

## SYNON/FINANCIALS

### GLOBAL SOFTWARE FOR THE '90S AND BEYOND

Synon/Financials is a fully integrated Global Financial Management Application. Forged out of innovation it provides all the benefits expected from an object-orientated data-driven system developed in a CASE environment.

Combined with its richness of functionality, highly consistent user interface and effective use of sensible user defined defaults, Synon/Financials is as appropriate for large multinational conglomerates as it is for smaller organisations that trade within a single geographic boundary.

Whatever your requirements Synon/Financials has the flexibility to cope; with a customer base that extends across most industrial sectors including:

- Manufacturing
- Distribution
- Transport
- Engineering
- Wholesaling
- Retailing
- Services
- Insurance
- Healthcare

### THE CHALLENGE OF THE 90'S AND BEYOND

As we progress through the 90's, the commercial environment in which we trade is becoming increasingly volatile. Mergers, acquisitions, restructuring and international free trade agreements are more and more common. New statutory requirements for both corporate reporting and taxation seem almost daily events.

To be successful, companies of all shapes and sizes must be able to react quickly, and seize new opportunities as they arise. Organisations which persist in maintaining the status quo, clinging to the norm and ignoring new advances in software design, will stagnate, lose market penetration, and fade.

*"The important thing was that it had an extremely sound design, and when the core is good, you can't go wrong.... The level of commitment and support given by Synon, coupled with the quality of its products, has more than justified our investment.... With Synon's help, we have unleashed the power of information to our staff and equipped them to improve productivity and keep the company successful in the 1990s and beyond"*

*Pat O'Malley  
IT Manager,  
Irish Biscuits*

Synon/Financials is the new generation of Financial Management applications. It has been specifically engineered to help companies meet the challenges of the 90's and beyond, to exploit their competitive advantage, identify new markets, and keep pace with trading conditions.

A 'clean sheet' development, Synon/Financials carries none of the baggage of conventional accounting systems. Such problems as not being able to post into next or previous months, having to use batch updates that shut systems down, or requiring separate updates for AR, AP, Cashbook and then G/L, are all consigned to the dustbin of history.

### Innovation founded on business object engineering

Synon/Financials makes best use of current technologies and development methodologies to deliver real competitive advantage as well as significant gains in productivity.

### Consistent user interface for Windows or NPT paradigms

Common User Access (CUA) standards have been adopted throughout the system giving a consistent user interface that is effective in either Client-server/Windows or Non-programmable terminal (NPT) paradigms.

Synon/Financials is very intuitive to use, significantly reducing the learning curve for new staff and improving mobility of existing staff to cover for holidays, sickness and peaks in workload.

### Object oriented design

Synon/Financials' advanced object-orientated database design provides a degree of flexibility that is only available as a result of the incorporation of reusable business objects such as:

- Date methods
- Value formats
- Holiday sets
- Tasks
- Commands
- Collection statuses
- Document types
- Settlement methods
- Menus and commands
- Narrative

*"The fact that Synon/Financials deviated somewhat from the usual design of a financial package raised some eyebrows, but once we understood the approach behind the design and the flexibility of the package, we realised the advantages it would deliver.... All the screens in the system have an extremely consistent 'look and feel' making it very intuitive to use..... Without the benefits we have gained from using Synon/Financials, I would need twice the number of staff to cope with the workload..... I have absolute confidence in Synon/Financials because the ledgers cannot be partially updated, even if we lose power when transactions are being posted "*

*Wayne Humphries*

*Financial Controller, TWR Group.*

### Model based CASE development

Developed entirely in a CASE environment Synon/Financials uniquely combines the benefits of off-the-peg packages with their savings in time and cost and the fit of bespoke with the ability to meet your business needs.

Synon/Financials is a Synon Model Application and includes, as standard, the Synon/2 model - the high level design repository. Using Synon/2's powerful CASE facilities you can extend, tailor and integrate other systems with Synon/Financials far more efficiently than is possible with traditional packages.

### RAD Methodology

Rapid Application Development methodology is widely recognised as the most appropriate development environment for any CASE developed solution. The effective use of RAD methodology in the initial and ongoing development of Synon/Financials enables Synon to be more responsive to market conditions and user requests than its competition. This means that new releases, addressing more of your business needs, are provided on a regular basis. The Development, QA and Documentation standards used by Synon have all been documented and are provided as part of the comprehensive documentation delivered with the application.

### Unique architecture

Synon/Financials unique architecture is predicated on real financial management requirements. It jettisons the unacceptable constraints of those legacy packages with separate A/P, A/R and G/L which are little more than computerised implementations of the mechanical card accounting machines that were popular in the 1930's 40's and 50's.

Synon/Financials is a 'clean-sheet' development that is based on fundamental accounting principles totally re-engineering the financial management process to provide significant commercial and operational benefits.

