



**Hospitality organization
improves financial
reporting by switching
from Sage 50cloud to
Gravity Software**

ABOUT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF INNKEEPING

The mission of the British Institute of Innkeeping is to support, inspire, celebrate and promote the diversity of talented individuals working in the licensed trade. The nonprofit maintains a national network of more than 10,000 members, who are , tenants, lessees and free-traders running their own businesses



Industry: Nonprofit

Employees: 20

Number of Gravity Users: 7

Number of Entities: 4

Previous Accounting Solution:

Sage 50Cloud

Key Results:

- Team saves significant time on monthly reporting
- Streamlined the process for managing purchase orders
- Implemented automated workflows for expense approvals
- Achieved greater flexibility by implementing a true cloud accounting solution



THE CHALLENGE OF CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTING

More than 10,000 business owners in the United Kingdom trust **The British Institute of Innkeeping (BII)** for everything from licensing and legal advice to marketing tips and guidelines for re-evaluating their rates.

After using the same ERP system over 25 years and preparing consolidated group accounts in Excel with close to 50 tabs, the BII Head of Finance decided to look for a new solution. It was critical for them to choose a cloud-based solution and one that would output consolidated accounts directly from the system and work more efficiently.

The BII finance team needed to log in and out of their previous accounting software, Sage 50cloud, whenever there was a need to process in a different entity or to view something in a different entity.

As organized as her team was, the process was time-consuming and not as secure as she would like it to be, BII Head of Finance Shila Singh said.

The organization needed to add efficiently through the new system and needed a better way to manage approvals for purchase orders.



THE SEARCH FOR A TRUE CLOUD ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE SOLUTION

The BII was already using cloud-based software for most other applications, and it was important to have something that was more modern, agile, and accessible anywhere. Security was also a key consideration.

When the BII initially purchased Sage 50cloud, it was installed on their server, so employees had to be in the office or using a virtual private network (VPN) to access it remotely, which wasn't always reliable.

After researching ERPs for small to mid-sized companies, she found two top contenders: Xero and Gravity Software.

She ultimately chose Gravity because it gave her the flexibility to use different accounting and reporting dimensions and the ability for other users to approve purchase orders by email, without being logged into the system.

"You can slice and dice your accounting slightly differently, whereas there was not quite as much flexibility that we saw in Xero," she said. "And for purchase orders, you couldn't receipt the purchase order as delivered remotely. That would have defeated the objective for us, because individuals would have to log in to the system to receipt, and I wanted it to be remote and mobile friendly



The BII began working with an implementation partner to make the switch to Gravity in January, and simultaneously worked with Gravity to build personalized workflows that would automate purchase orders through Microsoft Power Automate. The team went live with the software six months later.

THE RESULT:

FASTER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND A MORE EFFICIENT TEAM

Singh said she and her small team felt the impact of using Gravity immediately after implementation.

“It’s changed our reporting timetable massively,” she said. “We can spin out (consolidated reports) very quickly. You also removed working time from not having to log in and out of entities. With Gravity, you just select the entity you want to look at and carry on working. If you’re doing customer invoicing, it’s seamless.”

Managing approvals for purchase orders used to be a largely manual process that involved keeping track of a long chain of emails between department leaders, executive team members, board members and trustees. Now the BII uses automated workflows that send expenses over a certain amount to the appropriate people for approval. Those users can simply approve or reject an expense via email, and their response is recorded as a full audit trail within the software.

“The purchase order system allowed for a reduction in manual input time, and accrued cost in the correct month regardless of whether an invoice was received or not,” Singh said. “We were able to reduce our month-end cycle and can easily produce accounts by Day 5 or earlier, and we have confidence in the numbers.”



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SHILA SINGH
Head of Finance, BII

Simplify multi-entity financial reporting with Gravity

If your organization has expanded to include multiple legal entities, you shouldn't be penalized for growth by having to spend exponentially more time creating consolidated financial reports.

Gravity makes multi-entity accounting a breeze by making it easy to manage inter-company transactions without needing to log in and out of multiple databases.

The screenshot displays the Gravity Home software interface. On the left, a navigation menu includes 'FINANCIAL', 'NEW', 'WORK', and 'REPORT' sections. The 'REPORT' section is active, showing options for 'Income Statement' and 'Balance Sheet'. The main area displays a 'Profit and Loss' report for 'The Gravity Group' for the year ended Dec. 31, 2019. The report is organized into columns for 'Enterprise', 'Constellation', 'Excaltur', and 'Total'. The data is as follows:

	Enterprise	Constellation	Excaltur	Total
Revenue				
Product Sales	564,494.41	5974,764.25	5487,132.00	52,106,300.66
Service Sales	425,123.50	1,138,247.24	569,123.62	2,132,494.36
Software Sales	52,845.00	106,617.52	53,308.76	212,771.28
Total Revenue	1,122,372.91	2,219,629.01	1,109,564.38	4,451,566.30
Cost of Sales				
Labor Costs	117,415.00	2,510,316.16	1,255,158.08	3,882,889.24
Material Costs	-1,603.69	501,155.62	250,577.81	750,129.74
Software Costs	220.00	-	-	220.00
Total Cost	116,031.31	3,011,471.78	1,505,735.89	4,633,238.98
Gross Margin	1,006,341.60	-791,842.77	-396,171.51	-181,672.68
Marketing				
Marketing	22,150.00	30,256.24	15,128.12	67,534.36
Marketing Salaries	45,002.00	431,226.08	215,613.04	691,841.12
Total Marketing	67,152.00	461,482.32	230,741.16	759,375.48
Salary and Benefits				
Management Salaries	100,479.50	250,914.82	125,457.41	476,851.73
Admin Salaries	150,555.25	1,022,549.76	511,274.88	1,684,379.89
Office Salaries	88,501.33	87,620.84	43,810.42	219,932.59
Other Salaries	-	34,373.22	17,186.61	51,559.83
Payroll Taxes	22,111.56	-303,699.24	-151,849.62	-433,437.30
Total Salary and Benefits	361,647.64	1,091,759.40	545,879.70	1,999,286.74

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