

E-book

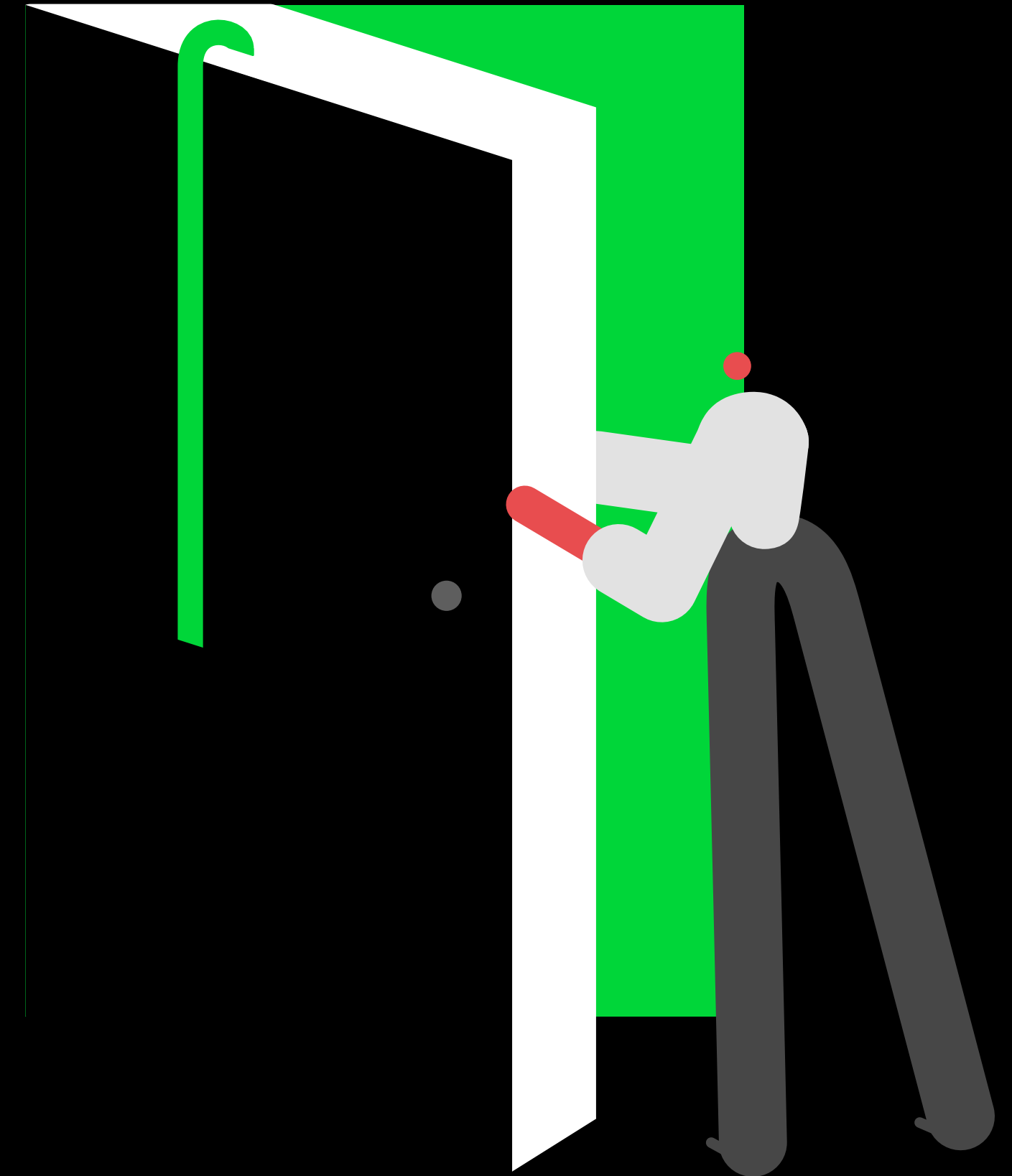
# The benefits of cloud accounting software for multi-academy trusts

Sage



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# Introduction: MAT Accounting in the modern era

**You don't change accounting systems often. However, as your Trust grows in size and complexity, you reach a point where manual, time-consuming processes drain your team's productivity, and flying blind without real-time visibility into key metrics and outcomes is stifling growth.**

To build a bright future for each school in your care, you need an accounting system that uses technology to monitor and control the financial health of the entire Trust.



