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the Nov. 2006 Review of Time & Billing Systems

Over the

past few years, BillQuick has become one of the leading time and billing applications, due in large part to the developers' continued pursuit of integration with the major accounting applications on the market. With last year's debut of Microsoft's Small Business Accounting program, BQE immediately worked on integration there, as well. It also integrates with Peachtree, QuickBooks and MYOB, as well as with Intuit Complete Payroll for payroll and PayPal for electronic invoice receipts. The system, which supports any number of clients and staff and can bill using several methods, includes a variety of workflow tools, project management capabilities, a document management system and online payment functions for clients. Pricing is \$395 for a two-user license of BillQuick Basic and \$795 for five users of BillQuick Pro. The company also develops Enterprise and Lite versions of the system.

Ease of Use/Navigation Features — 5 Stars

Wizards guide most of the initial setup of clients, staff, projects and rates, and BillQuick includes a series of templates based on various service professions (accounting, legal, consulting, etc.) that speed users through the process of getting started. The program opens to an inviting interface that uses a customizable Navigator screen as the default work area. This screen offers large icons for primary functions such as employee, client, vendor and project-related tasks, which provide users with specific task options when clicked. The customizable Navigator screen can also be set to display business indicators such as cash flow, and can include links to reports and frequently needed functions. The system also maintains a tabbed menu and an icon menu across the top of the screen. Client and staff directories are easily searchable and filterable.

Staff time and expense entry is very simple and intuitive, with options for

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Management Functions — 5 Stars

The BillQuick system allows an unlimited number of clients and staff, with the ability to bill based on fixed fee, recurring or hourly billing methods. The program can also be set to bill against retainers or other prepayment methods, and management can set minimum billable hours or spending caps that limit billable

work to a client and notify appropriate staff when limits are reached. BillQuick supports default cost rates and regular and overtime bill rates per staff member. Via BillQuick's fee schedules, the number of rates are unlimited and adjust automatically when time is recorded. The rates can vary based on Client, Project and/or Activity, allowing for multiple rates for a single employee on a single project depending on the service provided. It supports both client-based and project-based billable rates, and includes project-phasing capabilities.

Among its more notable features, the system's project management functions allow grouping, cloning and merging of projects. Also, since the system keeps track of both actual and billable time separately, users can more easily manage productivity based on tasks and staff members. The program automates sending invoices via e-mail with any e-mail program and can receive payments electronically through a PayPal system that was added last year. The company also develops several add-on modules, including Agent, which ensures that employees complete their time cards when due, automates generation and delivery of reports and alerts to warn managers when projects are almost over budget or when aging is too high. Other add-ons include eTools for remote data sync; the Web Suite for web-based time, expense, client, project, invoicing and report access; and PDA functionality for Palm and CE devices.

Billing & Reporting — 5 Stars

The BillQuick system includes a wizard that can guide the user through the more

than 400 reports and invoice templates, which can be customized from within

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Integration — 5 Stars

Many of BillQuick's integration capabilities have already been mentioned, including the ability to share data with the major small business accounting applications from QuickBooks, Microsoft, Peachtree and MYOB, as well as payroll integration with Intuit Complete Payroll. Additionally, the system integrates with MS Outlook for contact management and mail functions, and the program can convert Timeslips and Wind2 data.

User Support & Help — 5 Stars

BillQuick is exceptionally easy to use, and the inclusion of wizards throughout most of the setup areas definitely aids in this process. The program includes an impressive array of other Help features, as well, including right-click menus, content-sensitive assistance, shortcuts and templates, and the Help utility includes a FAQ section. The company's online support website provides downloadable updates, tutorials, a knowledgebase and various training options.

2006 Overall Rating: 5 Stars

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