Apr. 13, 2006

From the April/May 2006 *Review of*
Construction Accounting Software

Sage Timberline Office, designed for the construction and real estate industries, serves a variety of large specialty and service contractors. Ideal for those that need to track equipment cost, this latest version contains several software upgrades and enhancements throughout the program and contains numerous additions to preferences, reports and search features.

LEARNING CURVE — 5 Stars
Installation of Sage Timberline Office Desktop (Desktop) was uncomplicated. All purchased modules must have an activation code entered during setup. You can also install sample data with which to work. The Desktop provides access to all installed Timberline modules. After opening the Desktop feature, you'll find links to all modules under Tasks. Clicking on a module will expand to display all of the functions that are found in that particular module. The Information Center provides access to various links on the Sage Software homepage. Fully customizable, the Desktop feature lets you create groups and shortcuts for frequently used items. Pre-defined templates are included to speed up setup. A drop-down menu bar is located at the top of each data-entry screen. A row of icons is found directly below. At the bottom of the screen is a series of buttons that provides access to various features found within that module. Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) provides easy integration with a variety of third-party software products.

MODULES & FUNCTIONALITY — 5 Stars
The program offers over 50 modules to suit a variety of construction and service-

based

40 characters and the Commitment Change Order functions now provide you with the choice to view the commitment history and print any corresponding commitment
documentation. Contract templates provide for quick setup of new contracts, and customized billing types can be defined according to each specific contract. The Equipment Cost module tracks usage, repair and maintenance costs and any related revenues. Job numbers can be up to 10 alphanumeric characters long and can contain up to three sections. An unlimited number of user-defined cost categories
can be tracked in the Job Cost module, along with job cost information that includes estimates, purchase orders, subcontracts, production information and contract amounts.

Change order data can easily be tracked, including original change order authorization,
status and any internal order changes. Customized detail can be attached to each job in the system by using electronic notes and the file attachment feature. The Service Management module tracks work order status, and the new dispatch board allows you to dispatch technicians based on work priority and track any existing and new service agreements. Payroll information can be entered by job, cost code, union code, employee or class, and can easily handle multiple job costs and multi-state payroll processing.

IMPORT/EXPORT/INTEGRATION — 5 Stars
ODBC capability means easy integration with third-party software, including Microsoft Word, Excel and Access. The TRA-SER Integrator provides a direct link from Trade Service Corporation's pricing software (TRA-SER). All modules available in Sage Timberline Office Desktop integrate seamlessly. Users can rest assured that any new modules purchased in the future will integrate with

those already purchased. And the Payroll module will easily integrate with time

which includes all benefits of the other two plans along with an assigned account manager. Training options include both classroom and onsite training. The company
also has authorized training centers located throughout the country. The Help feature is excellent and will answer many questions that arise during the initial setup phase.

REPORTING — 5 Stars
Over 500 standard reports are available, all of which can be easily modified. Frequently used reports can be saved on the Desktop for quick access. The Report Designer can be used to customize font types, page breaks and even field sizes. For further customization, you can also use Crystal Reports.

RELATIVE VALUE — 5 Stars
The cost for Sage Timberline Office Desktop will vary widely, depending on the type of business and the modules needed. The typical cost for a new system would start at about $7,500. This includes a one-year subscription to EssentialCare support. Starter packages are also available for smaller companies with fewer software requirements. This is an ideal product for construction and contracting companies who desire excellent integration, modular flexibility and top-notch job and equipment costing features.

2006 Overall Rating — 5 Stars

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us