



# Sage 50 Accounting

## How Secure Is Your System?

The right accounting software can prevent security headaches and ensure the accuracy and integrity of your data.

Security and fraud prevention are hot topics right now, and for good reason. Small and mid-sized businesses can get into trouble if their systems don't offer strong security features and controls for fraud prevention—basic accounting isn't enough anymore.

Research has shown that small to mid-sized businesses are often more vulnerable to fraud than their larger counterparts because they have fewer employees. Moreover, because small and mid-sized companies tend to develop closer relationships and trust between owners and their employees, they might be less suspicious and thus more susceptible to employee fraud. Technology can and should assist you in ensuring that your customer information stays safe.

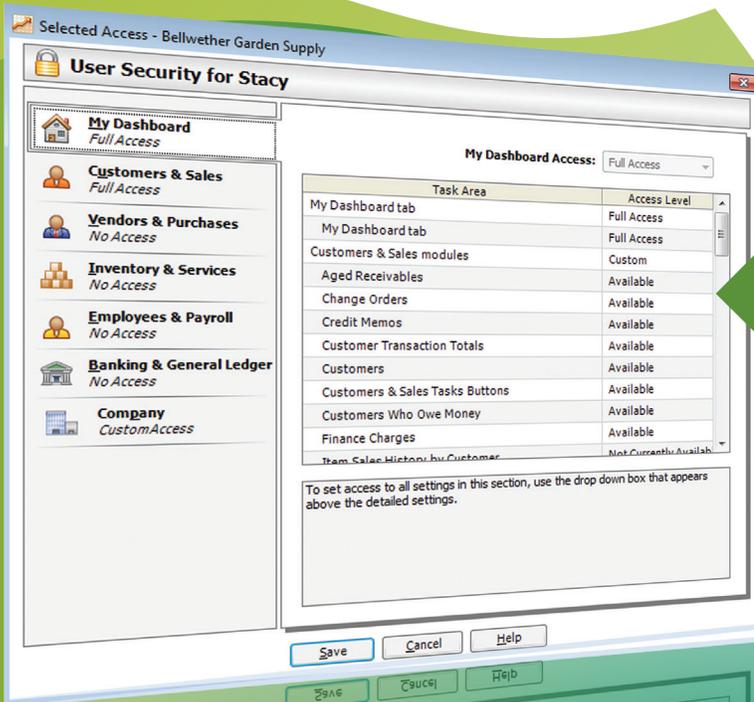
**How secure do you think your current system is? Here are a few ways Sage 50 helps you safeguard your financial information:**

### Security

One of the best defenses against fraud in small businesses is to use the powerful security features in Sage 50 to restrict access to sensitive financial data. Sage 50 allows you to create user profiles for each person, requiring a user name and password in order to access company data. Plus, you can grant access to select areas, right down to the screen level in certain products.

### Secure Credit Card Compliance

Sage 50 limits exposure to credit card fraud through Sage Exchange, a PA-DSS-compliant application. To protect customer account data, using Sage Exchange to process customer credit card information complies with security standards established by the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Security Standards Council. This method allows users of Sage 50 to comply with these new standards while retaining access to credit card functionality.



Sage 50 security controls user access at screen and module levels.



## Audit Trail

The Sage 50 audit trail helps provide accountability of users, deters users from fraudulent activity or mistakes, and tracks transaction history. This feature also logs when a person enters data, edits existing data, or removes data.

## Account Reconciliation

A fundamental practice in the effort to detect fraudulent activity is regular, thorough account reconciliation. The Sage 50 account reconciliation tool makes reconciliation of any general ledger account easy. Sage 50 users can use the software's online banking capability to make the process even easier by electronically importing statements directly from the bank.<sup>1</sup>

## Internal Accounting Review

The Internal Accounting Review<sup>2</sup> is a unique tool in Sage 50 that runs an internal audit on company data. The Internal Accounting Review looks for common transaction mistakes and potentially fraudulent activity by running a series of up to 15 checks. If potential problems are found, they are listed and grouped with a description of the issue, ready for the appropriate actions to be taken.

## Backup and Restore

We recommend you back up company data on a regular basis and store those backups in a separate, secure location. Besides being an essential safeguard against potential errors and data corruption, data backups can be restored if fraudulent activity is suspected. Backups are also useful for auditing purposes. For example, you can restore a backup that was made prior to

closing a fiscal year to examine detailed transaction history. 100 MB is free with Sage 50 and each subsequent upgrade.<sup>3</sup> You can now easily protect your critical information against hardware failures and catastrophic events.

## Alerts

Cases of fraud are most easily dealt with, and their effects minimized, when they are detected early. Sage 50 provides a means for administrators to set alerts that are triggered by activities related to a specific customer, vendor, or employee. For example, users of Sage 50 can immediately email an alert to an administrator as soon as the purchase volume for any vendor reaches a specified level. Automated alerts in Sage 50 act like another set of eyes that are on the books 24 hours a day.

Fraud, by nature, is hidden. Therefore, there is no guaranteed way to avoid it. Nevertheless, it's important for businesses of any size to take employee fraud seriously and implement deterrents to help prevent and identify fraud as quickly as possible.

Now is a great time to do an inventory of your own system's capabilities. If you're currently not using a system that offers these capabilities, it may be time to change. Recognizing the importance of tracking and protecting your assets and ensuring that you are equipped to manage them puts you ahead of the game!

**Note:** Features and functionality vary by product.

For a more specific overview of the Sage 50 product line, please visit: [www.Sage50Accounting.com](http://www.Sage50Accounting.com)

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1 Internet access required. Your bank may charge a fee to download statements. 2 Sage is not liable or responsible for any fines or penalties that may result from errors in your company accounting records. The Internal Accounting Review is not intended to uncover all questionable transactions. 3 Includes access to 100MB of storage space for one year from date of installation. Upgrade to next Sage 50 release required to continue free yearly service beyond initial term. Subject to third-party terms and conditions. Internet access required. Terms, conditions, pricing, features, and service options subject to change without notice. Windows Server 2003 and Terminal Services are not supported.

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