the Nov. 2006 Review of Point-of-Sale Systems

Retail
Manager from CAP|Software contains a powerful point-of-sale module and a back office module (SellWise) along with additional tools designed to streamline retail store management procedures.

EASE OF USE — 5 Stars
The point-of-sale module is designed for use with touch screens, function keys and a series of hot keys. Items can be scanned, or the lookup feature can be used to search for products. Customers can also be located using the same search function. The main screen features a series of tabs at the top and at the right side of the screen. Each tab is controlled by a function key. For example, F3 is used to search for products, F2 is used for customers, and F5 is used to change item quantity. Hot Keys speed data entry along, allowing for the addition of non-inventory items, frequently sold products, and miscellaneous charges to the touch screen for rapid processing. The select tender screen offers various tenders for processing payments, and transaction balances can be reviewed prior to processing payment. The quick key option can be used to categorize certain items and services. Quick keys are also available for entering specific product categories; just press the corresponding quick key number, and enter the amount of the sale.

Retail Manager's interface is uncluttered, and with its reliance on keyboard and touch screen processing, it's easy to navigate, even for new users.

MODULES/SCALABILITY — 4.5 Stars
Retail Manager contains the POS module along with the SellWise module, which

contains inventory, order processing, product receiving, label printing, system

store configuration settings, the ability to set pricing by store, additional reports, and an increased number of hot key total sets (999). Promotional pricing can also be accessed directly from the point-of-sale module.

The use of hot key and quick key functions streamlines the check-out process considerably. Retail Manager is truly designed for the cashier, even asking whether the cashier is left- or right-handed. Inventory items and new customer information can be added on the fly when necessary. Numerous types of product discounts are handled, including percentage, quantity, store promotional and specific customer discounts. The barcode scanner can be used to enter products, and the function keys allow for the lookup of items. SellWise allows user to print product UPC code tags, price tags and even store labels. When processing sales, up to five different kinds of payment can be accepted, including a combination of cash, check, credit cards, store credits and gift cards. The Operations function allows users to reprint transaction receipts, add remarks to a receipt, suspend transactions and process a cash drawer report. Exceptions such as returns and overrides can be processed here, as well.

INTEGRATION — 5 Stars
Retail Manager 2006 is a fully integrated system that works very smoothly with SellWise (back office module). Hardware peripherals supported include cash drawers,
counter top scanners, barcode scanners, magnetic card readers, PIN pads, and credit and debit card processing. The Hcom application allows for the exchange of data between sites. The Inventory Checker is a portable device that will quickly scan incoming product and update inventory. The accounting link allows for the transfer of data to QuickBooks or BusinessWorks. Report information can also be exported to Microsoft Excel.

TRACKING/REPORTS — 5 Stars

Retail Manager 2006 is an excellent point-of-sale product that is ideal for those processing high volumes of transactions daily. An easily navigated user interface, extensive customization capability and the ability to add the modules needed make this an attractive option for both single- and multi-location retailers. Retail Manager starts at $1,995 for a single-user system.

2006 Overall Rating: 5 Stars

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