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# Spokane Computer, Inc. — MAG-FILER 1099/W2

800-824-9631

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

*Software*

MAG-FILER supports annual wage and information return processing for Form(s) W-2, W-3, W-2G, all Form(s) 1099, 1042-S, 1098, 1098-E, 1098-T, 5498, 5498-ESA and 5498-SA. It supports electronic and magnetic media filing and print filing capabilities. Spokane also offers a service bureau that can perform all or any part of the filing process, including data entry. You can purchase MAG-FILER's download version for [Pricing has changed since this review] from their web site at [magfiler.spokanecomputer.com/purchase.asp](http://magfiler.spokanecomputer.com/purchase.asp).

Aaron Thain of Assisted Living of Idaho, LLC, shared about his experience using MAG-FILER to create a magnetic media file with which to submit his 1994 W-2s from a 'print to file' output from QuickBooks Pro 2003. He imported about 300 W-2s and said, "The program worked simply and flawlessly." Assisted Living of Idaho, LLC, sends Personal Care Attendants to the homes of elderly or disabled persons as an alternative to these individuals being placed in nursing homes at taxpayer expense. Thain looked at several other programs online, downloaded trial versions and decided that MAG-FILER was the best program to do the MagMedia W-2s in his case. He appreciates the simple

import and MagMedia formatting of QuickBooks W-2s. “Just follow the directions and, for MagMedia W-2s from QuickBooks, it’s a snap,” he said.

### **Usability/Navigation — 3.5 Stars**

MAG-FILER begins with the import of \*.CSV or other electronic information, and features easy reviewing and reporting of imported information, streamlined laser or pre-printed form printing in a variety of formats, and a one-step magnetic filing process. All required processes and forms are created by MAG-FILER. The Payer Information screen provides a sortable listing of available clients and basic client information. Upon selection of a Payer, MAG-FILER opens the Payee Information screen for that client, with similarly sortable information. These steps are intuitive, and the program’s simplified interface aids in navigation. However, some of the data-entry screens for entering a new Payer can leave a first-time user wondering what the next step is.

Although data files are generally created via file import, further data entry or corrections are performed on input screens that follow a logical layout of data-entry fields, although they are not replicas of actual forms. The user can override auto-calculated data, if desired. All user screens provide navigation menus across the top with links to assorted functions, including adding new payees/payers, starting the filing process, print options, report options, importing data, and the program’s Help utility. MAG-FILER supports an unlimited number of Payers (clients) and Payees (client employees). The screen interface is fairly straightforward, but it does not provide many of the more advanced features of products included in this review, such as context-specific Help, audit trails and links to full instructions.

### **Reporting & Import/Export Capabilities — 4.5 Stars**

MAG-FILER uses a multi-step process for import of client/payee data. Users export data from an accounting program into ASCII or \*.CSV formats. The user then imports the file using a mapping template and routes data to the appropriate field(s) of a form. The MAG-FILER supplied mapping templates work with most accounting programs and offer users the option to print to preprinted or plain paper, including printing W-2s and W-3s to laser-created forms.

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

MAG-FILER provides the ability to submit returns electronically or via magnetic media, including transmission of payroll data to states that accept the SSA

MMREF-1 format. The program can submit Form(s) 1099 via the IRS Combined Federal/State Program and can e-file corrected Form(s) 1099.

### **Help/Training — 3.5 Stars**

Spokane Computer, Inc. offers a built-in Help utility, a User's Guide and free traditional telephone support. Context-specific help and links to the Help utility file would improve the functionality of the program. Thain noted that he had only one tech support issue at the time he first used the program and that Spokane was easy to communicate with: "As I remember, I called and they gave me a quick, easy answer. I don't recall exactly what my issue was, except that it was easy for them to tell me how to create my file. I hadn't done something right, and the solution was obvious once they explained to me what to do."

### **2005 Overall Rating — 4 Stars**

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