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Founded in 1980, CYMA Systems, Inc. is one of the oldest personal computer accounting software companies in the United States. The CYMA product family consists of three native-mode 32-bit Windows accounting systems, CYMAIV Financial Management System, CYMAIV Not-For-Profit Edition, and CYMAIV Client Write-Up. Each of the systems is offered in modular form.

CYMAIV Financial

Management System is a sophisticated and comprehensive accounting system, designed for small to mid-sized enterprises. CYMAIV

Client Write-Up is a version of the Financial Management System modified to serve the write-up needs of professional accounting firms.

Adding strength to CYMAIV are the various vertical market solutions that have been developed to integrate with CYMAIV.

CYMAIV Client

Write-Up requires the use of additional third-party products, including Crystal Reports (see below), F9 Financial Report Writer, and a special database engine, the Pervasive.SQL V8 Database. CYMAIV Client Write-Up includes a run-time

engine for Crystal Reports that

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CYMAIV Client

Write-Up consists of general ledger, after-the-fact payroll and financial reporting. Client Write-Up may also be run on an integrated basis with CYMAIV Financial Management System's Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Bank Reconciliation and Purchase Order modules.

The program is marketed by VARs, accounting financial firms and other resale/retail businesses involved in the sale and support of accounting systems, networks and business systems.

The cost for a single-user, new purchase is \$1,495; renewals are \$246.68 (16.5 percent of MSRP of software + additional users). The cost for a five-user system, new purchase is \$3,475; renewals cost \$573.38. Online training is available in one-, two-, and three-hour sessions that are \$79, \$99 and \$119, respectively. On-site consulting and custom training is available for \$125 per hour.

CYMA produces training manuals that range from \$15 to \$130 for a bundle

of manuals. Telephone technical

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group of companies, but I don't need a front-end for client setup. Give me a create/modify screen close to data entry and other tasks, and I'm a happy camper. Data entry was easy to follow and had a heads-down feel. It worked for me. :::

REPORTING & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 4 Stars

Financial Reporting “ARE” very comprehensive. Well, you know I meant to use “IS,” but I’m dealing with plural financial report writers and that can be confusing. Should I use Crystal Reports or should I use F9. I was hoping to find an easy-to-use flexible report writer that would be proprietary to “my” write-up system. Whenever we use third-party products, we get a mix of unknowns added to our “equation.” Updates and portability. What about bugs? Who will be pointing fingers at each other when all I want to do is get a financial statement out the door? Crystal Reports and F9 are current state-of-the-art, top-line

report writers, but they don't

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Client Write-Up the chicken or the egg?

INTEGRATION, IMPORT/EXPORT & PRODUCTION PROCESSING – 3.5 Stars

CYMA offers high-powered integration with other CYMAIV modules. Otherwise, data must be imported through use of the Generic Import in the System Manager. I think it needs more specific program imports. As well, exports are available through Generic Export in the System Manager. However, I found no specific bridge to any tax program.

SCALABILITY & PORTABILITY – 4 Stars

Written to take advantage of advanced Windows features, CYMAIV runs on low-end to higher-end Windows operating systems with support for Microsoft network operating systems. While we can't see any future deployment with Windows 95, high-end systems are well suited to CYMAIV's functionality. Scalability is apparent from single-user to many concurrent users on large networks – I see no problem. Were it not for

the third-party products included

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support packages. CYMA also offers a professional services consulting group that can help with installation, report writing, data repair and a wide variety of consulting tasks. As well, CYMA offers Online Coaching to help walk users through program tasks. Live support is available via web-enabled virtual classrooms.

INTERVIEWS – WHAT USERS HAD TO SAY

Most users felt that getting started with CYMAIV Write-Up was easy. One user commented that “Payroll is more difficult, though.” Another user stated, “Updates are a problem for us; we have our dealer do the installs.” Another user “had problems with Payroll. We couldn’t go back and change it.”

When I asked about export of data to tax programs, I received the same basic replies: “Don’t know, we don’t use that.” When I asked about the quality and effectiveness of support, I was

told, “Support through our

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2004 OVERALL RATING: 4

The choice of a write-up program should be based in large part on identifiable attributes of the write-up program that best fits the sum of the individual needs of the practice. In no particular order, factors that lead to the sum include **setup & learning curve; training & support; program pricing & cost of updates; data conversion, maintenance & storage; efficiency & flexibility; and integration with a practitioner’s other programs** (tax, payroll, analysis, word processing, etc.). Finally, throw in a wild card ‘ the practitioner’s overall dedication to technology.

Technology

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