CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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Dec. 01, 2009

From the December 2009 Review of Fixed

Asset Management Systems

BNA

Software offers a family of software geared toward individual and corporate income tax planning, estate planning, sales and use tax compliance, and several fixed asset management programs and utilities, including options for professional accounting practices, small and large businesses, and an asset inventory system designed for tracking mobile assets. The vendor's core asset management systems are BNA Fixed Assets Desktop and DesktopPro, both of which offer comprehensive

asset management with advanced features for depreciation, tracking and reporting, along with integration into a company's ERP and tax compliance systems.

Included in the DesktopPro version is a utility called Construction in Progress, which enables users to track assets that are built or assembled by an entity. Pricing for BNA Fixed Assets Desktop starts at \$1,760 for a single user. Pricing for BNA Fixed Assets DesktopPro with the Construction in Progress feature starts at \$2,615. BNA also offers a hosted, web-based fixed asset management system that offers additional integration options and compliance tools.

NAVIGATION/EASE-OF-USE:

BNA Fixed Assets opens within a recently redesigned and very intuitive interface that offers pull-down menus across the top for accessing asset data management functions, various data views and system tools. When setting up new clients, the system offers templates and the ability to copy asset information from existing entities, while setup wizards assist with selection of asset types, depreciation methods, life spans and other asset treatment options.

Within client records, an additional button-based toolbar at the top of the

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related files. Buttons for duplicating, disposing, undisposing, splitting, unsplitting and other tasks are available at the bottom of asset screens. Through-out the program, extensive right-click menu options provide additional navigation and assistance options.

MANAGEMENT FEATURES:

In addition to the wizards and guides that aid in setting up client businesses or performing infrequent tasks, BNA Fixed Assets DesktopPro offers a very strong core feature set that enables full-life tracking of all assets, including tracking and depreciation of complex or multi-part assets. The system in-cludes guidance content from BNA experts and researchers, and provides support for all depreciation methods and treatments, in-cluding recently enacted bonus depreciation and Sec. 179 rules.

DesktopPro can manage up to 10,000 assets across any number of client companies, subdivisions, cost centers or geographical locations, and gives users the ability to make global changes to asset treatments even across different companies or all entities being managed with the system. It supports bulk disposals and acquisitions,

partial dispositions, splits, multiple splits, combinations, like-kind exchanges and other asset life activities.

Users can apply pre-built calculations for ACRS, MACRS, sum of years, straight-line and other depreciation methods, while the system comes with standard books for Federal Tax, AMT, ACE, GAAP and E&P, along with the ability to create up to 94 additional custom books. Property types and classes also offer additional support for regular, farm, Indian reservation, Indian farm and government entities.

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coding.

INTEGRATION:

BNA Fixed Assets DesktopPro offers data export into most business accounting and tax compliance systems, as well as the ability to import from Excel-formatted data, which allows it to pull in data from virtually all systems. It can also import from text formats and rival fixed asset management systems. The Enterprise/Web

version of the program also offers integration with these third-party applications, while providing remote access to data through a secure portal.

REPORTING:

DesktopPro's comprehensive reporting capabilities include dozens of predefined standard reports for net book value, asset records, balance reconciliation, dispositions and acquisitions, exchanges, depreciation, projections, gain/loss, FASB 109 projections, and many other options, along with special state reports and IRS asset-related forms and schedules (3468, 4255, 4562, 4626, 4797 and 8824). A built-in report writer provides additional customization features, and all reports can be saved to PDF, Excel, html, text or other common formats.

HELP/SUPPORT:

BNA Fixed Assets DesktopPro offers great wizards and setup guides that ease processes, while also providing right-click menus, a well-stocked Help utility and extensive online support options that include FAQs, documentation, program updates and training options. Unlimited toll-free technical support is included with program pricing.

2009 OVERALL RATING:

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