

SAGE FAS

The Value of Sage FAS Training

Previous attendees highlight the benefits of training on Sage FAS Fixed Assets



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INTRODUCTION

A survey conducted by Sage Software evaluated the value and effectiveness of the Sage FAS training offerings. These classes cover a broad range of topics designed to offer something for everyone, from new to very experienced Sage FAS Fixed Assets users.

According to the survey, trainees derived many benefits from the courses—everything from learning basic system functionality to saving time and money on important processes.

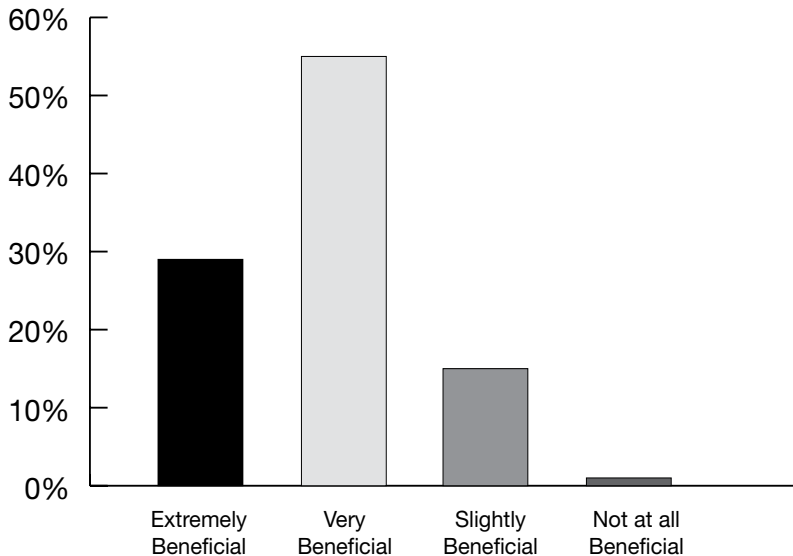
Summary of Survey Results

- Of the survey participants, 99% reported that their Sage FAS Training was beneficial.
- A vast majority would definitely recommend Sage FAS Training to their friends or colleagues.
- 87% felt that attending Sage FAS training provided a good return on investment of time and money.
- Approximately three quarters of respondents have used the software for two or fewer years.
- Many trainees uncovered new functionality that now helps them work more effectively. Frequently cited examples of helpful features included reporting tools and time-saving devices such as templates.

Why should training be a priority for Sage FAS customers? These results show that, for a majority of participants, training is a valuable way to hone their knowledge of the system, improving efficiency and maximizing the value of their Sage FAS investment.

Training is a simple and effective way to bring new users up-to-speed on Sage FAS, but it delivers much more than that. It improves efficiency and company communication. It boosts comprehension and effectiveness of complex tasks, such as reporting. And it saves companies money, both by helping users make the most of advanced Sage FAS features, and by saving on outside costs from consultants and auditors.

How beneficial did you find the Sage FAS training class you attended?



Sage FAS Training Improves User Efficiency

"I'm now faster and more efficient when using Sage FAS."

Sage FAS is an intuitive program, and it's easy for users to get up and running quickly. However, proper training ensures that users understand the most effective ways to get the job done, not just a way that "works." For example, Sage FAS has automated tasks and timesaving features such as templates that prevent unnecessary repetition.

Survey respondents saw a marked increase in their efficiency and productivity after participating in the right training for their level of expertise. Users were empowered to make the most of the many time-saving features of Sage FAS, including:

- Transfers and disposals - Executing partial and whole asset transfers and disposals to user-defined depreciation schedules. For bulk disposals, the system automatically calculates gain/loss on individual assets and allows users to track transfer activity with a single keystroke—a terrific timesaver.
- History tracking - Allowing the capture of critical data before and after asset events.
- FAS Report Writer - Giving users total control over the format, appearance, and context of all their depreciation and asset management reports.
- Data Import/Export - Importing data from, or exporting to, the most popular spreadsheets and database applications.

