



# SHARING SUCCESS



Van Den Brinks Group has grown to become one of the country's largest food producers. The group's interests are primarily in poultry meat production, dairy farming and property investment.

The group is best known for its Brink's Chicken brand, which delivers a range of fresh and frozen products to retailers throughout New Zealand.

#### CUSTOMER

Van Den Brinks Group

#### INDUSTRY

Food manufacturing

#### SYSTEM

Sage 300 with Pacifictch Payables

## THE CHALLENGE

To support its diverse range of operations, Van Den Brinks Group has a central finance team responsible for processing transactions across all companies. The team is supported by a Sage 300 ERP platform that has been in place since April 2010.

In early 2016, the accounts payable team within the finance department had reached the stage where it was manually handling more than 20,000 invoices each year for the group's companies.

"We have a very lean finance team and so we realized we needed to find a way to make our operations much more efficient," says Julie Allan, Finance Manager. "It was getting to the stage where the team was beginning to struggle with the volume of invoices that needed to be processed."

Allan says "the workflow associated with the accounts payable process involved sending physical copies of each invoice from the group's head office in Manukau to department or cost centre managers in various locations for them to authorize."

"It was this manual process of pushing paper around that was very inefficient and time consuming for us," says Allan.

"Being paper based meant we were also more open to errors and problems would arise if paperwork went missing."

"It was also very difficult for the finance department and management team to obtain a clear overview of exactly where we stood when it came to invoice processing and payments."

## THE SOLUTION

In late 2016, a decision was made to find a new way of processing invoices. A number of alternatives were considered before a trial was undertaken of Pacifictch's Payables Workflow for Sage 300.

"Working with our Sage 300 Business Partner, Business Enabling Systems, we rolled out the *Payables Workflow* to cover accounts payable activity within our property companies," says Allan. "This gave us the opportunity to understand exactly how it worked and to be sure it would be a good fit for our operations."

After a five-month trial, the packaged was deemed a success and extended to cover all companies in the group.

"As *Payables Workflow* is inside Sage 300, it was very easy to learn and test. This enabled us to remove paperwork from our workflows and handle the entire approvals process electronically."

The rollout was completed in early 2017 and the new system officially went live in May 2017.

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## THE BENEFITS

Once the *Payables Workflow* package was in place, significant benefits quickly become apparent. The processing and approvals process for invoices has been significantly streamlined, freeing staff to focus their attention in other areas. **Key benefits are:**

<b>Improved approval process</b>	Often multiple approvers are required to authorize an invoice for payment. Rather than needing to send paperwork, the invoice can be sent electronically from one to the next, significantly streamlining the process and reducing time to payment.
<b>Time savings</b>	The accounts payable team now spends less time compiling each payment batch as there is no need to attach hard copies of invoices. Each is captured electronically and sent through the approvals process without any need to be printed.
<b>Increased accountability and control</b>	Each authorizer can put a digital stamp on the invoice as it moves through the workflow to indicate they have reviewed the invoice. There is also the option to add comments or notes if required.
<b>Adding supplementary information</b>	Additional documents, such as purchase orders, quotes or reports, can be electronically attached to an invoice during the approval process. This makes it easy for the accounts team to see exactly what has happened to each invoice and its status at all times.
<b>Cost reduction</b>	Because there is no longer any need to print physical copies of invoices, the finance team has significantly lowered its printing costs. There have also been cost savings around storage of paper files and retrieval of old invoices.

## THE CONCLUSION

The group's senior management is very happy with the new system as it allows them to gain much better insight into the status of the accounts. Allan says Sage 300 continues to be a robust and cost-effective ERP, and they are looking at other projects to improve the groups' finance function. Future plans include the rollout of Pacifictech's web/smartphone approvals, web procurement and the third generation data extraction (OCR) service.

“Overall, the *Payables Workflow* has greatly improved our invoice approval process and provided us with more control at a reasonable price. This has allowed us to focus on adding value to other parts of the business.”

**Julie Allan.** Finance Manager, Van Den Brinks Group.



Pacifictech has a long and successful history as a Sage ISV Developer (Development Partner) developing Sage 300 solutions that enhance the functionality and capability of Sage 300.

Please visit our website [www.pacifictechsol.com](http://www.pacifictechsol.com) for further information on products and services that Pacifictech provides to the Sage 300 community around the world.

**sage ISV Developer**

- Top Subscription Revenue – Sage Australia/Pacific 2015**
- Top Development Partner – Sage Australia/Pacific 2014**
- Sage Development Partner of the Year – Global Award 2009**
- Top Development Partner – Sage Asia 2008**

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