At a minimum, a modern accounting system should automate and streamline core financial management functions such as Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, and Financial Close. But you can hardly fuel your growth and need for accountability and transparency by simply automating the minimum.

Multi-academy trusts (MATs) have accounting, tracking and reporting needs that require specialised functionality in their financial systems. Today, inflexible, inefficient, and outdated on-premise software is rapidly being replaced by a new breed of modern cloud solutions.

Over 90 percent of businesses report using cloud solutions today, and MATs are no exception<sup>1</sup>.

# Cloud computing: Five reasons the cloud is right for MATs



1

You only pay for what you use. No more complex and costly IT infrastructure.

2

Your data is safe in the cloud. Skilled cybersecurity engineers use sophisticated software to watch over data centres.

3

It supports a mobile workforce. Staff and key stakeholders can access the system anytime and anywhere.

4

You're always using the latest version. No more outdated software and painful upgrades.

5

Your other systems integrate easily. Open APIs let you utilise best-in-class applications (CRM, payroll, etc).

# Product overview: Sage Intacct for MATs

**Sage Intacct is built to support scaling Trusts who need to minimise complexity and maximise impact.**

Our modern, true cloud solution, with open APIs, gives schools the connectivity, visibility, and efficiency they need to do more with less—streamlining multi-entity accounting while delivering real-time visibility into the metrics that matter.



# Product overview: Reasons MATs will love Sage Intacct



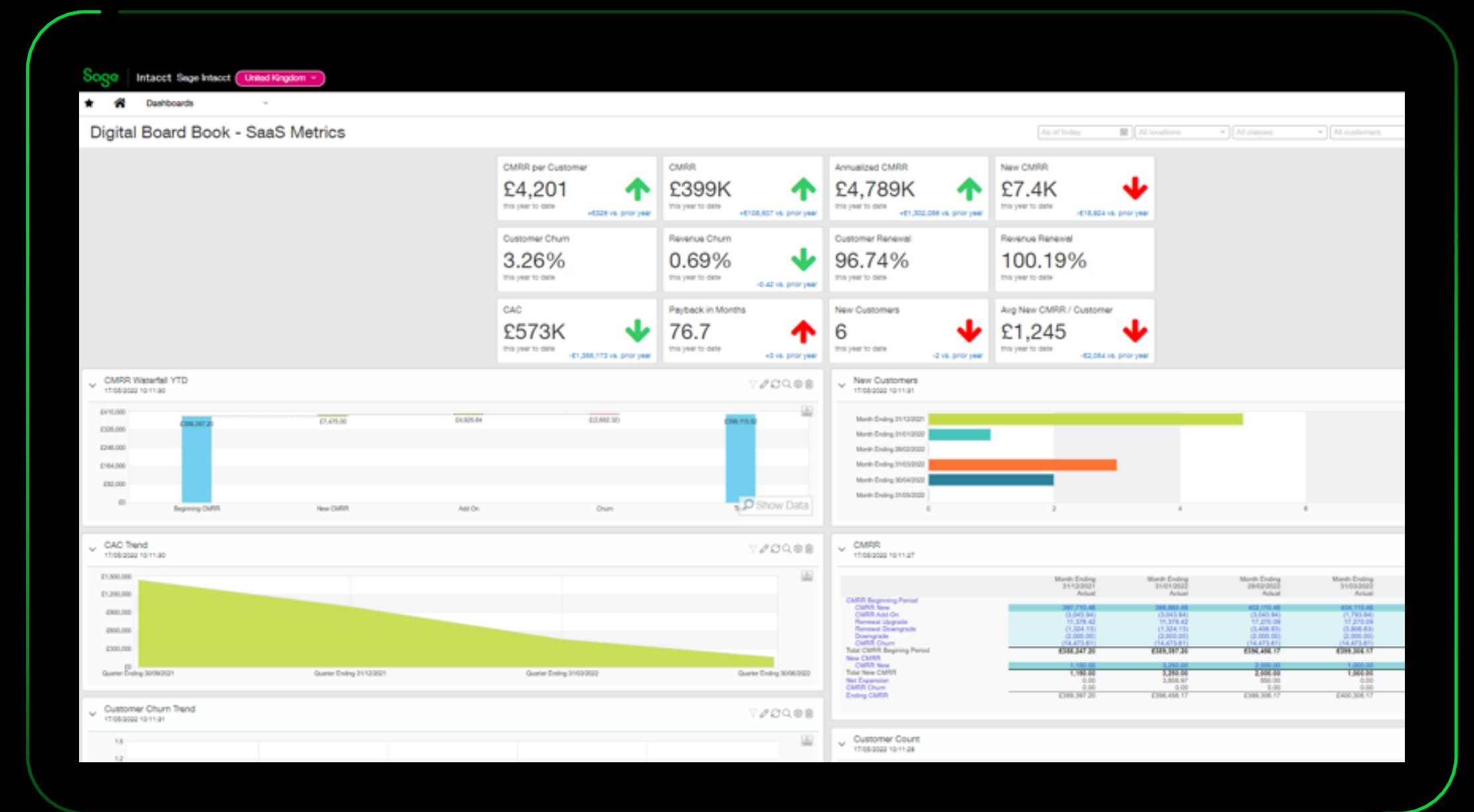
- Enables Trusts to consolidate hundreds of entities in seconds.
- Delivers immediate visibility into financial data with intuitive, real-time reporting and dashboards—at individual school and overall Trust level.
- Reduces risk and cost with automated workflow and internal controls.
- Easily supports statutory education reporting including DfE, ESFA and VAT 126.
- Provides anytime, anywhere access for staff and volunteers, increasing finance department productivity by 60% or more.
- Reduces IT infrastructure costs and complexity.
- Integrates seamlessly with other critical business applications via an open API.

