

Why upgrade to 553?

The release of a new software version is always an exciting time for Integra, and Agresso Business World 5.5.3 was no exception. Contact us to explore how your business might benefit from the new features.

In a competitive climate, organisations and their systems need to continually evolve and adapt to retain a competitive edge. With ABW Unit 4 have focused on an architecture which is particularly well suited to continuous change and adaptation, and the ABW software itself continues to evolve with a programme of new releases. At Integra we are always excited by the possibilities of each new version, and keen to explore what value they can provide to our customers; something we have been doing since 1995.

For those customers still on version 5.4 at upgrade is now a pressing consideration, and we have set out some of the benefits and new features available from an upgrade below.

There are always opportunities to add value in a new release and we are committed to ensuring that our customers get the best out of 5.5.3."

Mark Bloomer – Managing Director

Integra played an important role in our Agresso 5.5 upgrade and in our wider project of functional improvements.

They provided knowledge of 5.5 functional differences, understanding of the 5.5 upgrade process and expertise in Agresso design and usage in general.

Stephen Spencer - Project Manager - Detica

What new features does Agresso Business World v. 5.5.3 Offer?

Firstly, how does version 5.5 differ from version 5.4?

Firstly, for those Agresso users who are still using version 5.4, we have included a brief summary of some of the principle new features of version 5.5.

- **Workflow** - the workflow features became far more comprehensive, flexible, action overview and configurable. Compello is replaced by Agresso's own workflow tools.
- **Flexi-Fields** - a powerful additional data storage tool which offer new reporting and processing potential. Skilful configuration choices can be used to build powerful new solutions.
- **IntellAgent improvements** – including workflow integration.
- **Security and data control** – have been improved to allow more flexible tailoring of options.
- **Bank Reconciliation** – a much more user-friendly and flexible module.
- **Technical Changes** – new TopGen framework and new customisation options.
- **Human Resources** – expansion of the number of fields available, and enhanced search capability.
- **Planner** – creation of budgets based on existing data and integration with Payroll.

What new features does version 5.5.3 offer?

For Agresso users who are on earlier versions of 5.5, we have included a brief summary of some of the main new features in version 5.5.3

- **Fixed Assets** There is a completely new Fixed Assets module which has comprehensive new features and is capable of meeting a range of regulatory standards for assets reporting. The module is integrated with the financial ledgers, Project Costing and Billing and the Planner module.
- **Purchase to Pay** Improved document handling, better process view and matching functions, highlighting of discrepancies and more tolerance checking options.
- **Human Resources** Enhancements to absence means that absence balances are now visible and there is an ability for users to maintain their own work schedule.
- **Workflow** It is now possible to redistribute items through workflow if there are items to follow up. A two step approval has been introduced, so there is no need for the same approver to approve a transaction more than once.
- **Planner** Creation of budgets based on existing data and integration with Payroll. Integration with HR provides ability to use reference rates in budget calculations. Enhancements to the data entry screens can speed up budget entry.

When and Why should you Upgrade?

You may already have had a demonstration of version 5.5.3, but need to justify an upgrade to the organisation and the project sponsors. Integra can assist with putting together a business case for the upgrade.

What Benefits Can an Upgrade bring?

- **Retention of Support** At some stage support for older versions will expire. Agresso normally supports the current and one previous version. With version 5.6 released in Q1 2011 those users still on 5.4 will need to upgrade soon.
- **Quality of Support** Quality of support will be better on a current, well established version. Very new or very old versions are likely to have lower levels of knowledge available.
- **New Functionality** Depending on the specific requirements of your organisation there may be important new functionality available in a newer release. Experienced consultants can understand your issues and how new functionality can help you resolve them.
- **Bugs Fixed** New releases may fix or offer new work-arounds for bugs which are currently impacting your organisation.
- **Systems Development** It becomes increasingly difficult to justify developing and improving your system on an old version as any development may have to be re-visited in newer versions. An upgrade can provide a better platform for further systems development.