Many Sage FAS users do not receive formal training from their organizations when they begin work on the Sage FAS system. Though they quickly grasp the basic concepts, they can benefit from an intermediate-level course, which empowers them to:

- Backup and restore their fixed asset databases, ensuring peace of mind
- Set advanced system preferences and company options
- Manage fixed asset databases more effectively
- Develop SmartLists
- Create assets using templates and replication
- Create and modify groups to better manage assets
- Better integrate Sage FAS into their G/L or other accounting system
- Dispose and transfer single and multiple assets

New Users Hit the Ground Running

A looming business issue at most organizations is the struggle to balance the learning curve inherent with new staff and the need to get the job done—now. Training new employees (and those with updated duties) from the start empowers them to be productive right away. It also eases the burden on supervisors and colleagues, as well-trained employees require less guidance and make fewer mistakes.

Something for everyone

About 40% of the survey respondents had used Sage FAS for less than one year. The Sage FAS 120 class, “Basic Sage FAS Asset Accounting,” provides basic instruction to get the new user up and running, with a focus on product features that help them manage the day-to-day tasks of managing fixed assets, such as adding new asset records, importing assets from a spreadsheet, disposing of an asset, and determining any gain/loss and backing up company data.

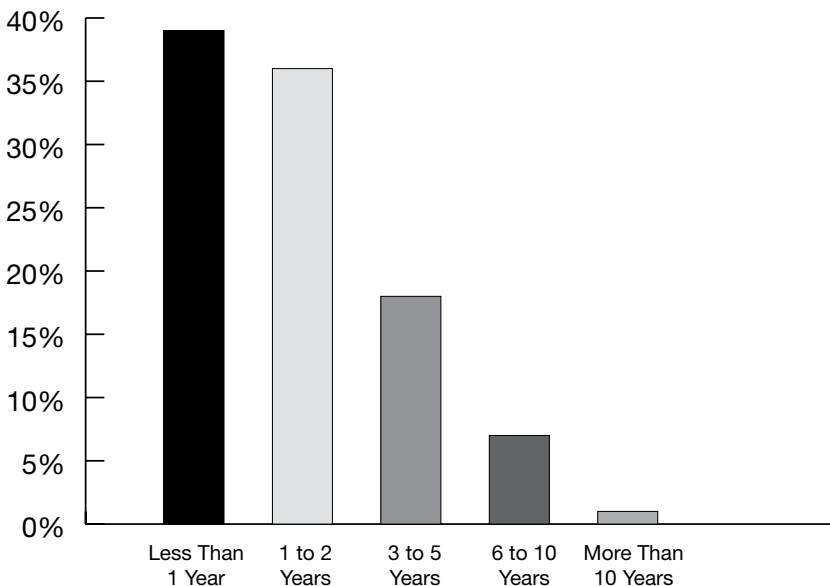
“For a first-time user, the class was very beneficial. Attending the class put everything together.”

“Training allowed me to jump into this position with the skills to do the job correctly. I even learned things that other people in my position were unaware of.”

“The class gave me a good level of knowledge in a short period of time, which was much more effective than learning by trial and error.”

Employees who are familiar with fixed asset accounting find training valuable for maximizing the full range of Sage FAS features. Even long-term employees find training valuable. Sage FAS is a dynamic product with regular updates and new features. The Sage FAS classes “Intermediate Asset Accounting” and “Advanced Asset Accounting,” build upon an existing foundation of fixed asset knowledge and keep existing Sage FAS users up-to-date with advanced techniques to better utilize their fixed asset solution. Periodic training for experienced users ensures that they are continuing to maximize the power of Sage FAS.

How long have you been using Sage FAS software?



Visionary Reporting

The presentation and reporting of depreciation information is an integral part of record keeping and financial planning. FAS Report Writer has advanced features that assist users in designing, creating, and modifying the detailed reports that businesses require. Rather than relying on pre-designed reports or depending on consultants to handle reports for them, advanced users of Sage FAS found that their reporting skills improved dramatically with Sage FAS Training and helped them craft professional, customized reports.

Sage FAS Reporting classes guide users through the entire report-writing process, from determining what information to include, to exporting reports, to creating a custom report from scratch. Users come away from the classes with the ability to harness the power of Crystal Reports® within FAS Report Writer for total control over the format, appearance, and context of all their depreciation and asset management reports.

Sage FAS Reporting classes cover:

- Creating and working with report templates
- Advanced formulas
- Consolidated Sage FAS company reporting
- Report parameters
- Custom reports
- Crystal hyperlinks
- Exporting reports into PDF, XML, and other formats

“Being able to work in FAS Report Writer and Crystal Reports® has greatly helped me to produce unique quarterly reports for my managers. Thank you so much!”

“Before going to training, I generated reports from Sage FAS through the Reports menu. Now I go directly to Crystal Reports® and pull the information I need—and display it exactly how I want it displayed.”

