CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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From the Dec. 2007 Review of Fixed Asset Systems

In addition to offering asset management solutions for enterprise-level organizations

with hundreds of thousands of assets, Real Asset Management International offers the Asset Station system, a lower-cost depreciation management program geared for small and midsize concerns with up to 1,000 assets. The program supports multiple currencies and languages, enabling management of multiple books per asset, and it automatically performs calculations for traditional GAAP- and FASB-compliant depreciation methods and conventions. Pricing for the system starts at \$499 for a single-user version. The company also offers high-end systems for asset tracking, maintenance management, and transport and logistics.

NAVIGATION/EASE-OF-USE — 4.5 Stars

By default, Asset Station opens directly into the client asset list, which offers a spreadsheet view of all items, with description, categories, subcategories, purchase costs and date of capitalization, along with search, filter and sorting options. The tabbed asset list also includes navigation functions and provides easy-to-use add and edit tools, and it lets users jump directly to the Detail screen, which houses the real work areas of the program. The Detail screen provides additional tabs that enable tracking of virtually any kind of asset information. Back to the primary master window, the user interface is exceptionally well designed, with intuitive icons and menus for accessing primary features, along with a vertical, expandable menu for Inquiries, Processing and Reports.

New assets can be easily added, including parent/child items, with the tabbed data-entry screens providing abundant pull-down selection lists. Users can clone

existing assets when entering multiple like items or can set up templates. The

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MANAGEMENT FEATURES — 4.5 Stars

Asset Station can be used in-house by businesses or by accounting professionals who support multiple clients and subsidiary units with up to 1,000 assets. The system can track parent/child assets, and allows splitting, unsplitting, combining, revaluation, partial and mass dispositions, and like-kind exchanges. It allows grouping and tracking of items by cost center, division and other options, including by geographic location with differing currencies for the locations.

Asset Station's calculations support multiple books that include Federal, State, AMT, ACE and customizable books. Plus, it supports all U.S. conventions, including MACRS, ACRS, Reducing, Non-Depreciating, Straight-Line, Variable Rate, Digressive, Multiple Units of Production, Sum-of-the-Years' Digits, Declining Balance and Amortization. Asset types can include regular, farm, Indian Reservation, Indian Farm and governmental units, in addition to others. It also supports various conventions used in Europe and Canada. On-screen projections are easily accessible, as are views of all asset books from one screen. Asset Station also maintains a full-time audit trail that tracks all actions applied to an asset over its life span.

INTEGRATION — 4 Stars

Asset Station can export to multiple common file types, including Excel spreadsheets and plain text, allowing for a two-step export/import data transfer process to GL and tax systems. Users can also generate reports into PDFs. As well, the system provides an Import Wizard for pulling in asset data and opening balances from other systems.

REPORTING — 4.5 Stars

The system offers comprehensive and customizable analysis and reporting options, which include standard reports for asset histories, disposals, transfers, detailed

asset depreciation and yearly depreciation. Asset Station also includes annual

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support website provides little additional material, not even FAQs or tutorials. Comprehensive tutorials are provided upon purchase. Technical assistance and program updates are included with an annual maintenance agreement.

SUMMARY

Asset Station is essentially a lite version of the company's very sophisticated and high-end Asset4000 system, providing smaller businesses and professionals with robust features and detailed depreciation calculations and projection capabilities.

The program is very attractively priced for this market and provides comprehensive reporting and output options.

2007 Overall Rating: 4.5 Stars

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