

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 might take several days to run, making the operation fragile and difficult to manage.

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.

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

Reducing Database Size and Improving performance: Results here can be disappointing, relative to expectations. Clearing 5 years of history from a 10-year-old database sounds like a 50% reduction. But it is only a 50% reduction in a fraction of the tables. You might see a 5% reduction in overall database size. Performance involves many non-linear factors and there may be other means to get better performance (e.g. lower network latency). A half-second average improvement in a one-second average operation is noticeable. A half-second improvement in a three second operation, may be noticeable, but disappointing.