# Features and benefits: Empower the modern accounting team

**Sage Intacct makes your team more effective and efficient from day one. The solution enables you to create tailored dashboards and reports—on the spot—that are relevant to your Trust’s specific mission and operational measures. Plus, you can do your job from any browser with confidence.**

This allows you to easily provide views to non-finance personnel including the executive team, finance committee, and other key stakeholders that require insight for decision making, including full drill-down capability to source documents.

You can also empower non-finance personnel to initiate finance department interactions such as purchase requisitions, budget to actual, expense requests, and more with flexible electronic workflows, easy-coding rules, and anywhere access.

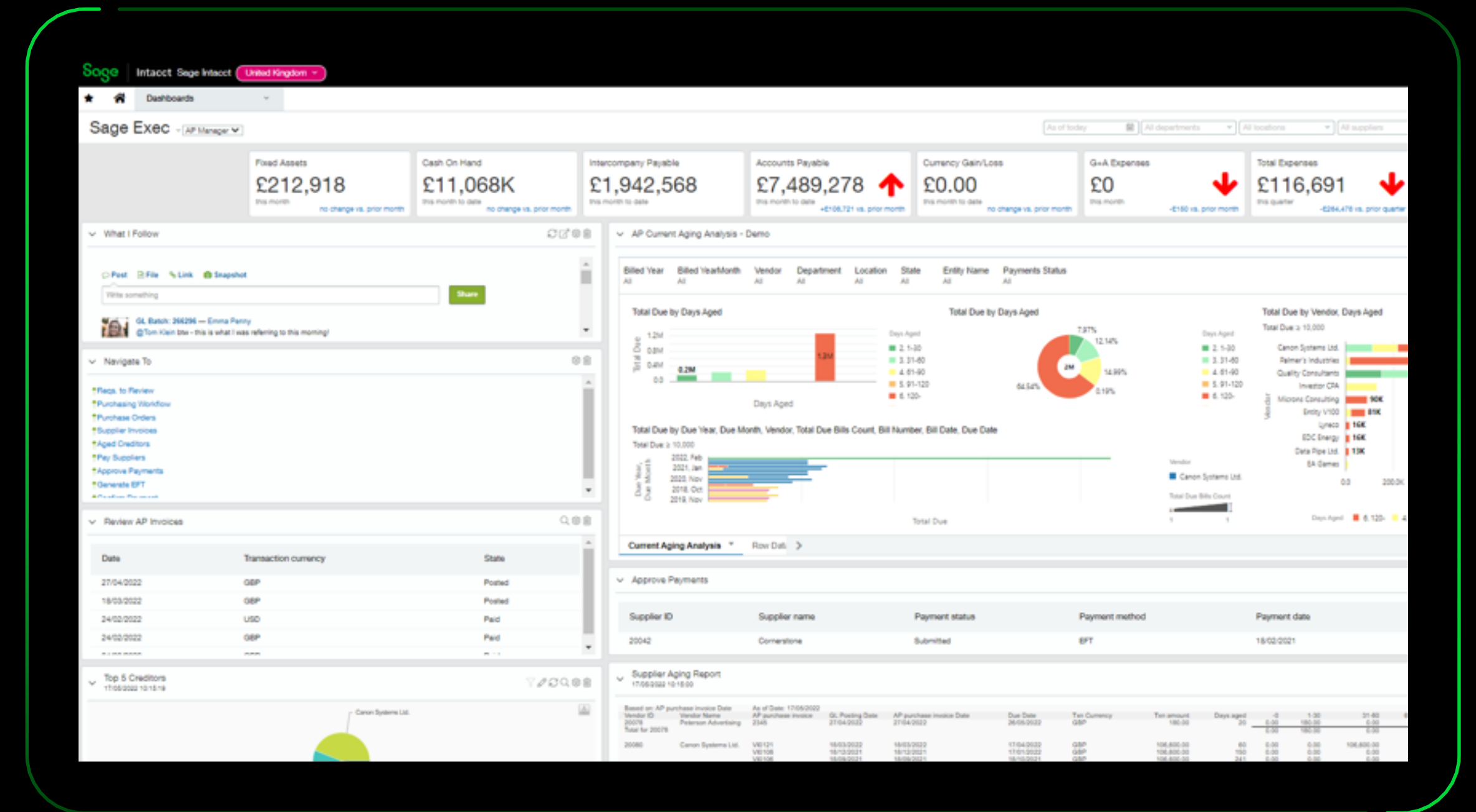


# Features and benefits: Gain real-time operational and financial visibility

The days of flying blind with poor reporting and visibility are over.

Sage Intacct provides a rich, multi-dimensional, multi-ledger system that enables you to easily capture granular financial and operational data for each school.

Gain real-time visibility into every aspect of the financial health of each school and the Trust as a whole. Intacct's role-based dashboards and rich reporting and analytics make it easy to monitor it all and to accurately budget for the months ahead.



