

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

Aug. 29, 2005

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

Sage CPA Accounting's Payroll from Sage Software's CPASoftware division, is a comprehensive payroll processing system that was intentionally developed for practitioners who manage payroll for multiple clients. The system can be used as either a stand-alone application or as an integrated component of the CPASoftware suite, which includes tax compliance, write-up, client accounting products, practice management and document management programs. Sage CPA Accounting

Payroll costs \$795 for a site license, with subscription-based support and tax table updates available at an additional cost.

EASE-OF-USE/DATA ENTRY — 4.5 Stars

The system assists in the initial setup of client company and employee files, and the general layout of the system's interface aids in its functionality. After logging on, the primary entrance screen of the program provides a list of payroll clients, enabling the user to open or create a new client. Upon opening a client, the master menu screen offers text-based links to primary tasks, such as entering employee time, calculation of payroll, selection of checks to print, posting of payroll and account reconciliation. Additional functions, such as reporting, employee setup and more detailed payroll activities are accessible via several pull-down menus at the top of the screen.

Data-entry screens are also well-designed, streamlining much of the entry process, although, since the program offers strong payroll capabilities, the employee time data-entry process can require a little getting used to. During this process, users can select the client account on which the payroll is to

be drawn, as well as the period, check and post dates, the frequency of payroll

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

payroll with full tip reporting and automatic calculation of tip reimbursement, allocations by hours worked or gross receipts, and negative check stub capability. Employees can be set up as salary, hourly, overtime, double overtime, piece rate or commissioned, or a combination, with allowances for shift differentials. Up to 20 user-defined fields can be created for employee files, in addition to the ability to store photos and I-9s with the file. The program handles SUTA expenses, EIC calculations, commissions, vacation and sick leave accruals, multi-department employees, third-party sick pay and unemployment reporting.

It also supports multiple departments and multi-state and locality compliance reporting for both employee and company liabilities, and has the capability to manage cafeteria plans, 401(k)s and other retirement and tax-deferred savings plans. Sage CPA Accounting Payroll allows an unlimited number of "other pay" and "other deductions" such as garnishments, fixed amounts and percent of gross or net. Direct deposit is included in the cost of the program and can handle multiple disbursements per employee, as well as partial electronic and check payments. The system does not include e-file and payment capabilities for liabilities, nor does it provide an automated method of producing invoices, but the latter is available through Sage CPA Practice Manager.

REPORTING CAPABILITIES — 4.5 Stars

Sage CPA Accounting Payroll produces forms W-2, W-3, 1096, 1099, 940, 941, 940-EZ and 943, as well as federal magnetic media, and has an optional state reporting program that includes quarterly unemployment and state magnetic media. The system

can print checks on blank check stock or on pre-printed forms, with support for MICR printing. Reports can be printed prior to period close, if needed.

An add-on report writer is also available that allows greater customization

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

TRAINING, SUPPORT & UPDATES — 4.5 Stars

Support is included in the cost of the program for the first six months, with support plans starting at \$425 thereafter, which include tax rate table updates. Support options also include a 24-hour support web site, toll-free assistance, newsletters and new program releases. Web-based, classroom and on-site training options are available, in addition to the built-in Quick Start guide and an included tutorial.

SUMMARY

Sage CPA Accounting Payroll is geared toward use by public accountants, with productivity features and workflow designed for professional firms that manage the payroll of multiple clients. At the same time, however, the program is fairly easy to use, and boasts a moderate price point. Although the system can share data with outside accounting programs, firms already using CPASoftware's accounting and practice management applications would realize the greatest benefits from Sage CPA Accounting Payroll.

2005 Overall Rating — 4.5 Stars

CPA Practice Advisor is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors.