

# Accounting Software Options for the Small Business Owner

An accounting application is a platform on which to operate an enterprise accounting and data management system. A number of popular open source accounting software are available today, though proprietary products are also available. This type of software is typically free, though there are instances where a license fee may be required. In addition, several businesses choose to implement their own proprietary system, though this will be more costly than using an open source option. Regardless of which option is chosen, it is important to have the accounting functions properly integrated into any system.

One of the leading examples of accounting software explained is QuickBooks. This accounting software can handle a variety of tasks that include file maintenance, payroll processing, online reporting and analysis, and tracking inventory. The key feature of this particular product is the ability to work with both credit cards and debit cards. It is available for purchase on the internet. In addition, some third-party financial institutions offer this product as a service.

SAP and Microsoft SQL Server products are two other examples of accounting software explained. These programs enable users to automatically create reports and to perform analytic functions. In addition, they are able to handle complex business tasks such as customer self-service, order tracking and resource planning. In addition, these products enable users to automatically import financial data from other systems and to export data in various formats, including Excel. They are available for purchase on the internet.

Several companies provide free trials of accounting applications. In addition, they may offer upgrades after the free trial period expires, though these are generally not available immediately. For example, in the case of Citibank, upgrades to its free trial version are available immediately after the account holder makes his or her first transaction. Similarly, Paine Web takes thirty days for a free trial to end and will then charge the account holder for upgrades. These are just two of the many other companies that offer free trials.

There are, however, several companies that provide accounting applications with free trials and then charge for upgrades. Examples include Bank of America, where upgrades are available immediately upon logging on, and Discover Financial, which have a free trial until June 30th, after which it will charge for upgrades. In addition, Microsoft is rolling out its accounting application Nested to Windows Mobile devices. The free trial version is being offered only to testers.

Accounting software that can be downloaded and installed on a laptop is called the accountant. The advantage of this type of application is that it can be carried anywhere, though it cannot generate reports on its own. For example, it cannot generate statements to present to an accounting department or manage receivables. However, the accountant allows an account owner to generate reports from a remote desktop computer, by using either a standard Internet connection or Internet enabled mobile phone. This enables users to go about their daily business even while on the road, since they can access the accounting application from any place that has a computer, such as a hotel room.

The accounting software mentioned above is just one among the leading examples of cloud-

based accounting software. Cloud computing is fast becoming a favorite of small businesses and home-based users. Examples include FreshBooks and PayPal. Both services allow account holders to make purchases online, view invoices online, and enter sales information in a secure environment. They are both simple to use and have an intuitive interface, so that a person of any experience level can use them successfully.

A third example is the invoicing program from Electronic invoice Pro. This accounting program is intended for companies that do not yet have a Web presence, since it is designed to meet the needs of small business owners who need a complete solution for entering data, tracking payments, and setting up payments between customers. It does not have many advanced features, but it has plenty of basic ones, including comment capabilities, accounting programs, and address labels, which allow you to customize the layout of your page, or control how many payments you will make within a period of time.