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Sep. 29, 2005

From the October 2005 [Review of Not-for-Profit Accounting Software](#)

QuickBooks continues to dominate the small business accounting software market with its affordable, easy-to-use software. QuickBooks: Premier Nonprofit Edition 2005 is an industry-specific version of QuickBooks Premier that targets small to midsize nonprofit organizations.

EASE OF USE/FLEXIBILITY — 5 Stars

The main screen of QuickBooks: Nonprofit Edition features the Non-Profit Navigator, which displays a diagram of functions within the navigator window. One-click access is provided to system features such as enter bills; pay bills; enter pledges; and receive payments, deposits and donations. Other navigators are available and are listed on the vertical table to the left of the navigator screen. A drop-down menu bar provides additional access to all system functions, and a toolbar contains shortcuts to frequently used tasks such as transfer funds, pay bills, receive payments and journal entries. You also have access to system lists such as the chart of accounts, class and customer lists. Data-entry screens are easily navigated throughout the program. Fields have drop-down lists or a lookup option available to speed data entry.

MODULES/SCALABILITY — 4 Stars

Using function descriptions such as company, vendors, customers and employees in place of more traditional accounting terms, QuickBooks offers a complete financial solution in terms that non-accountants can understand. Along with a complete GL, including AP and AR functions, QuickBooks: Premier Nonprofit Edition also includes good reporting capability and a business services feature that provides links to various business services, printing supplies and merchant

services. A variety of payroll options is available through QuickBooks, including

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vendors.

FEATURES/FUNCTIONALITY — 5 Stars

QuickBooks includes a copy of the UCOA (Unified Chart of Accounts) for nonprofits. This file is automatically imported when you set up a nonprofit organization company file. Using QuickBooks' customization feature, you can add up to seven user-defined fields to better track data. An extensive Help file found in the nonprofit navigator provides excellent user help exclusively for nonprofits, which is very helpful when initially setting up your organization.

You can create a class for each of your funds in order to better track financial history, and a working budget can be built instantly based on historical data. Templates for "thank you" letters, acknowledgements and pledge forms can be created in Microsoft Word and exported to QuickBooks. You can review contact information and account activity for any donor, vendor or organization. Employee hours can be tracked by program, and direct deposit is available using one of Intuit's payroll programs.

REPORTING — 5 Stars

QuickBooks: Premier Nonprofit Edition has a good variety of standard reports available. Donor reports include Statement of Financial Positions, Budget vs. Actual, Programs and Projects. You can easily find out who your biggest contributors are with the Biggest Donors and Grants report. You can print the Form 990 report (Statement of Functional Expenses), and standard financial statements are also available. Financial spreadsheets can be created by exporting data to Excel.

SUPPORT/HELP — 5 Stars

QuickBooks: Premier Nonprofit Edition provides all new users with free support during the installation and setup phase. Quarterly and annual support contracts are available thereafter. An annual support contract will cost \$349. The contract

covers 24/7 toll-free support, and you can also obtain support on an as-needed

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Solutions: Nonprofit Edition, which costs \$3,500, and includes a full year of product upgrades, technical support with a dedicated service engineer, and password and data recovery support. QuickBooks: Premier Nonprofit Edition's affordable pricing, coupled with an easily navigated user interface and excellent help function, make this a viable and economical option for the budget-conscious or new nonprofit organization.

2005 Overall Rating — 4.5 Stars

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