"Prior to the project start, we performed a 2-day application review with Integra, which identified possible solutions and benefits from the upgrade to 5.5.3. Integra came up with inventive solutions for our processes, using mostly Agresso standard product as per our brief. The results helped us stay on time and on budget, as we knew in advance what areas to focus the project resources on.

Integra was very flexible in providing support to meet our needs throughout the project and the consultants were hands-on and honest in their approach.

The input from Integra's project manager was valuable in keeping everyone's focus on the overall plan at all times and allowing enough time for testing and trial runs. The live migration was therefore a smooth event, as un-foreseen issues found in the trial migrations had been addressed beforehand."

Financial Manager for an International PR Firm

What Services Does Integra Offer?

By working with Integra on an ABW upgrade you will be well positioned to deliver real business benefits and a smooth upgrade process.

Our experience will ensure that your upgrade is carefully assessed in terms of the benefits it can bring, and that the costs and risks of the upgrade are minimised.

We can offer a number of services around the upgrade process including:

- Assistance with the business case and scoping of your upgrade
- Project management services
- Application consultancy
- Test planning and script writing
- Training
- Technical services including installation and development and Crystal to ARC conversions.

What Problems can an Upgrade bring?

- **Cost** There is inevitably a cost to upgrading, although our experience of upgrades will ensure that the process is carried out as cost efficiently as possible.
- **Disruption** An upgrade will cause some level of disruption to your business. Integra's experienced consultants can assess and minimise the level of disruption.
- **Opportunity Cost** What other projects will have to wait whilst your resources are working on an upgrade? Using external consultants can help free up internal resource and minimise the opportunity cost.
- **Risk** With new releases there are risks of teething problems with the software itself. Changes may not be accepted by the business, or new bugs may be found in the software. Integra can help assess how great the risk to your organisation is and how well placed you are to deal with it. 553 is now a tried and tested release, but Integra can help with your organisation's testing and change management to ensure that the remaining risks are minimised.

Some of our 5.5.3 Projects

Integra has been working with 5.5.3 since October 2008. A selection of our projects are listed below. This is only a small sample of projects and further information can be provided on request.

- For the UK's leading provider of educational IT products and services we provided a full range of application consultancy services across a wide range of modules for a new 5.5.3 implementation. For this project we were the sole provider of consultancy services from the inception to completion of the project, and only the license fees were purchased from the vendor.
- For an environmental consultancy we provided the application consultancy, build, test, training and technical services from shortly after inception through to completion of a new 5.5.3 project for a complex build.
- For a world leading supplier of renewable energy solutions we have provided application consultancy services for the upgrade to 5.5.3 including consultancy on Planner, PCB, Workflow and document archiving, including how to make best use of a number of new features.
- At a Metropolitan Borough Council we undertook a review of 5.5.3 Workflow and Data-load which had already been configured. We were able to make a number of recommendations and suggestions to create an alternative, more bespoke approach, which was better suited to the Council's operations. We also reviewed Data Control and Menu Access, and were able to assist the council to streamline an area which had become complex and high in maintenance overhead during the transition to 5.5.3. A bespoke SQL view provided a clearer picture of the council's set up.
- For an NHS Trust we provided project management services for the upgrade from 5.4 to 5.5.
- For a university we project managed a new implementation of version 5.5.1 from inception of the project, and then managed the upgrade to version 5.5.3, including the provision of technical and application consultancy, and Crystal to ARC conversions.
- For a property company we have provided application consultancy for a 5.5.3 implementation across the Financials, PCB, Logistics, HR and reporting modules. This has been delivered to a number of worldwide locations in Asia the Middle East and Europe. We delivered technical services to build ARC reports, Topgen screen enhancements, build custom field helps and interfaces to other internal systems.
- For a Specialist Business and Technology Consultancy we have implemented the new Fixed Assets module.
- For a Not for Profit Organisation Integra has created ARC reports for the Purchase and Sales Order

Please contact us for further information on how we could assist your organisation with an Agresso upgrade, or with a new implementation. We are always pleased to discuss your requirements on an informal, no obligation basis.