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Aug. 29, 2006

*From  
the September 2006 Review of Client Write-Up Systems*

QuickBooks Premier Accountant Edition (QBAE) is one of two write-up packages offered by Intuit (the other is EasyAcct, the former TaascFORCE product). Clearly, Intuit has made its product strategy clear — to position itself as a major player in the accountant's write-up marketplace. Most will agree that QuickBooks (QB) is the most popular accounting product in today's marketplace. QBAE takes clear advantage of the supported, native connectivity with various client versions of QB.

QBAE is a full-featured write-up program designed and offered in support of professionals who wish to serve their clients efficiently. It includes traditional write-up features like chart of accounts, general ledger, journals, financial statements and accountant's reports, in addition to advanced financial reporting tools, an interactive trial balance, a built-in depreciation module, and superior connectivity to other versions of QB. QBAE costs \$399.95. QBAE's interactive trial balance allows the user to drill down — all the way down — to source details. Users can also enter workpaper references, a feature normally found in high-end, more specialized trial balance applications. This is nice

Practitioners can access their clients' files from anywhere using the Remote Access feature. QBAE's Financial Statement Designer supports easy and fast modification of custom financial statements. Users can quickly create professional financial statements, complete with compilation reports and supporting

schedules/documents. With QBAE, accountants can manage all of their clients'

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The 2006 release of QBAE includes major changes to the graphical user interface, including the addition of the new Home Page, Customer Center, Vendor Center and Payroll Center. The Home Page provides a clickable, graphical/visual “flow-chart design” overview of key program tasks, all on one screen. The user is transported to a program screen when he clicks on a task. Similar technology is programmed and employed on (each of) the “Centers” — Customer Center, Vendor Center and Payroll Center. The 2006 QBAE release supports an improved user learning experience while simplifying overall program execution.

#### **LEARNING CURVE & EASE OF USE: 4.5 Stars**

Supplied wizards and an EasyStep Interview routine supports the QBAE users in initial setup of a company's charts of accounts. QBAE utilizes an interface called the Customer Navigator, which utilizes traditional pull-down and icon menu bars. Intuitive in its design, QBAE users will experience a fast learning experience that supports the ability to quickly utilize the provided write-up tools. Step-by-step Help and guidance is available throughout the program.

#### **REPORTING & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: 4.5 Stars**

QBAE includes customizable pre-designed reports plus the ability to create a variety of financial statements and other reports using the included Financial Statement Designer. Through the Reports Navigator, QBAE users have access to summary and detail income statements and balance sheets; Y-T-D and previous year comparisons; and other statements that can focus on specific transactions, accounts, activities, customers and vendors. Reports can be exported to Excel or word processing documents.

#### **INTEGRATION, IMPORT/EXPORT & PRODUCTION PROCESSING: 4 Stars**

QBAE's integration with other QB programs is very powerful, offering built-in solutions and flexibility in meeting individual client needs. Import is available

from tab- or comma-delimited text files and from QB. Export is available to

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### **SUPPORT, TRAINING & HELP SYSTEM: 4 Stars**

QBAE provides separate Accountant Help, an Online tutorial, a CD-based Tutorial, context-sensitive QB Help, Startup Checklists, and additional online support assistance, including a knowledgebase with FAQs, links to various QB support locations, and a variety of live support plans. Additionally, web-based; CD-based; and live, in-person instructor-led seminars are available.

**2006 Overall Rating: 4.5 Stars**

Technology

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