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*From the October 2005 [Review of W-2/1099 Software](#)*

The W2/1099 Payroll System offers support for electronic, magnetic media and paper print wage and information return preparation for most versions of Form(s) 1099, 1098, W-2, and associated forms. Those users who are familiar with the interface common to all CFS programs will quickly feel at home with W2/1099. The program consists of a basic program with the following add-ons: e-file/Magnetic

Media (which enables electronic and floppy disk filing to federal and supported state entities), an After-the-Fact 941/940 Program, and a Payroll Return Corrector (which supports corrections to previously filed forms).

The W-2/1099 program costs \$99 (\$89 renewal), and the 941/940 Program costs \$99 (\$89 renewal). The Payroll Corrector Program (corrects back to 1978) costs \$39 (\$29 renewal), and a Network Upgrade (unlimited users at one business address) is \$100 per year. The Mag Media add-on is \$99.

**Usability/Navigation — 4.5 Stars**

W2/1099 features an interface divided into three panes: a client list at the top left, an in-use forms list to the right, and a comprehensive list of available forms such as a printable fax cover sheet, invoice utility, memo and a 1099/W-2 client solicitation letter. Navigation is easy, and the program is quickly learned, making it second nature after preparation of a user's first return. I found the simple screen layout to be very satisfying but also noted the lack of a sortable, on-screen client listing. With a large number of clients, a sortable listing becomes a necessity to program operation. The company noted that a sortable listing is available for each client's employees/payees.

Configuration options allow the user to control system behavior in areas such

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system (via e-mail or transfer from supporting documents) or entered by the user. It also provides instructions at the bottom of the screen for the active data-entry field. As indicated earlier with pricing for a network upgrade, the W2/1099 Payroll System is available in a networked version.

### **Reporting & Import/Export Capabilities — 3.5 Stars**

The W2/1099 Payroll System has very limited import abilities, allowing only the direct transfer of data from QuickBooks. No support is available for import from common file formats such as spreadsheets, \*.CSV files, comma- or tab-delimited files, or other database or columnar files. The company noted that the CFS After-the-Fact

941/940 program supports QuickBooks as well as ASCII importing of employees, employers and paychecks. If the user also owns W-2/1099, they can then copy their recipients into the W-2/1099 program. CFS provides reconciliation and client summary reports, and prepares Form(s) W-2, W-3, 1099-MISC, 1099-SA, 1099-INT,

1099-DIV, 1099-A, 1099-B, 1099-C, 1099-PATR, 1099-R, 1099-S, 1098, 1098-T, 1096, and State Form(s) A1-R/A1-APR (AZ), CT-W3 (CT), G-1003 (GA), IL-W-3 (IL), MW 508 (MD), NJ-W-3M (NJ) and VA-6 (VA).

### **Support For Paperless Transmission — 4.5 Stars**

Using the e-file/Magnetic Media module, users can e-file or populate floppy disks to transfer tax information to appropriate agencies. The e-file/Magnetic Media module provides support for preparation and printing of Form(s) 4419, 4804, 6857, 8508 and California state forms.

### **Help/Training — 4.5 Stars**

The W2/1099 Payroll System features online integrated Help features and an indexed Windows Help utility. It provides a “Tip of the Day” upon startup (which can be turned off for very experienced users), mouse-over button

descriptions,

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