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Accounting Software

Business! Professional Edition is an accounting application for mid-sized businesses built upon Microsoft Access. The system is available as a complete package with all primary modules, including Order Entry and Invoicing, Accounting (GL), Customers
and Receivables, Inventory and Suppliers, Purchasing and Payables, Banking, Company Setup and Security, Reports, Analysis Tools and System Utilities. Specialty add-on modules are available for Payroll, Point-of-Sale, Fixed Assets and Depreciation,
MICR Check Printing, Barcode Printing, Barcode Warehouse, Advanced Reporting, FedEx and UPS Shipping, Credit Card Charging and a USPS ZIP Code Lookup. A site license for the program that supports any number of users at one office costs $2,495 (each workstation must have Access 2000 or higher). The program license includes the source code, which is in Access, allowing advanced users to customize or add-on to the system as desired. Database Creations also offers a developer license that allows independent software developers to resell the product at a discounted price.

Christie Threadgill of Innovative Creations (www.innovativec.com),
a consulting firm that specializes in database development as well as web sites and networking, says the program is "extremely versatile and user friendly."
Cost is what initially drove her firm to select the program, and she advises new and potential users to take the time to set up correctly in the beginning. Threadgill also noted that her firm is a Database Creations developer, doing customizations on all of their existing products.

EASE OF USE/TRANSACTION ENTRY — 4.5 Stars

Upon opening a company's files, the primary interface provides a window with tabs for each of the primary modules which, when selected, displays buttons for various tasks related to that module. This makes navigation between these modules simple, with options for Sales, Customers, Purchases, Inventory, Banking, Accounting, Payroll, Setup, Utilities, Reports and Analysis. The Company Setup tab, for instance, provides buttons for changing current company data, changing companies, importing data from another accounting program, creating a new company and managing security preferences. The Customers tab provides access to various tasks, including receiving payments, managing customer data, managing receivables, assessing finance charges, customer sales histories, and credit card reconciliation.

Customer and vendor lists are displayed in spreadsheet lists that enable searching and filtering, and, within customer files, access to sales history can be made with one click. Data entry is performed within traditional Windows forms that include drop-down lists, auto-fill functions and other features to streamline data-entry tasks, such as print, navigation and search buttons on the bottom of the screen.

NOTABLE FEATURES — 4 Stars

Business! can support an unlimited number of companies with unlimited customers, suppliers, inventory and invoices. It offers customizable numbering for sales orders, POs, customers, suppliers and inventory items. The inventory module provides multiple methods of searching, and allows FIFO, LIFO and average costing, with support for multiple inventory categories and subcategories. Items can have multiple prices, and the system supports assembly and reverse-assembly, multi-priced, serialized and color/style matrix items. Advanced functions also enable the user to set default GL accounts for each inventory class and provide

the option to automatically post inventory adjustments to the GL as well as

Business! supports recurring invoices and payables, along with customer-specific pricing and volume price breaks, as well as credit card sales and reconciliation. The system will track inventory and general ledger transactions, including time stamp, but does not record user information. The program's analytical tools also provide advanced analysis of a variety of business aspects, from sales and client histories to inventory management issues.

INTEGRATION/IMPORT/EXPORT — 4.5 Stars

All data in Business! is stored in a database shared by each of the modules, ensuring consistency of information. The system offers export to Office programs such as Access, Excel and Word, as well as export to HTML and ASCII formats. Data can be imported directly from Peachtree and QuickBooks, as well as inventory, customer and supplier data. A wizard assists in data import and export. Third-party software developed for use with Business! includes PDA access to the program and shipping applications.

REPORTING — 4.5 Stars

Within Business!, invoicing, purchasing and reporting functions allow drilling down to specific transactions and provide considerable customization options, including the ability to produce simple, product detail, service-based or professional invoices, as well as support for multiple currencies. The program includes more than 200 standard financials and reports, with the ability to customize as needed. The company also offers an optional advanced report writer.

SUPPORT/TRAINING/HELP SYSTEM — 4.5 Stars

The built-in help utility is well-developed but lacks task-specific help accessible directly from data-entry fields, and it could be more accessible. The program comes with *.PDF manuals for each of the modules. An online support section includes a knowledgebase and user forums, and new users are provided with six free "getting started" technical support incidents. A variety of

support subscriptions or per-use support options are available thereafter. Database

business.

2005 Overall Rating — 4.5 Stars

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