### Separation of meaning and structure

Traditional packages embed corporate structure in the chart of accounts, which limits your ability to analyse and restructure your business. Synon/Financials' coding systems separate out meaning and structure allowing you to define the business objects on which your General ledger is based. As a result you can maintain and use as many charts of accounts as you need - operational, statutory, budgetary, pre- and post-acquisition and so on.

The ability to define any number of hierarchies over your business objects means you can, from the same set of data, report to any statutory accounting standard be it US GAAP, UK GAAP or indeed France's Plan Comptable.

### Executive analysis system

To capitalise on the freedom offered by the separation of meaning and structure, Synon/Financials provides a powerful four-dimensional analysis system which presents information in any report format which can be viewed on screen, sent to a printer, or downloaded to a proprietary spreadsheet. The multi-dimensional on-line drill-down to the lowest level of detail is particularly powerful in a Windows or OS/2 client-server environment where 'cut and paste' functionality allows for very quick and easy production of complex reports and graphical representations of corporate information.

### Dynamic trial balance

Synon/Financials allows operating units (cost centres, profit centres etc.) to move freely and instantly from one company to another, while preserving the integrity of both their trial balances irrespective of operating currencies.

### Personal ledgers and Trading partners

Every business has trading relationships, typically with agents, subsidiaries, distributors and affiliates, which fail to conform to the normal trading pattern for payables and receivables. Reconciling these complex relationships and maintaining clear visibility over corporate exposure can be a nightmare. To resolve these problems Synon/Financials allows you to maintain a single set of records for each trading partner or Entity. You can then define any number of trading relationships, both payable and receivable (or both) with any Entity via Personal accounts in the various Personal ledgers you define to the system. The benefits of this approach are enormous.

#### *Improved productivity*

By bringing the exceptions into normal trading patterns, no longer will 20% of your business take 80% of your effort to administer.

#### *Absolute flexibility*

Personal ledgers (Accounts payable and Accounts receivable in traditional terminology) are treated as business objects and are completely user defined. Each Personal ledger has its own user defined

ageing structures, account statuses, settlement terms, accounting periods, collection parameters and so on.

#### *Corporate wide credit management*

Synon/Financials provides on-line details of your corporations total exposure to any trading partner across ledgers and companies, irrespective of trading currencies.

#### *Flexible inter-company trading*

You have complete flexibility in managing the trading relationship between companies within the your corporation. You can either allow Synon/Financials to handle these complex relationships automatically within the General ledger or you can set up customer/vendor relationships via the personal ledgers offsetting payable with receivables across operating currencies.

#### *Corporate wide trading statistics*

Synon/Financials optionally allows you to maintain trading statistics about your relationship with your trading partners. It will record the volumes of business, the frequency of payment, settlement discount information and so on. It will even work out the average days your customer take to settle their debts on a periodic basis, provide invaluable trend information over time.

All this information is available on-line and provides real competitive advantage when negotiating terms of business with both customers and vendors.

#### **Single level file structure.**

Synon/Financials eliminates all the transaction processing problems associated with traditional systems. Problems such as batch updates failing, ledgers not reconciling, data being lost or corrupted, audit trails being broken, duplication of data and ledgers being unavailable while being processed.

This is achieved by the use of a single set of inter-related database files. When transactions are entered into Synon/Financials the data is stored in these files and is never moved on. A transaction becomes part of the book of accounts simply by changing its status. All ledgers are updated at the same time and therefore can never be out of balance.

The benefits flowing from this unique approach are significant.

*"We were unfamiliar with the layout of the system and initially nervous about how to access data, but the system is very intuitive to use and we soon realised the tremendous advantages of Synon/Financials and the wealth of information that was now accessible..... Our auditors could access the information on-screen without effort, whereas this would have required extensive research through piles of paperwork under the old system"*

*Tom Hope - Financial Controller , Irish Biscuits.*

#### *Optimised hardware utilisation*

Because there is no duplication of data across independent sets of files disc utilisation is extremely efficient. This means you can maintain detailed information over greater periods of time than is possible with traditional systems thereby avoiding the need to search through mountains of reports or boxes of old invoices to resolve simple queries.

#### *Very high data integrity*

Once entered data is never moved round the system. All ledgers are updated at the same time. It is therefore virtually impossible to loose or corrupt data. Your ledgers will always reconcile.

#### *Access to information*

In Synon/Financials, no matter where you start your inquiry you can always drill down to the lowest level of detail, displaying the original transaction in its entirety with its associated audit stamps showing who, when, where and how it was entered.

#### *Robust audit trails*

Combining the security of data and the ability to always access information down to the lowest level of details results in very robust audit trails. Synon/Financials will certainly reduce your auditors workload.

#### *Powerful defaulting mechanisms*

Information that is common to all types of transactions is maintained in the systems as user defined defaults. This means that when transactions are being entered into the system, only the information that makes an individual transaction unique needs to be entered.

Reducing the most resource intensive activity to only dealing with exceptions only provides significant gains in productivity.

