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& [Use Tax Software](#)*

Intuit actually has two write-up packages, the result of its purchase of EasyACCT plus the development of its QuickBooks Premier Accountant Edition (QBAE). Intuit has made its product strategy clear: to position itself as a major player in the write-up marketplace. Most will agree that QuickBooks (QB) is the most popular accounting product on the market today. The supported, native connectivity between various client versions of QB and professional users who use Intuit EasyACCT or QBAE is unparalleled in today's marketplace. Let's discuss QuickBooks Premier Accountant Edition.

QBAE is a full-featured write-up program designed and offered in support of professionals who wish to serve their clients efficiently. It includes traditional write-up features like chart of accounts, general ledger, journals, financial statements and accountant's reports, in addition to advanced financial reporting tools, an interactive trial balance, a built-in depreciation module, and superior connectivity to other versions of QB.

The interactive trial balance permits the user to drill down to source details and enter workpaper references. Accountants can access their clients' files from work or home using the Remote Access feature. The program includes a new Financial Statement Designer, which allows easy modification of custom financial statements. Users can quickly create professional financial statements, complete with compilation reports and supporting schedules/documents. With QBAE, accountants can manage all of their clients' QB files including Basic,

Pro and other industry-specific editions. Plus, it works with all prior-year

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Graden conducted a user study before the first release of the program came out. She says that “at the moment I realized what they were trying to accomplish (that I throw away my trial balance and write up software and start using QBAE for all those needs), I told them they had a long ways to go (and thought to myself they were dreaming). I was very surprised at the end result that was released, and the software gets better every year. Here I am two years later using the software religiously and nothing else.”

#### **LEARNING CURVE & EASE OF USE — 4.5 Stars**

QBAE includes wizards and an EasyStep Interview routine that assists the user in initial setup of a company's charts of accounts. The program utilizes an interface called the Customer Navigator with traditional pull-down and icon menu bars. The program is intuitive in its design, which allows for a fast learning experience and the ability to quickly utilize the provided write-up tools. Step-by-step help is available everywhere the user navigates.

Graden notes that with any transition of software packages, there is an expectation that the first year will involve extra time. “The beauty of using QB Accountant Edition,” she says, “is that for all those clients who use QB, there is no setup time involved.” And for those clients who do not use QB, she points out that “this is a great time to develop a standard chart of accounts within the firm for comparability between clients.” While Graden is a big fan of the product, she still has a wish list. “I find there are only two things I wish I had in QBAE that are not there — the ability to import a trial balance from Excel and tax journal entries with a tax trial balance.”

#### **REPORTING & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — 4.5 Stars**

Customizable pre-designed reports are provided, as well as the ability to create a variety of statements and other reports using the Financial Statement Designer. Through the system's Reports Navigator,

users have access to summary and detail income statements and balance sheets;

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user is provided the means to batch multiple jobs.

Graden believes the most beneficial aspect of using this program is the seamless integration with client information: "I can do all of my work in one software program. I can transfer information back and forth to the client with ease. In the past when using a separate software package for write up or trial balance work, I would always need to go back and forth between QB and the write-up software.

Some clients used QB while others did not, so there was back and forth because of that. For my QB clients, I would need to retrieve information out of QB and then move over to the trial balance program to do the work. I think it is really important that clients not be asked to enter journal entries because I know how much they hate that process. Basically this software eliminates many steps for me."

#### **SCALABILITY & PORTABILITY — 4.5 Stars**

Built using the Microsoft .NET framework, QBAE is highly portable. This is demonstrated

by the related Online version of QB. The program is compatible up and down the related product line, demonstrating its scalability.

#### **SUPPORT, TRAINING & HELP SYSTEM — 4 Stars**

QBAE provides separate Accountant Help, an Online tutorial, a CD-based Tutorial, context-sensitive QB Help, Startup Checklists, and additional online support assistance, including a knowledgebase with FAQs, links to various QB Support locations, and a variety of live support plans. Additionally, web-based, CD-based and live, in-person instructor-led seminars are available. Graden credits the company for the implementation of an accountant-focused tech support team in Tuscon.

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