

# BUSINESS EVOLUTION NEWSLETTER

Q4 2009

Newsletter for Business Evolution Group SAP and IMS Customers

## 2009 The Year in Review

What a big year it has been with so many impacted by the roller coaster ride of the global and local markets. The focus for many of our sites this year has been that of operational efficiency which has led to some really interesting projects and a great opportunity for us to help many of your businesses operate more efficiently and effectively through business and technology changes.

The Business One Usability Package (B1UP) which is a brilliant solution for customising SAP Business One without the use of code, has been implemented at a few of our sites now. It's a great solution for adding business logic, moving fields, changing screens and adding buttons to where you want them to be. It has also been winning awards on the global stage with SAP.

Crystal Wave is another solution that is also taking off – this is great for automating the delivery of your Sales and Purchasing documents and also bringing SAP Queries or Reports to the right-click context menu in your SAP forms.

We have also added IMS Payroll, and TimeFiler solutions to our Portfolio. SAP Business One is great, but it doesn't have an integrated Payroll solution for New Zealand, so IMS Payroll which is the #1 payroll solution in NZ for sites under 3000 employees is a great addition and its incredibly cheap. Debbie has been working with IMS payroll for many years, and with my significant (large enterprise) SAP Payroll experience, we decided this was a great addition to provide to new and existing customers. IMS is turning out to be a really robust payroll solution which is simple to use.

TimeFiler is also a product we are completely blown away with allowing Time and Cost capture online, Leave Approvals and Rostering – all working with your customised business rules! I have worked with a lot of payroll solutions and what TimeFiler provides has only been available to very large enterprises with million dollar budgets. This is a great solution which is fully integrated with IMS Payroll. It also allows your employees to enter and view their own data and apply for leave online. This not only reduces the dual entry into your payroll system, or management of many bits of paper or emails, but also reduces the queries to your payroll resources. This saves your business time and cost, but also allows consistent application of your business policies, employment agreements and all within your control and visibility.

We have also setup a great multi-company journal importer which allows the automated import of your fully costed Payroll Results from IMS into one or more SAP Business One companies. Converting from your old payroll system is usually a simple process and can be done at any time of the year.

Send me an email if you are keen to know more about any how any of these solutions can help your business.

We would also like to welcome on-board Cityfitness to our customer base. Cityfitness has been offering world class gym and fitness facilities for more than 9 years, doubled in size over 3 years and currently have 10 fitness centres located throughout New Zealand.

With their significant and rapid growth, Cityfitness had outgrown their existing financial, reporting and payroll solutions. With the solution combination of SAP Business One, along with IMS Payroll, TimeFiler and Scan Watcher, the team at Cityfitness will be in a position to continue their successful growth solving for their multi-company management, automation of data capture and processing challenges. For further information see [www.cityfitness.co.nz](http://www.cityfitness.co.nz)

Principal Consultant

[Brodie.Archer@BusinessEvolution.co.nz](mailto:Brodie.Archer@BusinessEvolution.co.nz)

## *Later in this Newsletter:*

- SAP Business One Version 8.8 now in Ramp Up – the next new major version of SAP for you.
- SAP Business One 2007A Feature Packs – want to delete any accidentally created warehouses?
- Hi 5 Awards
- Inaugural SAP Business One User Group to be held in Auckland on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov
- News on the Archer Home Front.

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## SAP Business One Version 8.8 Now in Ramp Up

SAP has released the next major version of SAP Business One into Ramp Up. Ramp Up is the pre-General Release phase of the solution, so an application to SAP plus various criteria must be met by the SAP Partner and the Customer at this stage. SAP currently has 2010 planned for General Availability and we will be monitoring the success of the Ramp Up progress before moving any sites over to the new version – and in fact we will likely move ourselves over first!

We have had a basic look at the solution and there looks to be some great utilities coming as part of 8.8 and a jazzed-up interface. Day to day use would not change for your users but some of the functionality will be great.

Some of the new features:

- Available to Promise – great for stock based organisations ordering in items and promising delivery dates.
- Transactional Archiving – Where the complete transaction chain is closed documents can be archived reducing your database size. So some good motivation for clearing up all those old open documents, reconciling your accounts and for those of you having come from Version 2005, clearing any remaining upgrade reconciliation entries.
- Integrated Crystal Reports – instead of the current add-on, the report viewer is fully integrated into SAP Business One giving the option for use of your standard Print Layouts or Crystal Layouts for reporting and documents in SAP Business One.
- Multiple Units of Measure for Purchasing, Inventory and Sales - For example, A soft drink is bought in cases, and sold in individual bottles, six-packs, or cases.

Check out the info later in the Newsletter on the upcoming SAP Business One User Group where there is a planned demo of 8.8.

## SAP Business One 2007A Feature Packs

Under Version 2007 (all of our sites are on this version), SAP are now releasing Feature Packs. These Feature Packs have introduced some great new features and often SAP will use these to back-port key features from new releases like Version 8.8.

