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P.C. Software Accounting, Inc. first issued its MS-DOS product in 1985. In 1997, a complete rewrite of the MS-DOS product was undertaken to take advantage of the 32-bit technology of Microsoft Windows. Both products survive today as hundreds of users are still using their DOS systems. However, I did not test the DOS product.

Client Write Up consists of GL, after-the-fact payroll, bank reconciliation and financial reporting. The program has the ability to convert data from many other vendors' write-up systems – a real plus for a quick start to setup.

The single-user price for new users is \$1,195; the five-user network price for new users is \$1,295. Both include an integrated after-the-fact payroll and also bank reconciliation. The package price includes six months

of unlimited WATS support and the

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the user desires an updated program for W2s and 1099s, for subsequent years, it is an additional \$100 each year besides the \$250 or \$350 annual support fee. There are no per-call fees for support, and there are no update fees; if updates are released, users automatically get them, if they are on support. The company also offers advanced training seminars at centralized locations around the country. The cost for these seminars is \$140 per person.

LEARNING CURVE & EASE OF USE – 4 Stars

Setup is logical and driven by menus and sub-menus. Data entry is quick and heads-down. Entry screens are comprehensive, allowing the user freedom in data entry with smart lookup and auto-balancing features available to assist in lookup or account creation on the fly.

REPORTING & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 3.5 Stars

Financial Reports are automatically generated by the system based upon answers to accounting information

provided by the user during client

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to the user's manual. The instructions and documentation in the user's manual weren't overly helpful. This portion of the manual needs to be rewritten and rearranged. There is a separate Flexible Report Writer available for "one-of-a-kind" reports that cannot be generated in Financial Statements.

INTEGRATION, IMPORT/EXPORT & PRODUCTION PROCESSING – 4 Stars

The Windows Computer Checkbook, a 32-bit Windows product, is a companion to Client Write Up, and can be supplied to clients for their use. Checkbook can handle regular, payroll and payable transactions. And information accumulated directly interfaces to Client Write Up, allowing for increased write-up efficiency. Windows Checkbook supports MICR and direct deposit of employee payroll check writing. Alternatively, Checkbook can be used as a data-entry template or to serve clients in a "service bureau like" capacity. A highly customized tax export feature is available to TaxWise users with

whom P.C Software has a special,

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automatically produce HTML and PDF

files for its reports if desired

by the user. This allows users to

export to programs like Excel and

Microsoft Word as well as e-mail

reports to clients.)

SCALABILITY & PORTABILITY – 3.5 Stars

Windows is the future of computing,

and Client Write Up was re-written

to take full advantage of the 32-bit

Windows environment and functionality.

That said, the user manual instructs

network users that “systems

be installed on the local drive

C of the computer and the network

drive. Following this recommendation

leads to faster and easier operation

with fewer network problems. Only

the system needs to be loaded on

each workstation.” Say it

isn't so? So every time the

networked user gets an update, they

have to load at each workstation?

Why can't workstations simply

grab the server-located executable

files and bring them across the

wire to run locally?

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pleased,” and that “P.C.

Software listens.”

They also commented, “Updates are not available on the web but usually are very simple. They send you a disk that loads in two minutes tops.”

One user stated, “We have used the program for 12 years. Setup was easy, and the learning curve was very easy. We use hands-on training and the Lacerte bridge. Bugs are fixed quickly, usually by e-mailing a fix.”

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.

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