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TRAVERSE continues a long-standing tradition of solid, well-rounded accounting software with its latest release, version 10.2. It offers accounting, manufacturing, distribution, eBusiness, and several other vertical-market applications, in two editions (see more details below) for businesses of different sizes. A solid database platform and straightforward user interface make this an attractive package for the small, growing or midsize business. Source code is included for customized modifications and enhancements.

Modules Available/Scalability – 5 Stars
Accounting modules available for TRAVERSE Enterprise include System Manager, GL, AR, AP, Fixed Assets, Payroll, Direct Deposit, and Bank Reconciliation. Manufacturing modules include Bill of Materials, MRP, Routing and Resources, and Production. Distribution modules include Inventory, Sales Order, Purchase Order, and Bill of Materials/Kitting. Several other add-ons include Project Costing, Service Director and POS.

Version 10.2 introduced a number of module enhancements, as well as two new modules: Distribution Requirements Planning (DRP) and Customer Relationship Management (CRM). DRP is an MRP-like planning tool for non-manufacturers. It is used to help plan future supply and demand, to assist in determining the items you need and when you need to purchase them in order to fulfill planned sales goals. CRM is a module used to maintain contact information for customers, vendors, prospects, and so forth. It has task management; bulk e-mail, fax and mail-merge; campaign management, and integration with Microsoft Outlook.

Other module changes include enhancements to the multicurrency module, allowing

back-end database engine. The Enterprise Edition is geared for mid-market enterprises
that require the scalability of full Microsoft SQL Server. This provides a nice
upgrade path for growing firms that want to start on a budget, but with the
capability of growing into a full-scale application that can support many users
in multiple locations.

Ease of Use/Transaction Entry – 5 Stars
All modules launch from a menu system that is centered on the main screen. Two
style choices are available based on user preference. The standard menu system
is a three-column window that lists the main modules on the left. As selections
are made in this column, the center column shows applicable submenu choices.
The third column shows further detailed actions for the item selected in the
center column. The other menu style is an Explorer window with a collapsible
tree structure. Each module is an item in the tree that can be expanded to show
sub-choices. The right side of the explorer window shows the current action
or report choices. A double-click opens the input screen or report.

Data-entry screens are clean, well-organized and easy to understand. Fields
that have a limited number of choices, such as invoice terms or account numbers,
provide drop-down lists for convenient selection of a valid choice. Screens
are kept uncluttered by using multiple tabs to segregate the data-entry process
into discrete sections.

Customization/Security – 4 Stars
The program provides several workstation configuration preferences. The keyboard
function can be used to assign keys to frequently used commands and functions
such as save, delete, lookup and new record. For each company, you can set various
data-entry defaults like location ID, bank account ID and batch codes to speed

data entry. The user can also set the preferred menu style, language (English

levels.

Integration/Import/Export – 4 Stars

Open Systems has developed an authorized reseller channel that relies on developers to create integrated vertical market solutions for the TRAVERSE and OSAS product lines. Several import products are available to address EDI (electronic data interchange), supply chain integration and others.

Limited ASCII import capabilities are built into the program for physical inventory counts, bills of materials and production orders. With advanced programming, you can create your own data import procedures since the database structure is documented and accessible. Export is provided only by accessing the data programmatically from the database.

Reporting – 5 Stars

Numerous reports are provided for each module, which can be previewed, printed or output to a number of different formats using Microsoft Access' Office Links functions, including Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and text files. In addition, Open Systems offers the Advanced Financial Analyst add-on, which is a reporting tool that provides access to your GL data directly from Microsoft Excel. Two modes, Author and Analyst, give you the ability to create and view reports respectively. Using built-in wizards, you can create sophisticated what-if scenarios and drill-down functionality.

Another tool is the Advanced Information Analyst, which utilizes online analytical processing (OLAP) technology to produce reports and graphs, which enable business mangers to selectively extract and view data from different points of view. The Analyst allows you to view business information in charts, decomposition trees, perspective views or grids. Finally, since this is an open database product,

you can also use nearly any third-party ODBC-based reporting tool (such as Crystal

The online Help system is more limited than some of the other products reviewed. It is context-sensitive, which is a real plus for finding exactly the information you want. For full details, the complete manual for each module is available in *.PDF format.

Relative Value – 4 Stars
TRAVERSE is a practical package that offers a standard set of modules, particularly suited for manufacturing and project-oriented companies. The availability of source code and the ability to use either MSDE or Microsoft SQL Server allow the growing business to start small and protect its software investment.

2005 Overall Rating – 4.5 Stars

Technology