

TaiRox™ Memo

Sage 300: Clearing History

Background: Clearing history in Sage 300 is most commonly done to clean-up data, to reduce database size and to improve performance. For large databases, the built-in clear history operations can take several days to run, making the operation fragile and difficult to manage.

Module*	Core	Fast	Faster By
Bank	5 days	2 min	3600x
General Ledger	5 hrs	1.6 min	187x
Accounts Receivable	30 min	15 min	2x
Accounts Payable	35 min	10 min	3.5x
Inventory Control	2 days	120 min	24x
Order Entry	97 min	0.5 min	197x
Purchase Orders	7 hrs	12 min	35x
* Times vary widely with database sizes, settings and environment			
* Times for individual modules are not additive to a total for all modules			

Quick Answers to Common Questions:

- **Q: Does Fast Clear History clear the same data as the Sage 300 operation?** A: Yes, plus a bit more: you can delete unprinted posting journals and base order deletions on the transaction date, rather than the completion date.
- **Q: Can a single module be cleared?** A: Yes, just like with the built-in version. You can clear one module at a time or multiple modules in one operation.
- **Q: Does Fast Clear History delete old inventory items?** A: No. Fast Clear History clears transactional data, just like the built-in operation. You can clear old sales and purchase orders as a prelude to deleting inventory items. The TaiRox Productivity Tools program Delete Items will display items that can be deleted (are not referenced by other entities) and then process the deletions.
- **Q: Does Fast Clear History clear third-party modules?** No. Note the single module answer. Third party modules must clear their own data.
- **Q: Why wasn't a fully-paid invoice deleted?** A: An invoice may be fully-paid by a payment that is not fully-applied. Fast Clear History, just like the built-in version, will not delete such an invoice, as this would cause integrity errors that could affect operations.
- **Q: Why wasn't the database size reduced?** A: Fast Clear History deletes rows from tables. When SQL Server performs this operation, the space occupied by the row is marked as free for future use. Dump, recreate and load to reduce the file size.
- **Q: What else should I know?** A large number of deletions can increase "index fragmentation", limiting performance improvement. TaiRox Fast Database Management includes a program, Fast DBTools, that will re-index Sage 300 tables. The TaiRox [Reindexing Sage 300 Tables](#) memo provides more details.

Cleaning Up Data: This is often the best reason to clear history. Sales History reports and order entry operations may be cluttered with inventory items that have been discontinued for many years. You want to delete the items but Sage 300 will not let you do this because the items are referenced by old sales and purchase orders. What can you do?

A technical person can delete the items by directly deleting items using SQL statements. The problem with this approach is that your database will no longer pass a database integrity check. It can be argued that the database integrity errors caused by this can be ignored as the orders are old and will not be changed. The problem with this argument is that if you do decide to check data integrity, it will be difficult to spot "current errors" as they will be buried in thousands of errors from the old orders.

You can run the Sage 300 clear history functions. But what if they take several days to run and your server decides to reboot in the middle of the operation? Our answer is Fast Clear History, that turns days into hours and hours into minutes.

User Interface: The user interface for Fast Clear History has the same options as the built-in version, and a few more..

