CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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Accounting CS Payroll is now well established as a high volume payroll solution. Scalable to nearly any size organization, the solution is designed to process payroll in batches. Accounting CS Payroll is a separate module available to users of the Accounting CS system. New features this year include the Complete Payroll Output feature and also the ability to reprint individual payroll check and to filter payroll tax forms based on status.

Basic System Functions: 5 Stars

Accounting CS Payroll is designed to integrate with Accounting CS, the accounting software offering within the CS Professional Suite. Built on a SQL database platform, Accounting CS is a sturdy program allowing multiple concurrent users and fast switching between client files. The database platform also enhances security within the system and users from both the firm staff and client staff may be tightly controlled through role-based security.

Each client has a dedicated dashboard that is fully customizable per payroll client. Multiple tabs are available and within each tab separate sections, called portlets, which may be added to further customize the dashboards. Default dashboards and

portlets may be established and applied to other client files as required. An

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to the correct standards. These steps create a high level of accuracy and consistency within the solution and are not reliant on the accounting professional to remember which forms will always be required.

Accounting CS Payroll is intended to process payroll through batch processing. This allows for multiple checks and multiple clients to be processed simultaneously. This dramatically decreases the time necessary to process payroll. Should the accounting professional need to process payroll one check at a time that is accomplished through a spreadsheet style data entry screen. This allows the accounting professional to control all aspects, including altered direct deposit information, of the paycheck should that be necessary.

Prior to completing the payroll run, an on-screen review tool is provided that details the cash needs and other related information. Once reviewed and processed, payroll is either processed for direct deposit or paper checks are generated. The paper checks may be forwarded to the payroll client for printing through the NetClient CS portal option. A new feature this year is the ability to reprint an exact copy of the original check, including check number, should the check be misplaced, damaged or printed incorrectly on the first run.

Reporting & Monitoring: 4.75 Stars

Accounting CS Payroll has strong reporting options. Included with the system are dozens of preformatted reports. Each of these reports may then be customized through a variety of sorting and filter options. A custom report writer is provided to build reports from scratch if needed. Each report may then be saved and assigned to a report group for future use.

Accounting CS Payroll supports a wide variety of federal, state and local payroll tax compliance forms. Most standard reporting forms are installed with the software.

Upcoming payroll due dates are displayed on the clients dashboard and through a

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for this information. Upon each payroll run, any reports or paystubs generated may be archived within FileCabinet CS, the document management solution from Thomson Reuters.

Timekeeping data may be imported from data entered by payroll clients through NetClient CS portals. This time information, along with any approved employee contact information, is automatically imported to Accounting CS Payroll to help reduce manual data entry. Direct import of time may also be achieved through included text and Excel file import utilities. New for the current year, is the ability to import full payroll data information directly from Excel. This aids in setting up new payroll clients or those converting from a different processing solution.

Help/Support: 5 Stars

Accounting CS Payroll support is provided through a U.S.-based support team. This team is responsible for monitoring all phone and email requests and issues. Web based support is provided to users through a frequently asked questions page and a fully searchable Help & How-To Center. Contextual help is provided in the system that changes based on the screen currently in view. All help and support options may be accessed through the dedicated Help menu.

Web-based and live training options, including a two day payroll summit in May, are available to further enhance the user experience. Many web-based videos and documents are in focused areas to assist users who need focused training in specific areas of the software. Fully customized on-site training is also available. Pricing for training is dependent upon the type and duration.

Client Self-Service Features: 5 Stars

Payroll clients and their respective employees may access payroll data through

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payroll clients to print on their local printers.

Employees may use the portal solution to enter their time, access recent and previous paystub information, annual W-2 forms and to process changes to withholding allowances. Employees may also update their personal contact and address information. All changes, once approved by the payroll client, is then pushed through the system automatically.

Best Firm Fit

Accounting professionals processing large volumes of payroll clients, whether current or after the fact.

Strengths

- Built for smaller clients and scalable to meet needs of large companies
- Payroll setup is maintained by software for accuracy and consistency
- Strong reporting options
- Tight integration with other CS Professional Suite products (additional licensing required)

Potential Limitations

- Few human resource management capabilities
- Some remote access features require purchase and configuration of NetClient CS

New in 2014

• A new payroll sample client template streamlines the setup of new payroll clients.

• More precise address verification pinpoints addresses by specific street location for

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• New payroll data entry options that provide the ability to exclude pay and deduction items per payroll schedule, as well as direct deposit.

Summary & Pricing

Accounting CS Payroll is a payroll solution designed for accounting professionals processing large volumes of payroll data. The system is designed for batch payroll processing, allowing multiple payrolls to be processed simultaneously. Though intended for smaller payroll organizations, Accounting CS Payroll will scale to meet the needs of organizations of any size. Pricing for Accounting CS Payroll starts at \$1,800 for 20 payroll companies. Additional processing may be purchased in bundles of five. Annual renewal pricing is based on a percentage of the initial purchase price.

2014 Overall Rating: 5 Stars

Payroll

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