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## From the September 2005 [Review of Mid-Range Accounting Software](#)

MTX Accounting for Microsoft Office offers an integrated suite of accounting modules geared toward mid-sized companies in the construction and distribution industries and other project-based service businesses. Built upon Access, MTX's base system includes general ledger, reporting, cash management, and databases for suppliers, customers and employees. Optional modules include job costing, AP, AR, bank reconciliation, payroll, billing and a supply chain management system for managing work orders, sales orders, purchasing and inventory. A PDA interface is also available. The complete MTX Accounting System (includes base system plus all subsystems) with an annual software maintenance and support license costs \$9,595 (two to five users); \$11,995 for six to nine users. The complete *eTEK* Xpress (single-user) version with one year of support (includes base system and all subsystems) costs \$4,875. Twenty hours of web-based training is included free with all complete system purchases. Otherwise, it's \$90 per hour (16-hour minimum).

One organization that uses MTX Accounting is the Couple to Couple League International, Inc. ([www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org)), an interfaith not-for-profit that provides natural family planning instruction, counseling and information on five continents. It employs 24 staff members at its Cincinnati, Ohio, headquarters, but most services are provided in local communities by over 2,000 professionally trained and certified volunteers. Jack Langlitz is the director of Operations at CCLI, and has been very pleased with the product as well as a constituent database product *eTEK* recently built for them. He noted that both are now SQL versions with a functional Access front-end. Langlitz said that when

they began looking for a PC-based replacement for CCLI's legacy product

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module accessible via tabs for Data Entry, Inquiry, Reports and Actions. All of the modules follow this interface, providing consistency that can aid in navigation.

By storing customers, suppliers and employees in a relational database, MTX simplifies searching of these entities with its Inquiry tool. And when changes are made to a customer, supplier, employee or inventory item, the change is reflected when accessing that item from any of the system's modules. Data-entry tasks, accessed from the Data Entry tab of a module screen, are performed on tabbed windows that utilize traditional entry fields along with scroll-down selection lists for selecting accounts, customers and other people or items from the database.

The system includes numerous setup checklists for creating new companies and other tasks, including getting started, a GL setup checklist, a guide to defining account structure, and information on setting up job costing, AP, AR, payroll and creating invoices, running checks, or handling recurring journal entries.

Langlitz advises potential users that if you run the program out of the box, "Read the directions!" He says the instructions are great, "and the help menus are truly helpful." Secondly, he suggests that if you are customizing, you should work with a near-completed beta face-to-face. "To our experience, this adds efficiency and avoids the human communication pitfalls," he said. "And we ended up improving on our specifications on the fly."

#### **NOTABLE FEATURES — 4.5 Stars**

In addition to system activity logs and a comprehensive audit trail, MTX Accounting includes user- and task-level security options, enabling administrators to determine user rights and access to various levels of the program. The base system offers considerable customization options, from total control of the GL and chart of

accounts and divisional accounting, to the system menu and interface. Additionally,

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support for MICR printing.

#### **INTEGRATION/IMPORT/EXPORT — 4 Stars**

MTX's modules integrate with each other, and have the ability to export reports directly into Word or Excel with only one click, directly from the report screen. The system can also export data to HTML, XML, \*.RTF and plain text. It can also import from such data files.

#### **REPORTING — 5 Stars**

MTX includes an array of more than 200 stock reports and financials with filtering and sorting options. Reporting capabilities are enhanced by its report design wizard and the built-in report design tool, which allows significant customization of reports and data from within the program. Of course, the ability to export directly to Excel and Word makes it even more friendly, with the ability to easily preview the document or e-mail it as needed.

#### **SUPPORT/TRAINING/HELP SYSTEM — 5 Stars**

MTX includes an extensive built-in help system that includes How-To information for virtually any task for which the system could be used. These task checklists guide and explain quite well and should be very useful for infrequently performed activities. The company also offers maintenance agreements that include support and program updates. Web-based training is available, and new customers receive 20 hours of web-based training free.

Langlitz says that CCLI's trial balance would be well over 800 pages each month if they printed it — high accounting volume. Yet he notes that their calls to technical support are infrequent. "When we do call, they are always responsive, and I sense that they get a feel for the technical ability of the caller and communicate at his or her level."

## SUMMARY

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