#### *System Availability*

How often have overnight batch updates of the ledger failed and have to be rerun during the day, preventing access to the ledgers affected.

There is no such processing in Synon/Financials. The ledgers are always available thereby completely avoiding expensive down time.

### Powerful on-line credit management functionality

Effectively managing your outstanding debts is a process that is crucial, it is the success of any organisation. The leverage and visibility that Synon/Financials provides for effective credit management is second to none.

#### *User defined ageing*

The ageing periods used by Synon/Financials are completely user defined and have the flexibility to age both backwards and forward through time. This means that you choose exactly how your outstanding debts are aged, ensuring that it is done in a way that is most appropriate to your business requirements.

#### *Variable ageing by business type*

There is no limit to the number of sets of ageing periods you can define to the system. You can therefore apply different ageing criteria to domestic and commercial customers, for example. You can also change the ageing criteria used at any time.

#### *Aged debt reports*

Aged debtor reports are available in summary or detail. The latter itemising every open item. The report can be run for all ledgers across companies, for all ledger within a single company, for just one ledger or just for one account in a ledger.

#### *On-line drill down*

In addition to the comprehensive reports available on-line drill down to the lowest level of detail is available on the aged balance.

#### *On-line account re-ageing*

To ensure that you always have an up-to-the-minute accurate view of the outstanding debt an account can be re-aged on-line.

#### *On-line access to payments*

Where an invoice has been partially paid Synon/Financials will display on-line exactly how it has been settled, be it by a cash payment, credit note, debit note, settlement discount, gain/loss on exchange, write-off, correction or offset by a payable transaction.

#### *Cross company visibility*

If you have complex trading relationships where several companies in your organisation you are doing business with the same trading partner, Synon/Financials can display on-line the current exposure across all those companies.

*Automatic credit reviews*

To assist you in identifying where to concentrate your collection activity to achieve the greatest impact, Synon/Financials will automatically run a detailed review of all outstanding balances based on user defined parameters and make suggestions as to the most appropriate action to take.

*Full collections history*

Synon/Financials maintains a complete history of all the collection actions it suggests.

*Automatic generation of Overdue notices*

Synon/Financials has a direct interface to IBM Officevision for the automatic production of personalised overdue notices.

**FUNCTIONAL CHECKLIST**

Synon/Financials has the wealth of functionality you would expect from a world-class financial management solution to enable you to successfully manage your business now and into the future.

*System wide*

- Interactive, On-line & batch transaction entry
- Multi organisational
- Full multi-currency accounting
- FASB 52 support
- Multi language support
- Automatic Inter-company balancing transactions
- Extensive drill-down capabilities
- Fully integrated suite of applications
- Wealth of user configurable components
- User defined transaction entry
- Five independent security systems
- On-line cursor sensitive Helptext with Hypertext glossary
- Re-runnable period and year end processing
- Full set of transaction APIs
- User defined menus and commands
- User defined attributes for transactions, vendors and customers.
- User defined accounting periods
- User defined repeating transaction processing



- Copy/reverse transaction processing
- 14 character alphanumeric transaction numbering
- Optional date dependent automatic transaction numbering
- Over 280 standard reports and listings with multiple selection criteria

#### *General ledger*

- Alphanumeric free format coding system
- Multiple charts of accounts can be maintained
- Flexible user defined structures/hierarchies for reporting and inquiry
- Dynamic Trial balance
- Extensive allocation facilities including dynamic and cascading.
- Full audit trails maintained
- Multi level consolidations
- Daily actual/budget reporting
- Powerful On-line budgeting
- Standing, accrual and reversing journals
- Actual, budget, forecast and statistical data
- Powerful Executive Analysis System offering multi-dimensional drill down

#### *Accounts payable & Accounts Receivable*

- Facilitates multiple ledgers
- Full multi-currency support
- Automatic calculation of realised/unrealised gain or loss on exchange
- Extensive vendor/customer date dependent data maintained
- 10 character alphanumeric vendor/customer numbering
- Automated accruals and prepayments
- AP Vendor/AR customer offsetting
- 1099 processing and reporting
- On-line transaction approval processing
- Recurring payments and standard G/L distributions
- Flexible automated payment routines
- Multi-level user defined settlement terms
- Automatic and single step open-item cash posting
- Return payment/receipt processing
- User defined creditor and debtor ageing
- On-line drill down on aged balances

- On-line account ageing
- Automatic production of overdue notices
- Interface to OS/400 Officevision
- Open-item processing, balance forward reporting
- Cash on account capture
- International Sales/VAT/GST tax recording

*Cash management*

- Multiple Cash books
- Full multi-currency support
- Bank statement import facilities
- Full bank reconciliation
- Production of 'Lodgement Lists' for banking
- On-line single step cash application routines
- On-line creation of adjustments, corrections, write-offs, and debit notes
- Electronic Funds transfer (EFT) processing
- 'Lock box' processing
- Cash commitment analysis
- Automated management of gain or loss on exchange