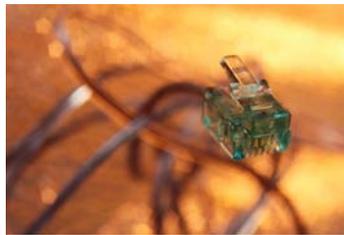# 7 Risks Associated with Using SaaS

SaaS is the acronym for Software as a Service. A simple definition of SaaS is a web-based software application that a provider licenses to a company for use over the internet. Instead of purchasing CDs or having to download and install software, users can access sophisticated applications and share data online with others at any time as long as they have internet access. SaaS has many benefits, but there are also associated risks.

Outages

Downloadable software or software from a CD can be accessed at any time and reloaded in case of hard drive failure. SaaS software is only accessible via the internet. If the host network has an outage, there is no access to the data until the problem is fixed.

Legal Issues

Using an SaaS involves control issues concerning sensitive or confidential information. There may be legal issues regarding having this information managed by and accessible to a third party.

Data Recovery

Reputable SaaS providers have regular backups and server redundancies to guard against loss or corruption of data. A company considering using an SaaS should ask how often backups occur and how quickly backup data can be accessed in case of emergency.

Poor Customer Service

Many companies use SaaS to cut their IT costs. The risk is that some Software-as-a-Service providers are so interested in selling the software, they forget about the service. In-house IT personnel can troubleshoot on the fly. Outsourcing your application technology also means outsourcing your technical support and trusting that it will be available when you need it.

Cost Monitoring

Lower upfront costs are a primary reason for companies considering using SaaS. However, the current business model is set up to limit access to designated users with fees incurred as the company requires more complex functions or additional users. In the long run, the fees may cost a company more than purchasing traditional software and upgrades.

Vendor Stability

Software as a Service (SaaS) is still a relatively new business model. Companies considering using this service need to feel certain that the provider will be available over the long haul, and to find out what steps will be put into place should the provider go out of business or be bought by another company.

Security

In a world where internet hacking abounds, data accessed via an SaaS application must remain secure. The highest level of encryption must be employed to keep data safe from unauthorized users. **T**

AccSys Solutions

Innovative Solution Feature:

Adagio Accounting : What Is Adagio And Who Is It For?

Adagio Accounting is designed for organizations that manage $2 to $100 million in sales/revenue, with significant transaction volume and at least one person responsible for managing those transactions.
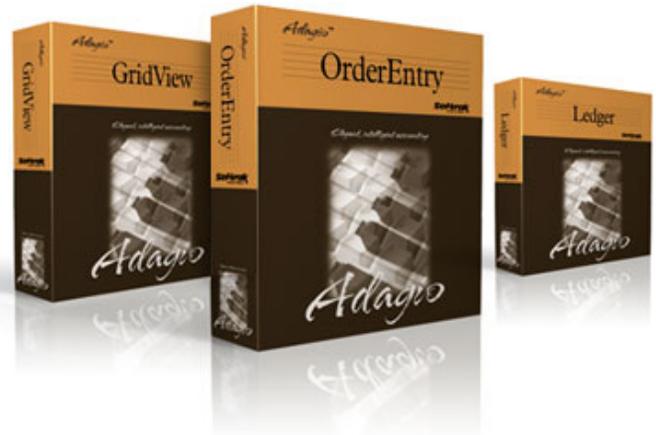
This modular accounting system combines a batch interface that is easy to understand and control with online processing in order entry and inventory control.

Additionally, Adagio provides dynamite-looking invoices, checks and statements on blank paper. All this without being forced to use a mouse during data entry or any of the other accounting procedures.

Simple procedures and built-in software make it a snap to email or fax (with an internal fax modem) invoices and customer statements.

Adagio modules generally have an MSRP of $1500 per module, which includes an optional annual Upgrade Plan. Discounts are normally available when multiple modules are purchased. We can provide a complete quotation, including installation, implementation and setup.

Most Adagio sites typically spend between $5,000 and $25,000 getting up and running, but some with specialized requirements invest $50,000 or more for a complete system with integrated Third Party solutions. **T**

the**Techno**Tips

How to change File Associations

All Microsoft's Operating Systems have special built-in tools which, by default, associate files to certain program extensions so that when you double-click on an icon representing a file, the proper program will open it correctly. So, for example, when you click on a file having .jpg extension, Windows Photo Gallery will let you see pictures; if you click on a file having .txt extension, Notepad will let you read a document and so on. If you want to change this extension association in Windows Vista, so that a particular file will be opened by a specific program you wish to use, here is the trick to apply:

1. Right click on a file for which you want to use a specific program.

2. Click Properties.

3. Under General tab, click Change.

4. A new window will appear containing a list of Recommended Programs to use, and another list for Other Pro-

grams. Sometimes, for this second list you will have to find the exact folder on your computer where the executable file .exe is located. Do this by clicking on the Browse button.

Instant Desktop Minimization and Shut Down

While we are working, we tend to open many windows on our computer desktop. That's pretty normal. But this behavior brings up a few drawbacks. As a matter of fact, once we are finished, we are faced with the need to close or minimizing them, one-by-one. Instead of doing this time consuming operation, just press WIN+D and your Vista desktop will be clean right away (all of your windows will be minimized instantly). Now, if you want to shut down your Windows, just press ALT+F4.

Protect yourself while shopping online

If you are shopping online, to know whether a web site is secure before you give your credit card details, look at the address bar and make sure the web address begins with https:// There should also be a padlock symbol on the address bar (or at the bottom of the page in older versions of Internet Explorer) to indicate the site is secure.