"Knowledge without application is like a book that is never read"

Christopher Crawford

Publisher Application

The Publisher Application is a new, cutting edge information tool that will be the main interface into the SAP Order to Cash system for publishing staff.

Providing a stream of live, real-time data, the application has been designed to be simple and intuitive. It will enable quick access to key business information.

The application will be web-based and can be used on tablets as well as PCs.

It essentially replaces Vista's functionality for title, customer, sales, stock and pricing information. It also has a range of new features, two of which are detailed below.

Order Status

Orders for a title or a customer can be tracked. Any rejections will be visible, and will include the reason that an order was not processed. The application will have access to carrier tracking information, so deliveries can be traced until they are received by the customer.

Held Order Releasing

The current Vista process for releasing blocked orders can take up to five days. With the application, we expect this to be reduced to no more than two days. It will display a summary of affected orders and can provide a level of customer account information that will allow key users to release order lines at the click of a button.

✓ Release successful
There are no blocked orders left for this customer.

Sainsburys — Customer — £2,350.70 — Release amount

Stakeholders from the publishing divisions were recently consulted on the design of the app. The project team will now review suggestions for further refinements and there will be another round of business consultation before it is built later this year.

Construction Update

Following the completion of the outer shell of the warehouse and the laying of the floor, building work in May focussed on internal construction.

A mezzanine level has been assembled at one end of the warehouse. This will be the base of the new goods to person stations, where operators will consolidate customer orders.

The mezzanine is on the left of the image below. Racking that the new Stingray shuttles will move between is being put up and part of this can be seen on the right.

External work on the office space is nearly complete and tarmac and brickwork for the staff car park is now being laid.

Site Visits

The warehouse build has progressed to a stage where we can start to show the site to interested parties.

Tours will take place on selected Fridays starting shortly and will continue over the next year. Please contact Laura Simmons if you would like to see the site and we will do our best to find a suitable date.

Meet the Project Team

Richard Bevan

Business Change Manager

Richard joined the team in May and will lead the management of the business and process impacts of the project on our publishing divisions, third-party clients, customers and suppliers.

He has worked in management positions in various industries, including publishing where he worked for Pearson and Simon & Schuster. He has also supported the roll-out of SAP systems for several companies.

Georgeta Negoita

Project Manager, Reporting

Georgeta has previously led IT initiatives in the travel and public sectors. She will use her experience in data and reporting to oversee the reporting workstream, which will transform how sales and distribution data can be accessed and analysed.

Did You Know?

If all of the concrete pile columns that support the building foundations were laid out end to end, they would equate to a marathon distance (around 26 miles).

Name That App

The Publisher Application currently has a working name of 'The Hub' but we plan to replace this with a permanent name.

If you have any suggestions, please email peter.quartley@hachette.co.uk. A bottle of champagne will be given to anyone who comes up with a name that is used!*

* Pubby McAppface has already been put forward and is unlikely to be considered