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From the September 2005 Review of Mid-Range Accounting Software

CYMA's primary accounting offering is CYMAiv Accounting for Windows Financial Management System, which is available in versions for businesses, not-for-profit (NFP) entities and accounting firms. This system is centered around the base System Manager module, with additional modules available individually for GL, AP, AR, payroll, bank reconciliation, inventory, job costing, sales orders and purchase orders. The mid-range accounting system supports an unlimited number of companies with unlimited subsidiaries/departments, employees and GL accounts. The newest version of the program includes embedded credit card processing in the sales order and AR modules; cross-module drill-down capabilities from GL to documents in the AR and AP modules; new period-based income statements; and enhancements to the bank reconciliation, job costing, inventory and other modules, as well as the addition of grant tracking to the NFP version.

Modules are sold separately at $595 each, but must be accompanied by the core System Manager module, which is also $595 for a single user. To get GL, AP, AR, Payroll, Sales Order and Inventory capabilities, the system would cost about $4,165 for a single user. Adding 10 users across all licensed modules is a flat rate of $4,995. Additionally, the company requires purchase of an annual Software Maintenance Plan with all orders. This costs 16.5 percent of the CYMA software order per year, and provides updates to the program for one year. Therefore, with inclusion of maintenance, a single-user license for the above-mentioned modules would cost approximately $4,850, and a license supporting up to 11 users would cost about $10,670 for the first year and about $1,500 for the annual

maintenance plan thereafter. The purchase of the Pervasive SQL Database is also

using it when she changed to a CPA practice. Since her husband had a degree in computer science, she began to specialize in computer technology and trained several businesses on a variety of software packages. When she retired from active public practice and went to work in the private sector, Salinas recollected having to suffer through software packages that were not based on accounting but rather were based on project management with accounting slapped on as an afterthought. "I swore that as soon as I 'ran' things, I would get my CYMA back," she said.

When she started working at Digital Migration, the firm had decided to move its accounting in-house, so Salinas had her boss look at several packages with her. Her boss was impressed with CYMA's affordability and with the features that he thought he would have to pay more for. "So I am now a happy camper," Salinas said.

EASE OF USE/TRANSACTION ENTRY — 4 Stars
All of CYMA's modules share the same general user interface and are accessible from within the System Manager. The system's browser-like interface, the eDesk, provides access to available modules, as well as system utilities for setting up companies, user rights and other tasks, and has browser-style navigation buttons. The customizable eDesk also contains a URL address field that allows the program to be used as a web browser, access reference tools or contact the company. Shortcut links can be added to the bar, much like the Internet Explorer shortcut bar, allowing quicker access to frequent tasks or reports. Checklists guide company and employee setup, including the determination of accounting periods and setting up the GL. When setting up new companies, templates can be used to speed the process or the user can simply copy another company's settings. The eDesk also offers JavaScript Financial Calculators and various CYMA reference materials.

Modules are accessed from a scroll-down list at the top of the screen, and

she says. "That way, we can keep their business running while I go in and make adjustments, without impacting the unaffected modules."

NOTABLE FEATURES – 4.5 Stars
CYMA Financial Management System maintains a detailed audit trail of all transactions,
deletions, adjustments and edits, and also provides security features that enable management to limit users to only specific modules, tasks, companies or other options. FMS supports an unlimited number of companies, employees and divisions; its inventory module provides real-time tracking of all movements and supports tracking of items in a single or multi-warehouse environment. The inventory system supports FIFO, LIFO and average costing, and integrates with GL, purchasing, sales and job costing. The AP module offers print-ready check formats with support for MICR, and integrates with CYMA's GL, purchasing and job costing modules.

The AR system includes tax processing functions, billing capabilities with customized statements and e-mailable invoices. The bank reconciliation functions can retrieve account-related transactions from AP, AR, the GL and payroll, as well as from the Write-Up module and across multiple companies. Payroll is supported
for all states, with multi-state per employee capability, as well as direct deposit and worker's comp tracking.

INTEGRATION/IMPORT/EXPORT – 5 Stars
All FMS modules integrate as necessary, enabling data sharing within the system. Additionally, the program can map and import ASCII-formatted data, and the GL, AP, AR and payroll modules can import data in *.CSV format. The system can export to a variety of reporting and analytic programs. Reports can be exported into *.PDF, *.CSV, Crystal Reports, Excel, Word, HTML, XML and *.RTF.

REPORTING – 4 Stars

FMS includes a decent built-in help utility with checklist-based guidance through setup tasks and how-to tutorials, but no "context-specific" features. CYMA offers online and on-site training options, as well as per-incident or subscription-based support packages. Salinas says the system is very easy to learn, and "the help screens are laid out in a manner that enables you to follow the thought process and carry that concept to the other modules."

SUMMARY

In its Financial Management System, CYMA offers a strong, module-based accounting
application with capable reporting and good inventory functions, centered around a comfortable user interface. For mid-sized businesses needing the complete array of accounting and management software, the pricing is appropriate, but for companies replacing only a few key elements of their software, the modularity of FMS provides access to highly capable software without the cost of an entire system. Module pricing has gone up over the past year, however, and the inclusion of a maintenance plan is mandatory. Salinas says she liked the cost versus the value. "It has more flexibility than some of the lower-priced packages and is just as comprehensive with features as good as or better than the higher-priced
packages."

2005 Overall Rating – 4 Stars

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