**Sage Intacct automatically keeps your sub-ledgers and your general ledger synchronised in real-time, so you always have instant access to summaries and balances as well as transaction details.**



# Features and benefits: Master multi-entity, multi-location management

**Your Trust might be complex, but your system doesn't have to be. Whether you manage many schools or just a few, Sage Intacct automates multi-entity, multi-site operations.**



With built-in automation and one-click solutions, Trusts can streamline:

- Inter-entity transactions.
- Budget allocations.
- Fiscal eliminations.
- Financial consolidation.
- Reporting and analysis.

# Features and benefits:

## Infuse flexibility and automation



**Your system should work the way you do, not the other way around.**

Designed to evolve with your Trust, Sage Intacct provides:

- Instant visibility over budgets.
- Complete control of data insights.
- Hundreds of in-built reporting templates.
- Real-time information at your fingertips.
- Custom made role-based dashboards for stakeholders.

**The result?** Actionable insights that help to build a bright future for all the schools in your care.

# Features and benefits: Simplify multi- trust accounting

**From revenue recognition to reporting, Sage Intacct makes it easy to measure the financial health of your schools and demonstrate your financial responsibility to internal and external stakeholders, including HMRC and regulatory bodies.**

Sage Intacct features robust multi-entity accounting, flexible budgeting and planning, real-time reporting, and role-based dashboards. Engage with both Trust and school stakeholders in your financial processes with built-in expense management, time and billing, and purchasing applications—saving a significant amount of time every year.