Greater Return on Investment

Attending a Sage FAS Training class is the best way to get the most out of your investment. While the system is easy to learn and use, many trainees found that they were not maximizing the value of their Sage FAS software prior to the training classes.

Eighty-seven percent of our survey respondents felt that Sage FAS Training provided a good return on investment for their time and money. The training not only made them more efficient, it helped them master functionality that saved their organizations money on consultants and outsourced services. In some cases, Sage FAS Training saved attendees' companies up to \$100,000.

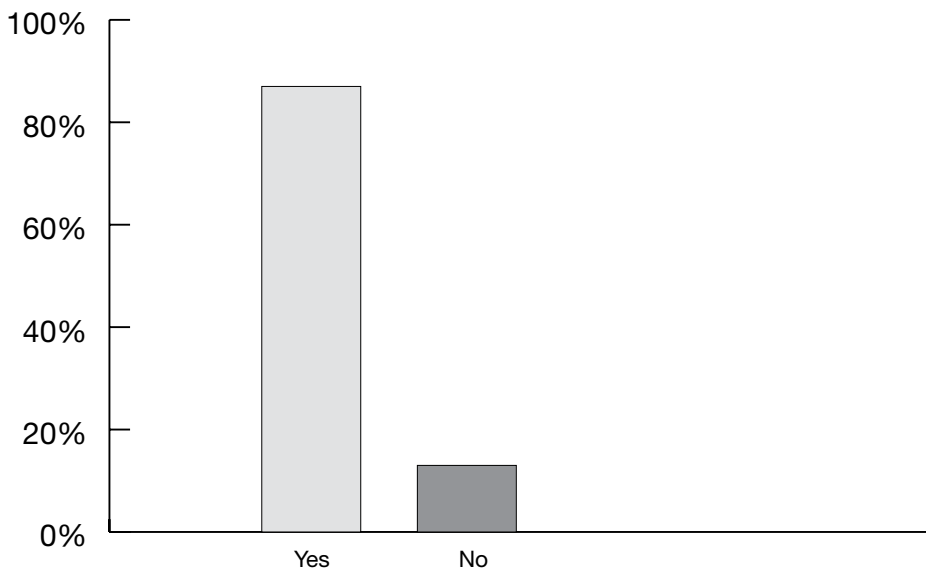
"We do our own tax depreciation now, instead of paying our tax accountants to do it—a huge savings!"

Advanced Sage FAS Training courses empower users to utilize the more sophisticated tools in their Sage FAS systems, such as complex reporting. And correct use of Sage FAS ensures that companies will not overpay in taxes and insurance due to improper or ineffective management and depreciation of fixed assets.

Comprehensive record keeping helps prevent these losses, which are compounded over the years. Often, just properly tracking fixed assets deters theft and streamlines valuations, reconciliation and audits, saving even more money for a company.

Attending a targeted Sage FAS Training class arms users with the knowledge necessary to accurately employ Sage FAS Fixed Assets Management solutions. For instance, by combining FAS Asset Inventory with the Basic FAS Asset Inventory class, a user is better equipped to search out "ghost assets," those that are either lost or stolen and no longer in use, thus reducing costs to the business. Sage FAS Training classes are available for the entire product line and at a number of levels to ensure that everyone can benefit from this valuable resource.

Do you feel that your attending Sage FAS training provided a good return on investment of time and money?



Conclusion

The results of the survey show that training has provided many customers with the skills they need to take total control over their companies' fixed asset lifecycles, from acquisition to disposal.

- The vast majority of Sage FAS training attendees find it beneficial.
- With the proper training, an employee can become more efficient and make the most out of the Sage FAS software investment.
- Sage FAS training classes ease turnover and reporting.
- Taking advantage of the full spectrum of Sage FAS capability saves money and reduces dependency on outside vendors.

Sage FAS training provides individuals and companies with the ability to use their software more completely. The knowledge these classes convey save businesses more in both the short- and long-term by demonstrating advanced techniques for better controlling fixed assets. With a variety of products, from fixed asset inventory software to custom reporting tools, Sage FAS covers the entire spectrum of fixed asset management. Likewise, Sage FAS training classes are designed from the ground up to educate and empower users to put the software to work for them.

More information on Sage FAS training classes, including schedules and class descriptions, can be found by calling 800-368-2405 or visiting www.sagefas.com/training.

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