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Accounting, and PDAs

Mar. 03, 2007

Tech2Go is a fast-paced roundtable discussion with Executive Editor Gregory L. LaFollette, CPA.CITP, and regular columnists Brent Goodfellow, Dave McClure and Randy Johnston. These thought leaders tackle current technology issues impacting the tax and accounting profession. This month, the panel discusses useful hardware and software tools to boost productivity, Microsoft Professional Accountants Network (MPAN), Microsoft Office Accounting, and the current state of PDA Smartphones. [Running time is 1:17:44]

Gregory L. LaFollette

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Brent Goodfellow

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Dave McClure

Randy Johnston

Tech2Go Show Notes

Episode 2 â€“ February 2007

Recorded February 19, 2007

Introductions

Greg LaFollette, Host

Randy Johnston

Dave McClure

Brent Goodfellow

Hardware / Software Tools

HW â€“ Multi-flash card reader [Like 9-in1]

SW â€“ [LavaSoft AdAware Personal SE](#)

SW â€“ [Spybot Search & Destroy](#)

Issue: USB ports filled and possible solutions

SW â€“ [Windows Defender](#) built-into Windows Vista â€“ built-in anti-spyware and

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SW â€“ [Be-in-Sync](#)â€“ allows synchronization of folders between multiple computers, works over the internet so you can access the files from anywhere
HW â€“ [SimpleTech](#) 500 GB network storage for backups and additional file storage

Microsoft

[Microsoft Professional Accountants Network](#) (MPAN) â€“ FREE signup, fairly easy entry â€“ just show that you are an accountant.

ActionPack – \$299 per year â€“ subscription gives you legally licensed software – includes 10 licenses for Windows Vista Business and 10 copies of Office 2007. The ActionPack also comes with a business critical support 800 number with free support for business-critical issues and offers 27 hours of free CPE credit for training on Microsoft products online or on a disk.

Windows Vista Versions

Business â€“ Equivalent to Windows XP Pro

Enterprise â€“ Has all the extras

Ultimate â€“ Has every Vista technology available; a cross between Windows Media Center Pro and Tablet Edition

You change the product key to upgrade to a different version, or â€œopenâ€ the different features that are associated with each different version.

Microsoft Office Accounting

[Office Accounting Express](#)â€“ Free downloadable version that offers very useable accounting features. Has most key features that small business would use. Version includes access to (at a fee) ADP payroll processing, PayPal, and eBay integration and Equifax credit monitoring capabilities.

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Setup full Exchange or SharePoint server for around \$30 per month for the basic accounts

AppRiver – \$12.95 per month per mailbox, unlimited size, including excellent spam filtering.

A hosted Exchange server allows you to eliminate worry about the technical aspects of handling the data or managing a server. It also allows automatic synchronization of all your emails and access over the web when you are away from the office. Most services also allow for automatic synchronization of your calendar on a PDA device like [Palm](#) and [Windows Mobile](#).

PDA Platforms â€™“ Palm or Windows Mobile?

1. Pick the carrier that will work best for you â€™“ consider data speeds and areas of service
2. Which carrier offers the device you want?

Popular Smartphone Devices

[Blackberry Pearl](#)

[Samsung Blackjack](#)

[Motorola Q](#)

[Palm Treo](#)

[Nokia E62](#)

[Blackberry 7130 Series](#)

[iPaq Smartphone](#)

* Consider battery life when choosing a Smartphone device

* Some phone features are crippled, depending on the cell phone carrier

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