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Financial Edge, from Blackbaud, Inc. is a sophisticated, easy-to-use financial product designed primarily for mid-sized to large nonprofit organizations. More than a nonprofit accounting product, The Financial Edge provides organizations with financial insight while streamlining daily activities.

BASIC SYSTEM FUNCTIONS:

The Financial Edge is available as an installed product or as a hosted version for complete system access from any location. The Financial Edge maintains an easily navigated user interface with a drop-down menu at the top of the screen, along with module choices. Clicking on a module will update the core interface screen along with the system function menu to the left of the screen. Each module provides a workflow area that houses the major functions found within that module. Users also have the option to create and customize a homepage that is available for all system modules. Data-entry screens are well laid out with drop-down menus and lookup options available throughout. Various tabs enable users to enter extensive data from a single screen.

The Financial Edge offers a wide range of modules, including GL, AP, AR, Allocation Management, Payroll, Point of Sale, Fixed Assets, Cash Receipts, Cash Management, Student Billing, Purchase Orders, Project, Grant and Endowment Management, Budget Management, Advanced Budget Management, Advanced Security, and eRequisitions. The Financial Edge also integrates with The Raiser's Edge, a fundraising module that is widely utilized in the nonprofit world.

With the introduction of The Financial Edge for Small Offices, Blackbaud now has a product that can easily be found in nonprofit organizations and government entities of any size. Modular in structure, even larger organizations can scale up to the product level that suits their needs.

CORE NFP/FUND ACCOUNTING CAPABILITIES:

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more in-depth budgeting solutions for areas such as payroll and employee expense management. Budgets can be created using standard data or user-defined information

to ensure accuracy. The Raiser's Edge provides an excellent donor management system, where users can easily track donations, monitor donor prospects, and track donor performance for past giving as well as projected future giving.

The optional Project, Grant & Endowment Management module provides users with an additional level of tracking for each activity, project, endowment or grant. All fund accounts maintained in The Financial Edge are self-balancing. Users can choose to balance funds by class, project or segment/transaction code.

The Financial Edge also allows for multiple fiscal years with each project or grant, allowing easy cross-year reporting for each entity maintained in the system. An excellent audit trail exists throughout, providing easy access to vital information such as system transactions, including date and time and user data. The product offers a wide selection of e-features, including the ability to email invoices directly to vendors. Add-on modules such as WebInvoicing and WebPurchasing enable users to create invoices and purchase orders from remote locations.

MANAGEMENT FEATURES:

The Financial Edge users can create an unlimited number of dashboards based on information derived from any available panel of information. All dashboards contain drill-down capability for easy information access. The Financial Edge offers what-if analysis, so users can view various scenarios and choose the one most viable for their organization. Security is multi-level, with the ability to set security levels for projects, accounts and queries, along with standard security options such as module and function level settings. The Budget Control feature can be set to warn or never allow, which will check existing budget

levels for overages and will warn users accordingly. The Financial Edge also

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GASB 34. Grant and endowment reporting is available through the Project, Grant and Endowment Management module. All reports can be exported to a variety of formats including Excel, HTML, Crystal Reports, ODBC, RTF, Word or XML.

INTEGRATION/IMPORT/EXPORT:

The Application Programming Interface (API) makes it easy to integrate with third-party products. Common file formats used for data import and export include HTML, Excel, Word and XML. Blackbaud also offers a variety of products that are all designed to integrate with its core product to provide a complete nonprofit solution. Users can provide their accountants with a password to access system functions.

HELP/SUPPORT:

The Financial Edge offers an excellent Help function for each system module. System updates are available on the vendor's website and can be downloaded when desired. Blackbaud's website contains an outstanding selection of information, including user guides, FAQs, a product Knowledgebase, and a selection of training options. The Blackbaud Advantage support plans offer varying levels of support based on organizational needs.

SUMMARY & PRICING

The Financial Edge for Small Offices starts at an affordable \$2,995, and is suitable for up to three users. Standard modules begin at \$2,000 each. The Financial Edge is just a small portion of the financial, fundraising and donation management products offered by Blackbaud. This very comprehensive system is an ideal fit for larger nonprofits that require a high level of accountability and analysis.

2010 Overall Rating:

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