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**You'll also save hours every month and eliminate errors by getting rid of spreadsheets to calculate allocations.**

# Features and benefits: Strengthen your Trust with best-in- class solutions

**Gain peace of mind with seamless third-party  
business application integrations.**

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At Sage Intacct, we pride ourselves on being the best cloud financial management solution on the market. That's all we do. And we believe you should have the freedom to choose the best solutions for all the other areas of your Trust.

Sage partners with a number of unique resellers who develop and deliver industry cloud-based solutions such as Sage Intacct, specifically for multi-academy trusts looking to financially transform how they operate. Not only this but we partner with more than 200 software solution providers—enabling

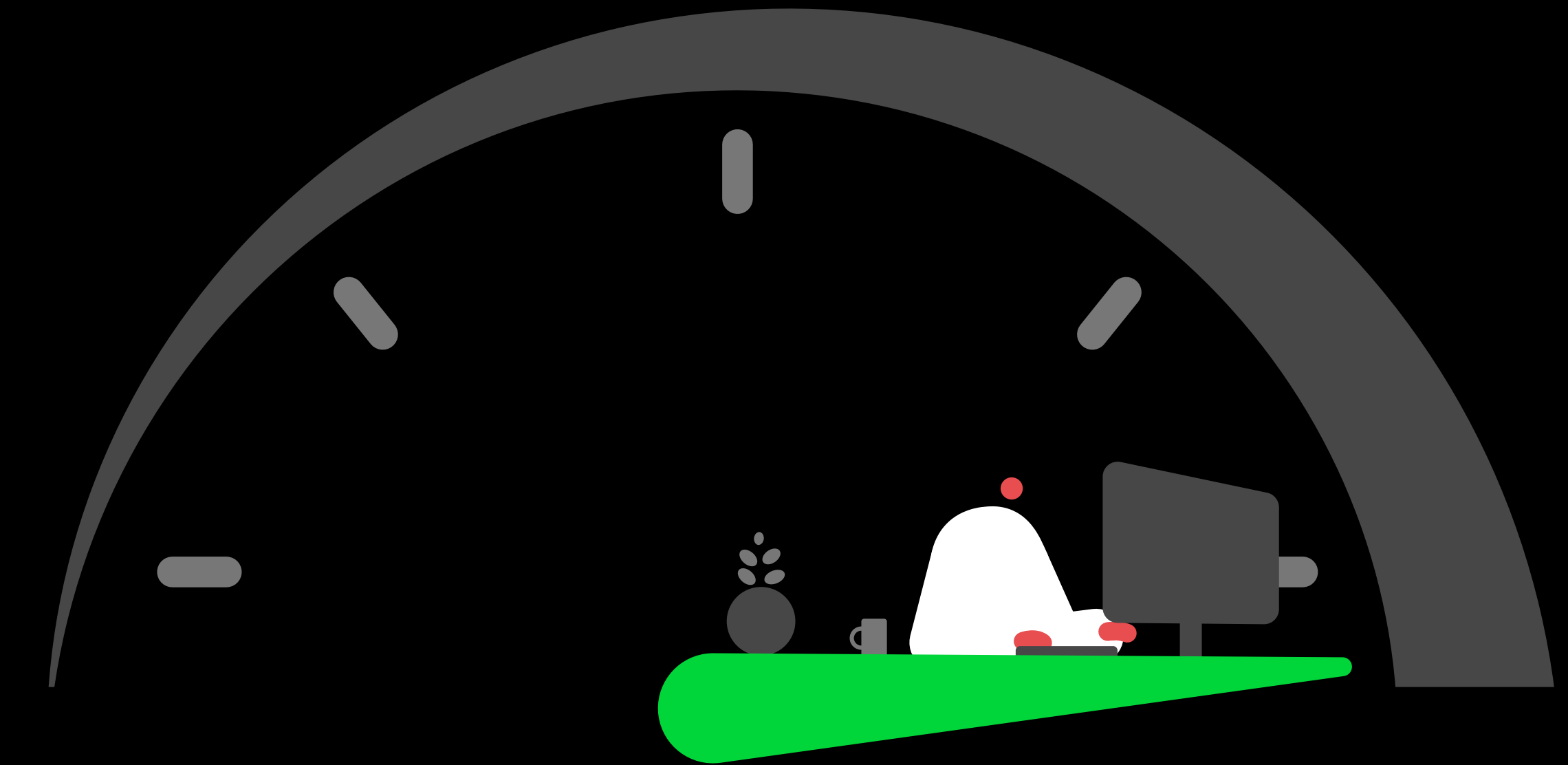


you to streamline processes by connecting Sage Intacct with fundraising solutions like Salesforce.com, payroll services like ADP, and many more specialised applications.

