

First Bank Places Its Trust in Sage Abra Suite

There's Power In One is the motto of First Bank, a successful community bank with 11 branches across the northern Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. By serving and valuing the individual, First Bank builds a better bank one customer at a time. The bank's history stretches back more than 100 years, a trusted institution in the communities it serves, providing a full range of personal and business banking services.

With 168 employees working across a large geographic area, First Bank needed an effective and efficient human resources management system to help its payroll and human resources team. Sage Abra Suite is the first choice of First Bank.

Seeking Efficiency

Until the bank implemented Sage Abra Suite several years ago, it had used an older payroll application, but it lacked a formal system for handling human resource management tasks.

"We were seeking more accuracy in our payroll operation, and we wanted HR metrics and analytics that were simply impossible without an HR system," says Lisa Rutherford, senior vice president and director of human resources for First Bank. "We wanted to build better business practices into the department, reduce paper, save steps, and increase our efficiency."

The Right Price

The company evaluated several HRMS options, including Ultimate Software and Ceridian, before deciding on Sage Abra Suite. "As we evaluated our options, we determined that Sage Abra Suite was the best solution for us," says Rutherford. "Plus, I had used Sage Abra Suite with two prior employers, and I trust it."

Rutherford says that the full functionality of Sage Abra Suite and its competitive price point were the primary reasons First Bank selected it. "In addition to core payroll and HR features, we wanted to add employee self service and integrate with electronic time clocks," she says. "Sage Abra Suite offered all of the features we need at a lower price than the competitors' products."

Better Use of Time

While the benefits of HRMS are often difficult to quantify, there is no doubt that the department has become more efficient—and more strategic. "Before our tasks were largely administrative: filling out forms, keying data, and answering questions," Rutherford explains. "With Sage Abra Suite, we have been able to eliminate the need for many of those routine tasks and work on more strategic issues like training, coaching, and mentoring, which provide a greater benefit to the company and to our employees."



CUSTOMER

First Bank

INDUSTRY

Banking

LOCATION

Strasburg, Virginia

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

168

SYSTEM

Sage Abra Suite

- Sage Abra Suite HRMS
- Sage Abra Suite Payroll
- Sage Employee Self Service (Sage ESS)
- Sage Benefits Enrollment
- Sage Abra Train
- Sage Abra Link

CHALLENGE

First Bank was running an older error-prone payroll application and lacked a formal method for managing and analyzing its human resources data.

SOLUTION

Sage Abra Suite beat out the competition thanks to its broad feature set and competitive price.

RESULTS

By eliminating many routine tasks, staff time was freed for more strategic initiatives. Accuracy improved, boosting employee confidence. Sage Abra Suite paid for itself in the first year through efficiencies and labor savings.

Employee Self Service

The Sage ESS module was well received by employees and management alike. "All of our employees have chosen direct deposit, and they view their pay vouchers online through the Sage ESS portal," Rutherford says. "We do not print vouchers, and we rarely need to produce a printed check. Our employees feel like they are receiving better service from us, because the whole process is quick, accurate, and secure."

Stay in Compliance

The Sage Abra Train module helps Rutherford and her team coordinate and monitor company training programs. "It helps us stay on top of employee certification programs by tracking who has attended which courses and when," Rutherford explains.

Extended Options Add Value

First Bank is taking advantage of companion products that integrate with Sage Abra Suite. One is a web-based time clock application that transfers time and attendance data directly into the Sage Abra Suite HRMS and Sage Abra Suite Payroll modules. Another is a web-based employee recruiting application that interfaces the Sage Abra Suite HRMS module.

"We appreciate that so many options are available for use with Sage Abra Suite," says Rutherford. "Before we had disconnected electronic time clocks that did not interface, and no effective way to coordinate our recruiting efforts."

Easy Data Access

First Bank's goal to gain valuable metrics and analytics has been realized. "Now, getting the information we need is very easy," Rutherford says. "Reports help us analyze overtime, turnover, benefit usage, and much more. The data is available at the touch of a button. This kind of information was impossible to obtain before without heroic efforts. We are able to use this information to build better business practices."

"As we evaluated our options, we determined that Sage Abra Suite was the best solution for us. Sage Abra Suite offered all of the features we need at a lower price than the competitors' products."

Lisa Rutherford
Senior Vice President, Director of HR
First Bank

A Smart Investment

First Bank is realizing the benefits of its investment in Sage Abra Suite. "In the first year alone, it paid for itself through efficiency gains, error reduction, paper reduction, and productivity increases," concludes Rutherford. "Sage Abra Suite represents a significant value to First Bank."

About Sage

Sage is a leading global supplier of business management software and services for small and mid-sized businesses. The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs more than 12,300 people and supports more than 6 million customers worldwide. For more information about Sage in North America, please visit the company website at www.SageNorthAmerica.com. Follow Sage North America on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/SageNorthAmerica>, and Twitter, <http://twitter.com/#!/sagenamerica>.