#### **CPA**

#### Practice Advisor

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CCH Small Firms Services has recently streamlined the payroll compliance options previously co-branded as solutions from ATX and TaxWise. Now only one product, Payroll, is provided and provides full integration with both product lineups. Several new features have been introduced in the current edition including automatic system updates and downloads and enhanced data import options.

### **Basic System Functions: 5 Stars**

Payroll is the new streamlined product offering from CCH Small Firm Services and is installed as a desktop or server based solution. Data entry screens are easy and intuitive to navigate and all payroll client data may be accessed from one user login.

An unlimited number of users is supported within the system and each user may be

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Unlimited payroll runs may be processed within the system and each payroll run may be processed individually by employee or through batches. Departments may be assigned to employees and paychecks may be allocated across multiple departments based on percentage. As payroll is processed, the program calculates appropriate withholding amounts to help ensure accuracy. Net bonus check processing is provided through a gross-up calculation tool provided with the system.

The program supports MICR printing for checks. Direct deposit is supported for up to four separate bank accounts for each employee. Processing of all direct deposits is done outside of Payroll but bank upload files may be generated to assist the process.

## Reporting & Monitoring: 4.25 Stars

Payroll includes tax tables for federal and all states with a payroll compliance requirement. Local taxes are supported but will require users to set up and maintain the fields and forms for each payroll client. Federal forms 940 and 941 may be electronically filed using a separate program, Payroll Compliance Reporting. Through this program, full processing capabilities for W-2s and 1099s is supported as is electronic filing of Form W-3 with the Social Security Administration. Paper filing of all compliance reports is natively supported with the system and does not require a separately licensed module.

A fixed number of reports are provided with the system and a few basic filter options are provided with many of the reports. Currently no custom report generation tools are provided, though users may export reports to Excel for further formatting and analysis. All reports may be printed to paper or to PDF formats.

### Integration/Import/Export: 4 Stars

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directly from ProSystem fx Practice Management through licensing of the premiere edition of Payroll. Third-party timekeeping solutions may be imported through text import data mapping.

#### Help/Support: 4.75 Stars

New for the current release is an automatic notification of program and tax table updates. Previously, users were required to visit the CCH Small Firms Services website to obtain all updates. Users are now provided an automatic download of these updates. All updates are released on an as needed basis and are included with the annual licensing fees.

Payroll includes a drop down help menu in the navigation bar that provides dedicated access to a variety of help options. A searchable help is provided for users to find specific information on data entry screens and reports. A PDF user guide noting detailed use of the product is included on the help menu and all program updates are captured in a PDF release note summary. Unlimited US-based telephone, fax, email and online support are also included with the annual licensing fees. Self-guided and web based training options are available from CCH Small Firm Services for additional pricing.

#### Client Self-Service Features - NA

CCH Small Firm Services ATX and TaxWise do not offer employee self-service functions.

#### **Best Firm Fit**

Accounting professionals processing a large number of small business payrolls

### **Strengths**

• Cost effective method of processing multiple payroll clients

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ATX Payroll and TaxWise Payroll are systems designed for simple data entry and easy processing of multiple small business payroll clients. The solution may be purchased as a standalone product or through the available Client Accounting Suite for a comprehensive accounting system. Pricing for Payroll is currently set at \$399 per year and includes all features and support options noted. The Client Accounting Suite with Payroll solution is currently priced at \$1,009 and includes all accounting modules as well as a webinar training session.

# 2014 Overall Rating: 4.5 Stars

Payroll

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