that desire the ease of a product combined with top-notch accounting, job costing and project management capability.

LEARNING CURVE

Even new users will feel comfortable navigating through Sage Master Builder. Installation was simple, and the installation CD also contained various training information in *.PDF format. Sample data is installed with the regular installation so you can easily get comfortable with the system.

The main screen, called the Project Work Center, contains a list of modules in a vertical pane to the left of the screen. This menu tree is customizable, so you can see the modules you need and hide the rest. Calendar, calculator, Help and scheduled report icons are on the Master Builder desktop at all times. You can add reports or menu items directly to your Master Builder desktop. Master Builder gives users

at least two user-defined fields in most of the data-entry screens, as well as templates.

Navigation is easy: Simply click on the module you wish to open, and then click on the function you wish to access. Data-entry screens are uncluttered and contain a series of function icons within each screen. In most screens, you'll find function icons for the following: saving, printing, recalling the last record accessed, a lookup feature, an option to count records in the query table, copying and pasting records to a buffer, an option to change the posting date, and a place to enter notes for that record.

MODULES & FUNCTIONALITY

Modules included with Master Builder include GL, AP, AR, Payroll and Project Management, which includes Job Costing, Subcontract Management, Change Order Management and Document Control. The Equipment Management module includes equipment tracking, allocation and depreciation. The Scheduling module lets you create integrated CMP schedules for jobs, and Review and Reporting includes both financial and project review graphs.

This latest version of Master Builder includes the Master Builder Administrator, which is a command center of sorts that allows you to manage program installation and

monitor who is logged into the system at any given time. The Document Control module (mentioned earlier) lets you manage proposal and information requests, create and manage punch lists, access and maintain plan records, and keep an accurate record of all documents submitted to clients, contractors or architects.

Add-on modules available include Estimating, Service Receivables and Inventory. The Client Tracking feature lets you keep a handle on all sales leads from first contact through signed contract. The Budget feature lets you create simple or complex budgets, depending on the job. Job cost codes can be up to 10 digits and integrate with your AR module to create detailed time and materials billings and progress billings. The AP function allows you to keep track of insurance, workers compensation and licensing requirements for your vendors. The Equipment Management module lets you track and record expenses against each piece of equipment and charge the jobs for equipment you own. Equipment can be categorized by type, and you can enter various rates for each piece of equipment.

IMPORT/EXPORT/INTEGRATION

Master Builder API is a tool you can install when you install the

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Continued from front original software. API allows Master Builder to communicate with other third-party software programs. Estimating data from third-party applications can also be imported into Master Builder. Data can be exported from Master Builder directly into Excel for spreadsheet analysis. ODBC compliance with FoxPro Version 2.6 lets you share database information with other programs. You can also import or export proposal files and export budget files. A host of third party add-ons can also integrate seamlessly with Master Builder.

SUPPORT & TRAINING

Nearly 200 short tutorials are included with Master Builder, covering everything from how to set up time and materials jobs to how to enter pay groups. The Help files are extensive, and there is also a 'help for this item'

option as well. One-on-one training is available, as is online training, both live and recorded. Master Builder also offers a product support program in either silver or gold levels. The Gold level is included with all new purchases, and at the end of the year, customers can choose to renew at either silver or gold level. The Gold level includes technical support and the discovery-training package. Both plans offer access to the knowledgebase, product upgrades and tax updates.

REPORTING

Master Builder contains over 1,000 reports. When selecting reports, preferences can be saved for quick printing. The Report Writer included with Master Builder lets you create customized reports or simply modify existing system reports. Reports can be exported to Excel or faxed or e-mailed to specific

recipients. Most forms and reports included in Master Builder can be edited or designed to reflect the needs of that particular business. With the Report Scheduler, any report can be scheduled to automatically fax, e-mail or print out at a specific day or time.

RELATIVE VALUE

Master Builder is an excellent choice for those in a variety of construction and service-related businesses. Excellent customization capability, extensive reporting options, and strong job costing and equipment management modules make Master Builder an excellent investment at \$2,295 per concurrent user. The Receivables/Inventory module is priced at \$1,495, and Estimating runs \$1,195.

2006 OVERALL RATING



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