There are some long awaited changes which will be of great benefit to many of our sites. Some of the options in 2007A FP01 PL07:

- Remove a Warehouse - It is now possible to remove a warehouse from SAP Business One, if no transactions, for example, sales orders or deliveries, are posted against it, and if the warehouse is not used by a bill of materials.
- Assembly BOMS are now available for new sites on 2007A – previously only available to sites upgraded from 2005A.
- Form Settings Copy from User to User – this will save a lot of time for those sites which have a lot of layout changes when new users come on board.
- Updates to Sales and Purchasing Documents – Various updates can now be made to posted but not fully or partially drawn through documents.

For those of you keen to upgrade with these new options, send [Support@BusinessEvolution.co.nz](mailto:Support@BusinessEvolution.co.nz) an email and we will schedule this in.

## Hi 5 Awards

As part of working with many of our customers we also work with their other suppliers – IT, business, finance, accounting, printing, logistics and so on. As with most things, we come across the good, the bad and the very mediocre! But we wanted to make special mention of one supplier who deals with several of our clients, providing IT services and solutions and that is [www.CommArc.co.nz](http://www.CommArc.co.nz). Recently I have been working with their support desk and engineers and found their service to us for our joint clients, incredibly professional, friendly, prompt and competent.

Providing the service they do saves us time and money, and of course the end client too. So, if you are thinking about support for your IT infrastructure – do give them some thought!

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## SAP Business One User Group

On the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Auckland the inaugural SAP Business One user group or special interest group will meet for the first time. SAP has quite a formal User Group structure globally, and for many years in NZ this has only been open or relevant to the users of the larger SAP suite of solutions.

John Barlow (SAP Business One customer) has been working with SAP to get a User Group going which is great and I have caught up with John to let him know what our customer base is likely to be interested in. For many years I was involved with the SAP NZ user group and part of the Executive Committee and provided presentations and advice to many of the NZ sites. Even though we are also SAP Business One users too, the user group is not allowed to be driven by any Partners, Agents or the like. So we are hoping it all comes together well for this initial session and if you are able to attend and provide your feedback that will be great.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND FROM YOUR TEAM?

Based on my previous experiences as a customer at these user groups, its important you send someone who is your key SAP Business One functional expert – they need to understand how your use SAP Business One for your business, across as many areas as possible. Often new areas or ideas on how SAP can be used, or how a special feature works is covered, so its important it is someone who has a broad knowledge of how SAP is used at your site, plus who will have the mandate to present ideas from the group back to your team for consideration attends. Typically this will be a senior team member – do contact me if you want to discuss who should attend from your team and how to get the most back for your business.

### WILL ATTENDING BE WORTH THE COST?

One of the big things which I think will make the user group a success is a relevant and jam packed agenda – all of our customers will have to travel to the user group and take highly valued time out from day to day operations, so this will be particularly important for our customer base. This first session may be about finding out what people want – so maybe a bit more give than take – however, if you do provide input to the group now and let us know you are interested, then as it ramps up it should also become more and more valuable to your business.

At this initial session the SAP ANZ Product Manager for SAP Business One – CheeKeong will be demonstrating the new 8.8 version of SAP, other demos and customer experiences are also planned for the day.

As more information comes to light about the details and agenda for the day we will pass this on via email to you – for those of you with branches or offices in Auckland, you may be able to combine the user group with one of your regular Auckland visits. Sean will be attending from our team, and we will be co-ordinating feedback to the group for any of our customers who cannot attend – so email [Brodie.Archer@BusinessEvolution.co.nz](mailto:Brodie.Archer@BusinessEvolution.co.nz) if you have any ideas or feedback.

We have attached a registration form for the User Group meeting, please complete this and send to [John.Barlow@barlowgroup.co.nz](mailto:John.Barlow@barlowgroup.co.nz) to register for the event.

### Key details:

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at the SAP Offices – 67 Symonds Street.
- Start time 9-9:30 with wrap up by 5pm. SAP will be providing drinks and nibbles after the wrap up for about an hour.

## News on the Archer Home Front

As many of you know Sean and I are expecting baby #2 before the end of October (hopefully), so I will be stepping out of the day to day operations for a little while as soon as bubs arrives.

So, what does that mean for you apart from the odd email from me at 2am?

Many of the things which you currently need to work with me on will still stay with me – for example, new SAP or IMS software licensing, contract queries and upgrades, planning for large or significant projects, account queries, quality of service and sign off on estimates or pricing. So if you have any of these lined up but not under action with me now, then do let me know as soon as possible to avoid any delays.

Do contact me on email as this will be the most reliable option, and if for any reason you are not getting a response in the timeframe you need it, phone our office or email [Support@BusinessEvolution.co.nz](mailto:Support@BusinessEvolution.co.nz) and let the team know you need action!