

Sage MAS 90 and 200 Version 4.20 Windows Vista™ Compatibility

Sage MAS 90 and 200 version 4.20 are now supported on computers using Windows Vista Business, Enterprise, and Ultimate editions. This document describes the procedures required to run in the Windows Vista environment along with installation options that solve issues Windows Vista users may encounter. This document also contains instructions that must be performed for both Sage MAS 90 and 200 installations if you have first- or third-party applications integrated with Sage MAS 90 or 200.

Sage MAS 90 and 200 users must install Service Update 4 or later for compatibility with Windows Vista. To download the latest Service Update and to view the latest hardware requirements outlined in the Supported Platform Matrix, go to the Support page on Sage Software Online Web site at: www.sagesoftwareonline.com. Windows Vista users may also need to download a Workstation Setup tip. For more information, refer to Installing and Activating the PVXCOM.EXE Program in this document.

Installation Instructions

The Sage MAS 90 and 200 architecture is designed to store all program files and data files in the same location; however, this conflicts with the Windows Vista User Access Control (UAC) logic that is enabled by default for all Windows Vista installations. (Do not disable this feature because there are significant benefits that this feature can provide to prevent the spread of malware and other unwanted programs.) To avoid this issue, you have two options:

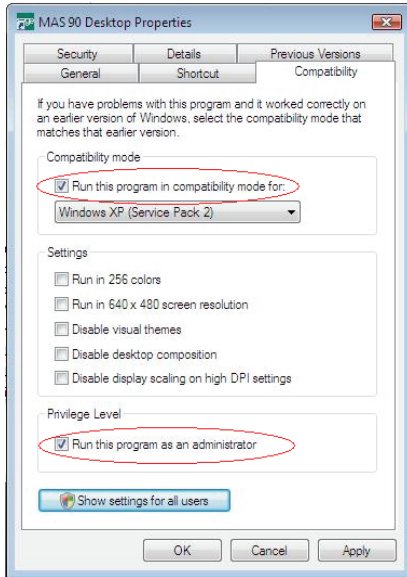
- **Option 1 - Install to the Root Folder**

Option 1 involves installing to the root folder. This prevents the operating system from using the Windows Vista UAC logic to virtualize data files into hidden, local user folders. To deploy Sage MAS 90 or 200 on the Windows Vista operating system with this option, install Sage MAS 90 or 200 to a non-system controlled folder such as **C:\Sage Software\MAS 90** instead of installing to the default **C:\Program Files\Sage Software\MAS 90** folder.

Our testing shows that this is the most successful way to install Sage MAS 90 or 200 in Windows Vista without any major performance or operating system repercussions. This option is also ideal for third-party applications that Sage MAS 90 or 200 integrate with. These programs work better with Sage MAS 90 or 200 in the root folder instead of in the **C:\Program Files** installation folders.

- **Option 2 - Running in Elevated and Compatibility Modes**

Option 2 involves running in Elevated and Compatibility modes. This option provides the same results as Option 1, but requires that the program be run with Administrative privileges.



To run the software in Elevated and Compatibility modes, you must set the following options in the Sage MAS 90 or 200 Desktop Properties dialog box.

1. From the Windows Start menu, navigate to the shortcut for Sage MAS 90 or 200.
2. Right-click the Sage MAS 90 or 200 icon, and then select Properties.
3. In the MAS 90 or 200 Desktop Properties window, click the Compatibility tab.
4. In the Compatibility mode section, select the Run this program in compatibility mode for check box. In the drop-down list, select Windows XP (Service Pack 2).
5. In the Privilege Level section, select the Run this program as an administrator check box.
6. For multi-user systems, click Show settings for all users, and repeat steps 4 and 5, making sure to select the same check boxes mentioned in steps 4 and 5 (by default, the shortcut properties are only valid for the current user).
7. Click Apply, and then click OK.

Installing and Activating the PVXCOM.EXE Program

The following instructions apply to both Sage MAS 90 and 200 installations and must be performed if you have any first- or third-party applications integrated with Sage MAS 90 or 200. This procedure must be performed regardless of the option chosen above and is only required for Windows Vista workstations.

1. [Download the PVXCOM.EXE file from Sage Software Online](#) to your server's **C:\Program Files\Common Files\Sage\Common Components** folder. Replace your existing **PVXCOM.EXE** program with this one.
2. On each Windows Vista workstation, copy the downloaded PVXCOM.EXE file to the local **C:\Program Files\Common Files\Sage\Common Components** folder.

3. At each of the Windows Vista workstation, run the **PVXCOM.EXE** program by double-clicking the program in Windows Explorer. Depending on how you are logged on the Windows Vista operating system (for example, as a standard user or Administrator), you will receive several warning prompts and may be required to log on as an Administrator to complete this task. The **PVXCOM.EXE** program registers itself and its components (which requires Administrator privileges), and allows you to access Sage MAS 90 and 200 objects through other applications.

Considerations

Third-Party Applications

There are several first- and third-party applications that integrate with Sage MAS 90 and 200. These applications are generally compatible with Sage MAS 90 and 200 in the Windows Vista environment if they are installed outside the **C:\Program Files** hierarchy.

