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ACCPAC ePOS 5.2 is a unique design in point-of-sale software that brings enterprise-level features to small and medium-sized retail businesses. By deploying the client software over the Internet, ePOS can greatly reduce and centralize administrative tasks for businesses with multiple remote retail locations. For example, one of ACCPAC's 'case study' customers uses ePOS to manage a number of cellular telephone sales kiosks. A central back-office location maintains all accounting records using the integrated ACCPAC Advantage Series 5.2 accounting suite.

#### **EASE OF USE – 4 Stars**

The browser-based interface (ePOS Workstation) provides access to the point-of-sale application. This is intended as a single-purpose application (sales entry), so the functionality that is available from this window is limited to the functions necessary to process sales and returns, and lookup customer

and inventory information. All other

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to help you display a different screen

with the appropriate data-entry and lookup options.

The Main Screen is used to ring up sales. A list in the center of the screen shows the items that have been added to the sale. Three smaller panels at the bottom of the screen display customer information, an item lookup area and transaction totals. Mini-tabs in the lower right-hand corner are also available for Layaway Sale and Finalize Sale. Each tab function is available via a keyboard shortcut to minimize the need to use the mouse during transaction entry. The Item Lookup list lets you select multiple items to add to the sales invoice by simply checking the box beside the desired item(s).

ACCPAC ePOS also supports barcodes for item entry. When all items are entered, you complete the sale by accessing the Finalize Sale screen, where appropriate tender amounts are entered. You can also receive customer account payments from the ePOS workstation application.

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Some of our Enterprise, Corporate, and Small Business Editions are supported. You have several options for database server: IBM DB2, Pervasive SQL, Microsoft SQL Server or Oracle. Linux-based installations are supported as well. For those wishing to run ACCPAC ePOS utilizing the Linux operating system, the database server can run on Linux, in conjunction with ACCPAC Advantage Series running on a Windows-based application server.

Although the technology behind ePOS is somewhat complex, once the centralized server configuration has been completed, client installations are fast and painless, making this a highly scalable solution in environments where the location and number of point-of-sale workstations need to be adjusted quickly to meet seasonal demands or peak check-out times. Since the application is browser-based, only a small 'thin-client' application download is required to have new workstations up and running. The number of workstations

that can be used is only limited

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locations are posted in real time to the central location as they become finalized in the system. However, an offline mode allows the posting of sales, which can then be transmitted at a later time via dialup or other Internet connection. Enough information is downloaded onto the workstation to maintain register functionality, even when a connection to the central server is unavailable.

ACCPAC ePOS works with all common point-of-sale hardware, including barcode readers, weigh scales, pole displays, magnetic stripe readers, programmable keyboards, touch screens, dot matrix and thermal receipt printers, and integrated hardware terminals such as the IBM SurePOS. Multiple register sessions can be opened on the same workstation (till) to control and monitor individual clerk cash and operations. Pricing rules established through the ACCPAC Advantage Series Inventory Control and AR modules are reflected in the price of items as they are rung up. New

customers can also be added at the

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provides both a front-end as well as a back-end accounting solution. ACCPAC ePOS supports various online credit and debit authorization services, including IC VERIFY, PCCharge and CreditCHEQ Direct.

#### **TRACKING/REPORTING – 4 Stars**

Reports available at the workstation level include Transaction Report, Payment Report, Salesperson Report, Detailed Transaction Report and Category Sales Report. In addition, many other reports are available from within the ACCPAC Advantage Series modules for things like inventory and order entry. All reports are based on the Crystal Reports engine, which provides for previewing, printing or exporting to numerous electronic formats.

#### **RELATIVE VALUE – 5 Stars**

State-of-the-art technology and a well-designed user interface make this a very attractive product.

The whole design is flexible enough to run in either a Windows or Linux environment, which in itself is

no small feat. A solid, integrated

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**OVERALL RATING: 4.5 Stars**

Technology

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