CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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Jul. 27, 2006

From

the August 2006 Review of Service Bureau Style Payroll Systems

PowerPayroll is a comprehensive, scalable online payroll system from CompuPay that supports payroll and tax compliance across all 50 states. PowerPayroll is designed for use by small and midsize businesses. Specifically, it is directed to companies with fewer than 150 employees or the large company with multiple small work sites. PowerPayroll is also offered to accountants who can co-brand payroll to their clients.

As an online payroll system, PowerPayroll can be accessed anywhere there is an Internet connection, whether by the accountant or the business. The program is user friendly and easily adapts to the end user's environment. Payroll and related reports can be processed by CompuPay on a traditional "print and delivery" basis or the user can opt to print checks and reports at their own location.

LEARNING CURVE — 5 Stars

PowerPayroll is accessed via the standard web browser. Users are greeted by an easy-to-understand interface — a main menu screen that delivers easy-to-follow sub-menus, including Payday, Employees, Customer Corner, Reports, General Ledger, PayView and Employee Self Service. The program delivers complex solutions, yet its routines are readily understandable. Mouse-driven clickable menus greet the user everywhere they go.

PowerPayroll supports several methods of payroll data entry: data import from time clock programs, standard data entry on an employee-by-employee basis, express

entry (applicable to situations where there is little to no change in underlying

data on a paycheck-to-paycheck basis, i.e. payment of consistent salary amounts),

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security access, whereby individualized security settings (program rights) can be delivered on a user-by-user basis. Program use can be limited to specific areas, such as data entry for a department or geographic office but with no access to other data-sensitive areas. Payroll data needs to be entered two days prior to an expected payday. PowerPayroll includes a payroll reminder system that delivers reminder e-mails regarding tasks that will need to be completed.

PowerPayroll includes a secure Employee Self-Service module called PayView ESS, which allows employees to login online to edit their applicable personal information and to view historical data. The PayView module provides check stub details, summary Y-T-D information, and previously issued W-2s for employees. Customer Corner gives access to tax forms and provides handy "what-if" tax calculators for gross-to-net pay, net-to-gross pay and W-4 withholding tax-net pay scenarios.

REPORTING CAPABILITIES — 3.5 Stars

PowerPayroll provides eight reports: payroll summary, payroll check register, labor and taxable wages, EFT, deductions, earnings, accruals and a pre-transmission report. Reports can be saved in *.PDF, Word or in *.RTF formats, and can be accessed for use with Crystal Reports for more extensive reporting. PowerPayroll includes a report writer that can help customize reporting, including the addition of digital signatures, logos or other customizations. Payroll checks, stubs and reports can be delivered by traditional service bureau means or users may opt to print checks locally, if needed. Reporting capabilities could be strengthened. Through its optional compliance service, PowerPayroll provides comprehensive tax filings for all 50 States.

INTEGRATION/IMPORT & EXPORT — 4.5 Stars

PowerPayroll includes General Ledger links to QuickBooks and Intacct. PowerPayroll

can export data via *.CSV and ASCII files.

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of PowerPayroll delivers a powerful outsourced payroll product, one that can be immediately harnessed to provide powerful payroll services. For CPA clients, CompuPay offers "Innovation Pricing" that bundles key services into one low price. Tax filing services, new hire reporting, direct deposit and other services are all included in that price. A client with a payroll of 10 employees paid biweekly would typically pay \$50 per payroll or \$1,300 per year.

2006 Overall Rating: 4.5 Stars

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