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Accounting Software

SouthWare Excellence Series offers over 30 modules, submodules and other tools
in an integrated suite of financial and business management applications. Revision
11 introduces a role-based user interface option, a Warehouse Tracking module,
and enhanced data mining and query capabilities. SouthWare features its platform-
independent
foundation for all modules, which can be installed on numerous operating systems,
including Windows, Linux, UNIX, AIX and others.

**Modules Available/Scalability – 4 Stars**
SouthWare's modules fall into eight major categories: Financial Series,
Inventory/Sales, Service Management Series, Executive Information Systems, Tools,
CRM+, E-Business, and System Management. Core accounting modules include
Payroll,
AR, AP, GL, Fixed Assets, Collections, AR Invoicing, International Transactions,
Cash Flow Ledger, Inventory Control, POS, Order Entry, Purchasing, Assembly
Work Orders, Rental Department, Return Authorizations, Job Cost, Warehouse
Tracking,
Service Invoicing, Contract Management, Service Orders, and Equipment Servicing.
Ancillary modules include ExecuMate II, ExcelReport, ReportMate, ImportMate
II, Extended Data, SouthWare Forms, SouthWare WorkFlow, DocTransfer, TaskWise,
SalesMark, SouthWare NetLink, Intranet NetLink, and SwiftMate.

The new Warehouse Tracking module enhances the Inventory and Sales modules
by adding multi-bin tracking and warehouse transactions to the information already

tracked in these applications. While warehouse records are kept separate from

file/server technology. The system can also be configured for true client/server computing using the AcuServer product, which can support database hosting on Windows NT, Windows 95, UNIX, and even DOS TCP/IP servers. With this configuration,
the client machine works in conjunction with a memory resident program that runs on the server to process requests for data, which cuts down on network traffic and provides a more efficient computing environment when there are many concurrent users. Of course, all of this is transparent to the end user.

**Ease of Use/Transaction Entry – 4 Stars**
SouthWare's main user interface screen consists of a drop-down menu system, an icon toolbar and a desktop workspace that can be used in three different modes: standard menu, tree menu or browser menu. The standard menu is the program's
"classic" navigator-style menu, with buttons for each of the primary modules and a shortcut textbox where you can type in keywords to quickly jump to the desired input screen or report function. The tree menu is a collapsible menu system that provides access to all modules either by type of processing or by application. This provides a concise way to see all modules in an organized drill-down interface.

Revision 11 adds yet another interface option that customizes the environment for the user's role. This new role-based interface uses the term persona to define the characteristics of a particular class of user, such as CEO, CFO, Auditor, Buyer, GL Operator, Service Manager, and so forth.

A persona is a fictitious personality intended to represent a user performing a particular role. It defines that person's job responsibilities, information needs, and modules and features used. Closely related, a "portal"

is simply a customized set of HTML/web pages that provide quick access to the

that would typically be used by someone in that role.

The Navigate Pane is another new interface enhancement that is designed to enhance user productivity by providing a pop-up window with links to things such as Company News, the TaskWise task management module, Recent Menu selections,
Recent Activity and program Breakout status. A primary function of the Navigate Pane is to provide a simple, easy way to open additional programs in their own windows. This Multi-Window workspace provides easy access to a variety of functions,
which can be loaded and available in their own workspace for use as needed.

This is helpful to a user who needs to be able to quickly move between any number of programs such as contact management, order entry, quote entry and stock status inquiry. "Breakout" is a feature of the program that
lets you suspend program activity in one area to temporarily perform another task such as customer lookup.

The actual data-entry screens underlying the new menu interface have not changed much from previous versions of the program, and are looking somewhat antiquated by comparison. SouthWare's data-entry screens have a very rigid validation sequence that pretty much forces you to hit Enter from top to bottom in order to validate each field. While field validation is an expected function of any data-entry screen, it would be nice if the screens allowed a little more flexibility without locking the user into each succeeding field.

**Customization/Security – 4 Stars**
SouthWare provides a number of tools and modules to address users' needs to customize many aspects of the program. The Extended Data application allows the company to add new data fields to the standard SouthWare files for storing

specialized information, such as phone numbers, stock information, equipment

### Integration/Import/Export – 4 Stars

By using the ImportMate II module, information can be imported into SouthWare modules from *.XML, comma-delimited, *.DIF, and fixed-length ASCII files. The module provides validation testing and error reporting prior to updating actual database records. ImportMate II can be used for a wide variety of tasks including accounting system conversion, inventory pricing updates, adding new stock items from a vendor price guide, creating physical inventory transactions from an electronic hand-held count device, and importing bank transaction clearing details.

EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) is provided through the DocTransfer and NetLink modules. DocTransfer is used for the exchange (import and export) of electronic purchase orders, invoices, and customer orders. NetLink provides controlled browser-based access to company data files, including shopping cart, price lookup, and account balance information and can, with proper security, provide valuable information via the Internet to employees, customers and vendors.

### Reporting – 5 Stars

ReportMate is a powerful tool for creating customized report formats. By defining report headings, fields, ranges, sorts, selection criteria, and other attributes, you are limited only by your needs and imagination. Any custom report can be output to printer, *.PDF, screen or file. Various file types are available for export, including HTML, *.DIF, *.XML, or fixed-length text. A "GridView" lets you turn a report into a spreadsheet-style grid for quick summarized on-screen review of selected database records with optional editing capability.

### Support/Training/Help System – 5 Stars

SouthWare Excellence modules come with online context-sensitive documentation that is accessible throughout the program. The company works with a network of sales partners for the installation and training function.

**Relative Value – 4 Stars**

to those businesses seeking systems that are full-featured, portable, flexible and attractively priced.

**2005 Overall Rating – 4.5 Stars**

Technology