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*From the September 2005 Review of [Boutique](#)
[Work-Style Payroll Software](#)*

Intuit has been offering payroll services for several years, both through a do-it-yourself small business version and as an outsourced bureau-style provider. The release of Enhanced Payroll Plus for Accountants at the end of 2004 coincided with robust functionality additions to QuickBooks: Premier Accountant Edition 2005, which was designed to handle multiple clients, and includes write-up capabilities.

This market is not new to Intuit as it has been in the professional tax preparation market for nearly a decade with the ProSeries and Lacerte lines. Enhanced Payroll Plus is an add-on service to its QuickBooks Financial Software products, and users must have a 2005 version of QuickBooks in order to access the Enhanced Payroll functionality. The system supports up to 50 client companies on one subscription, which starts at \$299.

EASE-OF-USE/DATA ENTRY — 5 Stars

Enhanced Payroll Plus completely integrates within the QuickBooks program, sharing

the program's interface and functions, and therefore reducing redundant data entry since, if the professional is using QuickBooks' accounting version for his client work, then almost all of the data needed for the payroll program is already in place. From the GL setup to banking and general business data, this results in less time to set up and manage the system than with an outside program because all of your data is in one place. The singular interface further eases use if the user is already experienced with QuickBooks or if the user is new to QuickBooks, since only one interface needs to be learned.

The primary interface for the Accountant's edition of QuickBooks opens

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Data entry for hours worked is performed on a single spreadsheet-like screen for all employees.

FEATURES — 3.5 Stars

The program supports up to 50 clients with multiple divisions, departments and unlimited employees for the base subscription cost. Users can also set multiple pay types per employee and an unlimited number of deduction types. Among the most notable features provided by Enhanced Payroll Plus are those stemming from its integration with the accounting program, including the automatic completion of forms 940, 940-EZ, 941/Schedule B, W-2, W-3, 1099-MISC, 1096 and state forms for over 40 states. Additionally, the system helps track, calculate and report Worker's Comp, including the classification codes and rates associated with the job functions of clients. The payroll program also offers one-step net-to-gross calculations for bonus and commission checks.

Danny Allday, CPA, CQA, CPTA, is president of The Allday Consulting Group, LLC, a Louisiana-based CPA firm with offices located in Metairie, Baton Rouge, Slidell, Lafayette and Covington, Louisiana. Allday says that he selected QuickBooks Enhanced Payroll for Accountants because "it is the only program that I know of which allows the accountant to generate state payroll returns without having to go to a completely outsourced payroll service." He also based his decision on the fact that QuickBooks is the most widely used accounting software program by his clients. The program supports direct deposit for up to two banks per employee, but direct deposit costs an additional \$0.99 per deposit plus \$3 per payroll batch.

REPORTING CAPABILITIES — 4 Stars

As noted above, Enhanced Payroll automatically generates forms 940, 940-EZ, 941/Schedule B, W-2, W-3, 1099-MISC, 1096 and many state forms, and includes

an array of standard reports that offer some customization depending on user

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INTEGRATION/IMPORT & EXPORT — 4.5 Stars

Complete integration with QuickBooks cannot be understated, since if the professional uses QuickBooks very little additional data entry is needed, and, by decreasing redundant data entry, the chance of entry errors is reduced. The integration also leads to consistency throughout the program with regards to features, reporting and the interface. The system can also export data into Excel and other common formats and can interface with Outlook for e-mail functions as well as Word for some reporting and correspondence.

TRAINING, SUPPORT & UPDATES — 5 Stars

QuickBooks has excellent support features built into the program, from right-click context-specific help, to How-Tos and an extensive Help index. Additionally, the QuickBooks Learning Center provides tutorials, and an online support community provides further assistance to users. Subscription-based and per-call support is also available. The price of the software includes rate and program updates for one year, which can be downloaded from Intuit's web site or the program can be set to automatically retrieve them.

SUMMARY

Enhanced Payroll Plus for Accountants is very functional for smaller client companies whose payrolls are not too complex. With support for up to 50 client companies, the base subscription would likely suffice for most professional accountants, but since this program is offered only as an add-on to QuickBooks, it is obviously best suited to professionals already using a QuickBooks product, ideally Premier Accountant Edition, which provides additional support for professionals

managing multiple clients and includes write-up capabilities. The program's

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