Sage Intacct's open API and true cloud integration strategy allows for easy, intuitive imports or seamless integration via web services. This ensures that your finance team stays current with modern processing and reporting insights for your management team by harnessing technology to work smarter.

# Conclusion: Improve your financial performance with Sage Intacct

**“Do more with less” is the mantra of today. Sage Intacct can help you improve performance by providing you with the visibility, flexibility, efficiency, automation, and integration your MAT needs to succeed.**



Replacing and updating your old accounting solution with a modern, best-in-class cloud solution built for educational institutions can cost less than you think—while saving you time and resources.

We can help you prepare an ROI analysis for your key stakeholders and discover how you can lead your Trust to better stewardship and greater impact.

**Our goal is to help you meet your goals.**

# Conclusion: Educational resources to help you make the right decision

Learn more about Sage Intacct cloud finance and how it's helping MATs improve performance.

[Browse all MAT resources](#)



# About Sage Intacct: Cloud financial solutions for multi- academy trusts

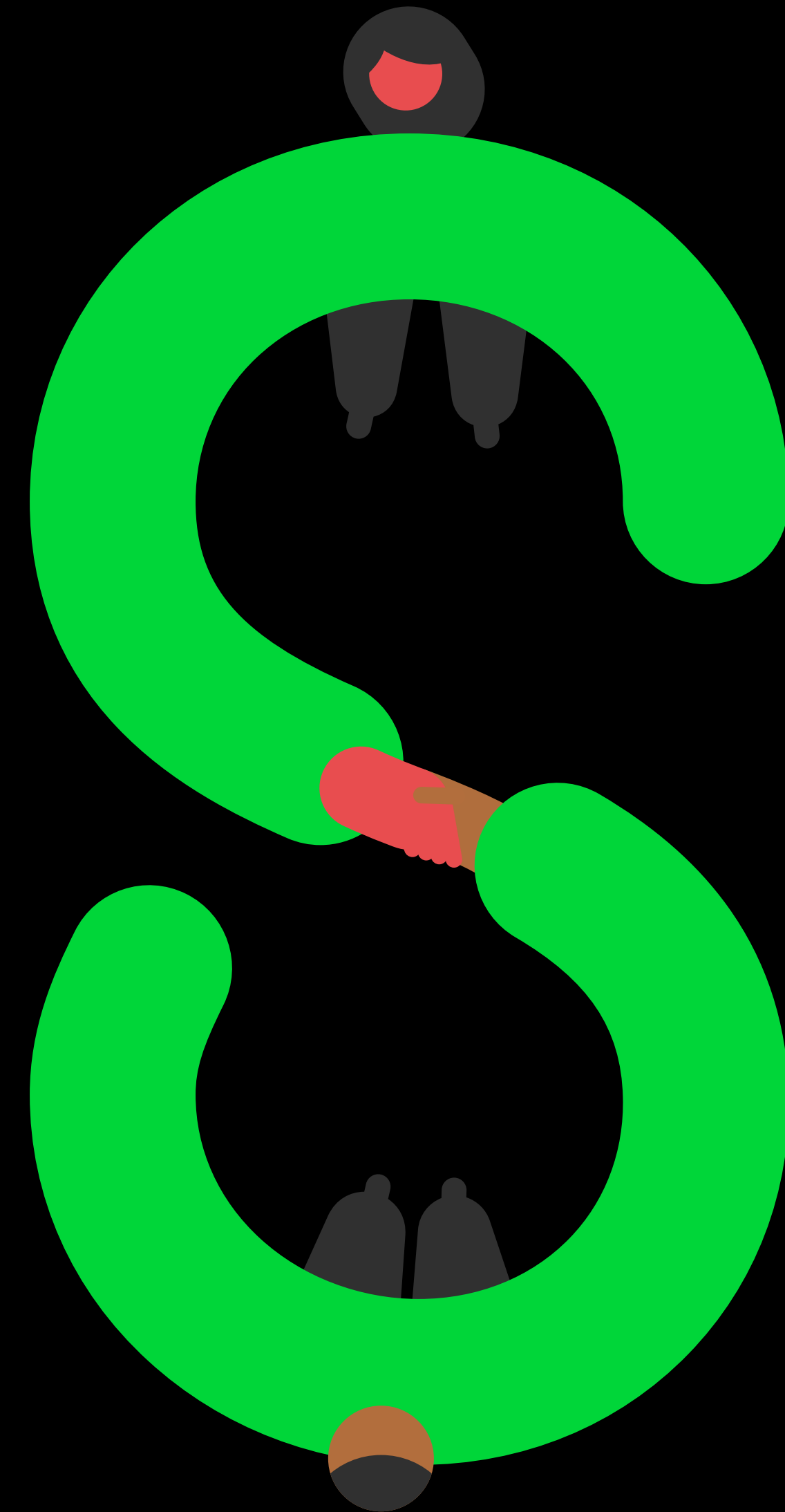
Sage Intacct is built to support growing Trusts who need to minimise complexity and maximise impact.

