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## SAGE INTELLIGENCE VS “ENTERPRISE” INTELLIGENCE

By now, you’ve probably heard of Sage Intelligence. But lately, you may also be hearing about a newer Sage “Enterprise” Intelligence option. While both products provide business intelligence (BI) reporting tools that work hand-in-hand with Sage X3, each differs a bit in the functionality they provide. In this article, we’ll explore those differences.

### Getting the Names Straight

The product names are very similar and for some, it can be confusing. But here’s a snapshot.

[Sage Intelligence](#) pulls real-time financial and operational data from Sage X3 and delivers it in Excel templates which you can easily view and/or customize. The Excel-based interface lets you slice, dice, and analyze your Sage X3 data in graphs and pivot tables that provide a much more hands-on and visual experience than standard reports can provide.

Similarly, **Sage Enterprise Intelligence** also provides a visual approach to reporting that allows non-technical users to perform more advanced slice-and-dice analysis of Sage X3 data. While the product is owned by a third party and licensed to Sage customers through an OEM agreement, first level support is still provided by Sage with higher level support handled directly by the developer.

### How Are They Different?

In a nutshell, Sage Enterprise Intelligence offers more advanced features for businesses that want to dig deep using a broader range of analytical tools for data mining and BI reporting.

In addition, Sage Intelligence is entirely Excel-based while Sage Enterprise Intelligence is primarily web-based (but also offers an optional Excel add-on). For those unfamiliar with Excel spreadsheets and formulas, the drag-and-drop web-based interface of Sage Enterprise Intelligence may be easier to learn. And because it’s web-based, the application can be accessed from a variety of devices including your desktop, tablet, or mobile device.

It’s also worth noting that depending on your Sage business care plan and the version of Sage X3 you’re running, Sage Intelligence may already be installed on your system and ready to use. In fact, user licenses for Sage Intelligence may already be included with your business care plan. Sage Enterprise Intelligence requires separate installation and licensing.

### Which Product is Better?

The short answer is neither one. The reason that Sage offers two different BI solutions is to provide a variety of analytics and reporting options to customers across a wide variety of industries and needs. It shouldn’t be assumed that Sage “Enterprise” Intelligence is better than Sage Intelligence because it’s not. While the user interface and reporting features differ, both products accomplish a similar objective - better business insight through more flexible and intelligent reporting.

[Contact us](#) to see if one of these powerful reporting tools is the right fit for your business.

# SAGE X3 UPDATES JUST GOT EASIER

With the release of Sage X3 Update 9 earlier this year, the process of updating your software and keeping up with current patches and fixes has been simplified. Here's a look at the new **Update function** in Sage X3.

## New Update Function

What was previously called a *patching* has been replaced with the new **Update** function in order to make the process easier. Product patches will be provided in a single ZIP file that can then be dragged from your computer/desktop and dropped into Sage X3 to initiate upload.

The Update function will then read the contents of the ZIP file and validate that the patch list is compatible with your currently installed version of Sage X3. Next, you can select which optional contents to apply. The update is automatically performed in a controlled way as follows:

- Batch server stops and restarts in update mode
- Patches apply in parallel per level once the upper level is updated
- The system restarts automatically after the last step if a stop occurs on an incident

Nom	Description	Mandatory	Apply
X3V8_P2	8.0.2 mandatory maintenances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
X3V8_P2BIS	8.0.2 optional maintenances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Checking for Modifications and Consistency

As you probably know, your Sage X3 software can be modified to suit your specific needs. But sometimes these customizations come into conflict with a product patch.

So to alleviate potential problems, Sage X3 now comes with a **Specific Consistency** tool that will check for customizations that have been made in a Sage X3 folder and validate that they are in compliance with best practices. A log file is then produced that identifies differences between the standard Sage X3 and your custom folder. It classifies them as **Risks** that should be improved, **Errors** that will create new issues for patching, and **Fatal Errors** that can compromise the software and need to be addressed before patching begins.

Be sure to contact us with questions about these new features or for help updating your Sage X3 software.

## Sage Summit 2016

### More "Big Name" Speakers Announced

In addition to **Sir Richard Branson** who was announced as the first "big name" speaker at Sage Summit 2016, Sage recently announced that others from the world of business and entertainment will round out the list of featured guests which now includes:

**Gwyneth Paltrow** - Oscar®-winning

**Ashton Kutcher** - actor and producer

**Zoey Deschanel** - actress, singer-songwriter

**Robert Herjavec** - businessman and investor on Shark Tank

**Daymond John** - businessman and investor on Shark Tank

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**Southeast Computer Solutions**

15165 NW 77th Ave

Miami, FL 33014

(305) 556-4697 • [Info@SoutheastComputers.com](mailto:Info@SoutheastComputers.com)

SCS   
southeastcomputers.com

[www.SoutheastComputers.com](http://www.SoutheastComputers.com)