## **CPA**

## Practice **Advisor**

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## the Dec. 2006 Review of Fixed Asset Management Systems

This review conclusively confirms the fact that Fixed Asset software has entered a new age — a new age where software vendors, reacting to the needs of the marketplace, have redesigned and enhanced their fixed asset software offerings to meet the growing needs of users, and to better take advantage of technological advances in hardware. Leading the way are fixed asset programs that feature intuitive features with fast learning curves.

What should you be looking for when shopping and analyzing available offerings?

What I have seen in this review is that "top-of-the-line" programs provide simple yet powerful setup of assets (including selection of methods, depreciation conventions, and related useful lives), support and maintain multiple depreciation books (that may be simultaneously viewed or printed for comparison and error checking purposes), provide asset inventory/identification/sorting features, integrate with other programs including the ability to share data via import and export (I am lazy so wizards are nice), provide users with strong reporting features (including support for tax forms) and the ability to create custom reports for an ever-changing environment. Such programs offer these items and so much more, such as support for amortization of non-depreciable assets, supplying users with tax return worksheets, automatic creation and transfer of journal entries to accounting programs, forecasting, barcode scanning, and the import and attachment of digital photographs.

Users should ask about program computational abilities such as the recalculation of beginning accumulated depreciation (by individual asset, method or systemwide)

as well as support for bulk to multi-asset sale and exchanges. Does the program

automatically assign depreciation methods and lives and automatically assign

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Without a doubt, the fixed asset program that will best suits your needs is out there and waiting for you.

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