CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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the August 2006 Review of Service Bureau Style Payroll Systems

The Execupay Payroll Suite (EPS) can trace itself to the operation of a service bureau — a service that is still operating today. EPS is a comprehensive suite of modules that supports the outsourced payroll model we have come to know as the "21st Century Service Bureau." Designed for hands-on use, EPS delivers a payroll product in support of efficient and productive use by payroll professionals. Modules include Execupay Payroll, Execupay Total Tax, Execupay Sales, Execupay Service, Execupay FrontDesk, Execupay Execu.net, MyPayrollWeb.com and PlatinumPay.net.

EPS is industrial strength, performs all the expected tasks and much more, including payroll calculations, time tracking, printing of checks, payroll reporting, tax compliance, human resource management, sales, marketing and customer service tools. Two different online components are also available. EPS is built on a 32-bit Windows platform and is scalable, allowing it to meet the needs of the large service bureau company with virtually unlimited users down to a small company running on a standalone computer.

LEARNING CURVE — 4.5 Stars

EPS opens to an intuitively designed series of screens that allows users to freely navigate via a traditional Windows interface. EPS features easy-to-read screens with linked pull-down menus and clickable icons and buttons. Users quickly discover that the "brains" of EPS are found in various "file tabbed" data-entry screens that store company and employee information. The platform is consistent through all modules, which greatly aids the user's learning experience. As we all know, consistency breeds success.

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worked, percent of gross, percent of net, percent of worked or custom calculations chosen by the user. The program's HR abilities are broad, including various demographic and statistical data, employee raise history, new hire status information

and key dates. As you might expect, EPS manages sick, vacation and personal time accruals.

EPS Direct Deposit supports the industry-standard two-day turnaround or users can opt for the expedited FedWire option.

REPORTING CAPABILITIES — 5 Stars

EPS provides a wide array of standard reports. However, payroll professionals will appreciate the EPS Report Writer for customized reporting and for export of customized SQL-based data to Excel.

INTEGRATION/IMPORT & EXPORT — 4.5 Stars

The program creates GL detail reports that can be exported in *.CSV format and imported by a wide variety of accounting applications. With the built-in Acrobat *.PDF Creator, EPS reports can be converted into Adobe Acrobat format. Three types of import files are supported, as well, consisting of GL entries and check listings, which may be directly imported into QuickBooks and MAS 90.

TRAINING & SUPPORT — 4.5 Stars

EPS provides an integrated Windows Help utility that includes search and index functionality. EPS also includes traditional customer support via telephone, fax, e-mail and an online customer support website replete with a knowledgebase, training videos, an online glossary and a troubleshooter. Monthly training classes are also available onsite at Execupay's facility at no additional cost to the licensee for the lifetime they are with the product. Execupay also provides

marketing tools designed to assist licensees in establishing and growing their

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2006 Overall Rating: 4.5 Stars

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