Note: There are some third-party applications that may not work properly in the **C:\Program Files** hierarchy without performing the procedure described in Option 2 – Running in Elevated and Compatibility Modes in this document.

Because the UAC logic in Windows Vista virtualizes data into a hidden, local user folder, other users and possibly other applications may not be able to find the correct Sage MAS 90 or 200 data if the software is not run in Elevated and Compatibility modes. Some third-party applications will not run or install into the **C:\Program Files** hierarchy, which can interfere with their integration with Sage MAS 90 or 200.

Application Compatibility Issues

The new Windows Scheduler in Windows Vista now requires Administrator privileges to add or modify any scheduled task. To use the new Windows Scheduler, you must set up your Sage MAS 90 or 200 shortcut with Elevated privileges (run the program as an Administrator). Even though a Windows Vista user may be logged on as an Administrator, Windows Vista automatically lowers the user's rights to the lowest level available. It is insufficient to run Sage MAS 90 or 200 logged on as an Administrator.

Windows Help Engine

The Microsoft Windows Help Engine (WinHlp32.exe) is not supported in the Windows Vista environment because it does not conform to updated Windows Vista security standards. Although Sage MAS 90 and 200 moved to compiled HTML-based Help (.chm files) as of version 4.20, Help files for some legacy and Master Developer programs may not be converted to .chm files; therefore, these Help files will not load under Windows Vista.

Microsoft provides a work-around that allows users to download and manually install the WinHlp32.exe engine on their Windows Vista systems. For more information, refer to the Microsoft Knowledgebase article at: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/917607>

To download the WinHlp32.exe file, visit the Microsoft Download Center Web site at: <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=82148>

Note: Running the WinHelp32 engine causes the UAC Administrator dialog box to appear when these Help files are selected. To completely bypass this situation, view WinHelp-based Help files from a Windows XP workstation.

Sage MAS 200 Installations and Sage MAS 90 Peer-to-Peer

Running the Sage MAS 200 server component on a Windows Vista machine is not supported. Similarly, running Sage MAS 90 as a server on a Windows Vista machine is also not supported (peer-to-peer). The server components should be run on machines that are running as dedicated servers (such as Windows Server 2003 and Windows 2000 Server). Sage MAS 200 workstation components can be installed on a Windows Vista machine using the methods described in the Installation Options section of this document. Sage MAS 90 workstation components can be installed on a Windows Vista machine with no additional modifications; however, third-party applications that run locally on a given workstation may not be compatible with Windows Vista or Sage MAS 90 without running in Elevated and Compatibility modes.

Crystal Reports

Our internal testing shows that Crystal Reports version 10 runtime components used to generate reports through Sage MAS 90 and 200 function normally in Windows Vista. Running the Crystal Reports Designer to modify existing reports also functions normally in this environment. If you create reports independent of Sage MAS 90 and 200, you may encounter compatibility issues, particularly if connecting to other databases or performing functions that are not being used by Sage MAS 90 and 200. When installing the Crystal Reports Designer on a Windows Vista workstation, either select an installation folder that is external to the **C:\Program Files** hierarchy (recommended) or verify that Elevated and Compatibility modes are used for the Crystal Reports Designer shortcut. You are encouraged to run the Crystal Reports Designer on a non-Windows Vista workstation, if possible.

Performance

Windows Vista is a significant upgrade to the Windows operating system and relies heavily on modern processors and technology. As such, you may experience performance issues when running Windows Vista, especially if you are not using a more modern processor, such as the Intel Core 2 Duo, with a large amount of available memory. Although Windows XP does have support for dual- and quad-core processors, Windows Vista is much more robust in supporting these configurations. If you are considering upgrading to Windows Vista workstations, you should take this into consideration when upgrading or purchasing new hardware. Some key hardware considerations are:

- Processors – Intel Core 2 Duo/Extreme/Quad or AMD Althon/Sempron/Turion processors should be considered. Processors should run at 1.8 GHz or faster.
- Memory – At least 1 GB of RAM should be installed, but 2 GB is preferred. Windows Vista has a larger memory footprint than Windows XP, so available memory will diminish faster.
- Video – Windows Vista relies heavily on a more robust user interface, which in turn, requires a more powerful graphics card. Using a sub-standard graphics card puts more strain on the main processor to handle graphic displays and affects performance.

Windows Vista Configuration Options to Improve Performance

The following are configuration options that can be used to improve performance in Window Vista.

- Turning off the Aero interface and other display and user-interface options can help lower the operating system's footprint on available memory.
- The operating system detects hardware that is not up to Windows Vista specifications and disables some of these features automatically. Users re-enabling the features after Windows Vista disables them will encounter performance issues; therefore, keep those features disabled until the hardware can be upgraded.
- Windows Vista has made significant improvements to the Windows Firewall, anti-virus, and anti-spyware programs that are enabled by default on most systems. You may need to tune the parameters of these security programs to achieve acceptable performance characteristics on their networks, balanced with meeting the security needs of their system administrators. Make sure all anti-virus software programs and virus definitions have been updated and are certified to work on Windows Vista.