Apr. 23, 2005

Though Intuit's EasyACCT has been part of Intuit's line of products for several years, it may be familiar to some users as the write-up offering of the now-defunct Tax and Accounting Software of Tulsa, Oklahoma. With solid improvements to the EasyACCT write-up program, Intuit has served notice that it intends to be a force in professional accountant's write-up. That's interesting news for the many practitioners who have been struggling with their clients' adoption of the popular QuickBooks accounting program.

EasyACCT consists of general ledger, payroll, financial statements, bank reconciliation, depreciation, amortization, trial balance, Information Return System (compliance forms module), accounts receivable and accounts payable. EasyACCT is really an all-in-one system, as users don't have an option to purchase individual modules; it's all or nothing. (The information return system is available as a stand-alone product.) Intuit also offers the EasyACCT Business System, which integrates with EasyACCT write-up.

EasyACCT runs on Windows 98se, Windows NT, Windows ME, Windows 2000 and Windows XP. The network version runs on the same operating systems

with the addition of Novell NetWare

assistance on the financial statement design feature, help with previous-year customers and help with EBS business clients. Help with these areas will cost extra ($120 per hour).

LEARNING CURVE & EASE OF USE – 5 Stars

Setup is fast and intuitive. EasyACCT offers free conversion of Creative Solutions' write-up product. It would be nice if they extended this ability to other vendors as well. Data entry is heads-down and fast and features various built-in options that add to user efficiency. Entry screens keep track of debits and credits, and an auto-balance "fail-safe" feature solves and posts out-of-balance amounts should the user attempt to exit transaction entry prematurely. However, it would be nice to have an auto-balance transaction tool while the user is still "IN" transaction entry. Don't get me wrong, fail-safes are cool, but an accessible tool for repetitive

tasks is way cool! Transaction entry

flexible and easy. Multi-department (or division) reporting is a snap. Financial reports viewed to screen are available for immediate editing. EasyACCT offers standardized or custom financial reports. Standard reports are created through an automatic design feature; custom reports are created using a built-in detail layout tool.

INTEGRATION, IMPORT/EXPORT & PRODUCTION PROCESSING – 4 Stars

Integration with other modules is powerful and offers flexibility in meeting client needs. Import is available from EasyACCT modules and from QuickBooks. Export is available to Lacerte and (Intuit) ProSeries tax software. EasyACCT can also export to a spreadsheet. Higher grades could be obtained in the area of Import and Export: If Intuit can program Creative Solutions data in, why can't they program data out? In this regard, Intuit's EasyACCT is not alone. We have far too many software companies that are technically "limited,"

if you get my drift. Production

will satisfy and serve single users to large networks. EasyACCT users at the low end of system requirements, Pentium 3s loaded with Windows 98se or Windows ME, have environments which already suffer their limited fault tolerance abilities to the end that increased burdens cannot be placed on these systems, which is true of most any software application. In other words, the better and more modern the system environment, the more effective the software performance. However, EasyACCT users deploying higher-end Pentium 4s with Windows 2000/XP operating systems will be well positioned to operate the EasyACCT system for years to come.

SUPPORT, TRAINING & HELP SYSTEM – 4.5 Stars

Comprehensive context-sensitive help within the program is always just a mouse click away. A complete user's manual is easily accessed on the program CD. Traditional support

can be accessed via telephone or

but once setup works well."

One user commented that there is "no learning curve and it's very easy to use. All data entry from one screen."

When asked about support, I was told that "support works well. I'm never on hold long, and they always have the answers."

One user stated, "Transaction input has a few kinks; we have to retype a description unless it is a vendor or an employee." Still, the general consensus was, "We are totally pleased with EasyACCT. Wish it had been available sooner."

2004 OVERALL RATING: 4.5

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