CPA
Practice Advisor

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From the August 2008 Review of Document Storage Programs

We're all familiar with the unparalleled success that Intuit has had with the QuickBooks product line and the ProSeries and Lacerte tax applications. That success is being leveraged to extend document management capabilities to those product lines. The two document management applications are virtually the same, with the exception of the integration with their respective tax packages. This is consistent with Intuit's stated philosophy of addressing the different needs of different customers.

Usability — 4 Stars
The primary value of these applications results from the direct integration with the tax software. This begins with the automatic creation of the client's tax document folders template when the client information is imported from the tax package. The software offers a very simplistic and easy-to-use interface.

Document Organization — 4 Stars
The Lacerte DMS and ProSeries DMS utilize the traditional client/folder model for organizing documents and files. The default folder structure includes Correspondence,
Permanent File and TYYY (YY=Tax Year). You can modify the default structure to accommodate the specific needs of your organization for all of your clients or for individual clients.

Integration — 5 Stars
As previously noted, the primary benefit of these DMS products is the integration they have with the Lacerte and ProSeries tax products. When you import client lists from the tax software, you can choose to bring in only designated client

types, i.e., individual, 1120, etc. When you print the tax return, you have

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using QuickBooks who want to store files electronically and access them instantly from their PCs. With the Intuit DMS, customers can automatically import their customer, vendor and employee lists from QuickBooks to easily create a well organized filing system. The software is now available for purchase in single-office licenses and being offered for $299.

Annotation — 5 Stars
These DMS products offer a proprietary PDF viewer that includes a number of annotation tools to highlight, apply stamps and images, and add notes to the document. You can then choose to eliminate the annotations from the file when you e-mail it.

Overall Value — 4.5 Stars
The Lacerte DMS and ProSeries DMS products provide easy-to-use document storage solutions for the users of the respective tax products. First-time purchase pricing includes a one-time $600 license fee for the Lacerte DMS and a one-time $450 license fee for the ProSeries DMS, with an additional $150 annual maintenance fee. On subsequent years, the customer renews the software by paying the $150 annual maintenance fee. Training is available through self-paced online webinar recordings; tech support is available via phone and e-mail at no charge.

2008 Overall Rating: 4.5 Stars

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