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Apr. 13, 2006

From the April/May 2006 Review of Construction Accounting Software

Foundation for Windows construction accounting software is designed for labor-intensive
contractors, including heavy construction, specialty trades and general contractors. Using SQL server, version 5.7 of Foundation for Windows is flexible enough to be suitable for companies large and small.

Jane Bryant of Cary & Associates Builders, Inc. (www.carybuilders.com) says: "Having Foundation has totally changed our office. It is extremely efficient, and the support is wonderful!" Cary & Associates is a commercial general contractor specializing in design/build projects. Bryant says they are a fairly small firm with gross sales of about five million per year. "We build a lot of wineries in Sonoma and Napa Counties (Northern California)." Bryant notes that "Foundation has provided a stable functioning system that is very efficient."

She especially appreciates the ability to access information by date ranges. "Our old system was based on fixed periods and hard closures at the end of each fiscal year end and hard closure for payroll on calendar year. So with foundation, when I am audited for liability insurance, which runs from February 3 to February 3, there is no problem accessing the information." Bryant says they also rely on the product's Certified Payroll, AIA Billing and Subcontractor tracking. "Year-end closure is very simple with Foundation; it knows when you cross the year end and deals with payroll itself," she says. "Check a couple more boxes, and you are ready to start the new fiscal year for the corporation!"

Bryant notes that Foundation was totally professional in its approach during

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A technical specialist from Foundation schedules a convenient time for installation, and will walk you through the entire process, making certain that everything is configured properly. Once in the system, it is quite easy to navigate. The main screen contains a menu bar with access to all installed modules. All modules contain three options: Daily Transactions, where you would enter or edit system data; Maintenance, where you add or edit your master files for customers, vendors, clients, etc.; and the Reports option, which provides you with a series of detailed options for producing system reports. Data-entry screens are easily navigated and contain lookup options in many fields.

Foundation's Help feature contains an overview of all modules, as well as detailed Help on a variety of functions. A Help option is also provided in various screens throughout the program, which provides instant access to targeted functions. User-defined fields are found throughout the system, so you can easily customize customer information, job data, vendors and even employee information. And all data is easily exported to third-party software such as Microsoft Excel or Crystal Reports. The Genie series allows customization of timecards, invoices and reports.

MODULES & FUNCTIONALITY — 4.5 Stars

The base system comes with GL, AP, AR, Job Costing, Payroll, the patent-pending CPA Audit/Review module, and the Genie Series, which are built-in custom designers for reports, timecards and invoices. Add-on modules available include Equipment, Inventory, Time and Material, Service Billing/Order Processing, Unit Price Billing, Executive Management, Project Management, Consolidated General Ledger, Time and Material Billing Genie, Third Party integration with a variety of applications, Timecard Import, and ConversionQuick, which is a Data Integration Service.

The CPA Audit/Review module (patent pending) assists contractors who utilize

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IMPORT/EXPORT/INTEGRATION — 4.5 Stars
Foundation for Windows is a fully integrated program and is also designed to integrate with third-party estimating, pricing and project management applications. System reports can be created using the Data Genie and exported to third-party programs such as Excel, Word and Crystal Reports. The optional ConversionQuick data integration service increases your integration options tremendously.

SUPPORT & TRAINING — 5 Stars
Foundation for Windows offers a variety of training options including online training. You also have the option to have on-site training from a Foundation field trainer. For general questions, or module overviews, you can utilize the User's Guide. Unlimited toll-free telephone support is included for the first six months after purchase. Online support is also available, as is "client only" web-based support. Software maintenance programs include all of the above along with system updates, year-end updates, tax law changes and discounts
on classes, additional modules, conferences and consulting.

REPORTING — 5 Stars
Foundation for Windows comes with numerous standard reports that can be customized
to suit your needs. The report toolbar gives you a variety of options when processing reports including the option to print, review, export to Word or Excel, or create a *.PDF file. Date sensitivity means you can run historical reports and produce accurate data. The DataGenie Report Designer lets you create an unlimited number of user-defined reports, which includes a report wizard for even easier setup and design.

RELATIVE VALUE — 4.5 Stars

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