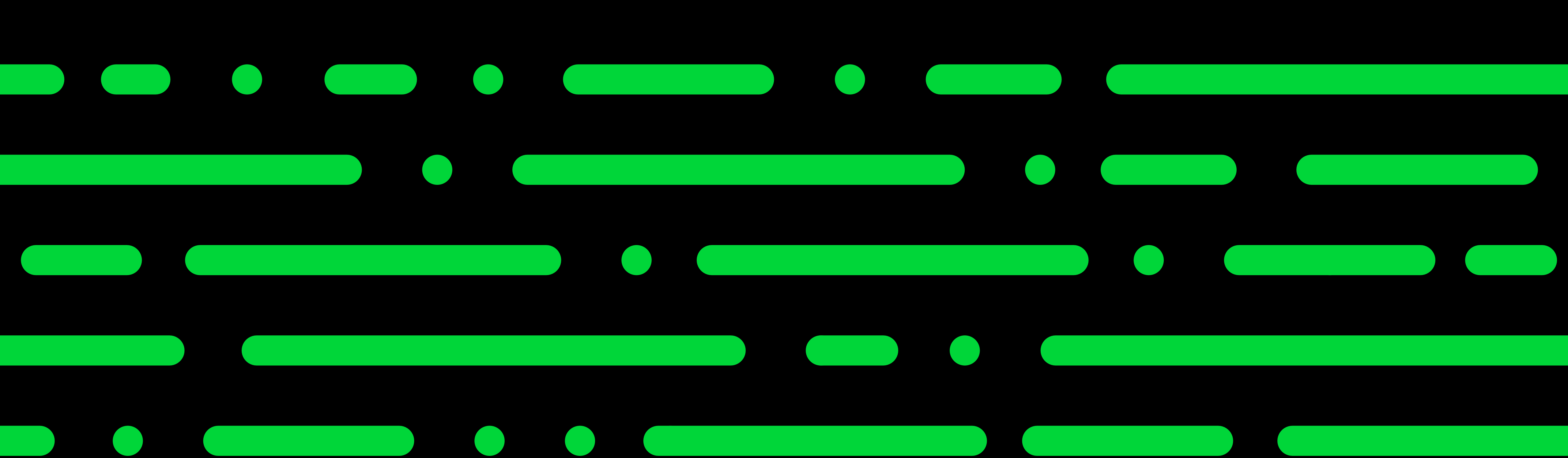
Our solution gives MATs the connectivity, visibility, and efficiency they need to do more with less so that they can focus on the metrics that matter.

**Sage Intacct is rated #1 for customer satisfaction by G2.<sup>2</sup>**

#### SOURCES:

1. 2012 Global Cloud Computing Survey Results, TechSoup Global.
2. G2 Grid Report for Nonprofit Accounting | Fall 2020.





A Sage partner



[sage.com/sage-intacct-education-uk](https://www.sage.com/sage-intacct-education-uk)



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