CPA
Practice Advisor

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of Contractor/Construction Accounting Systems

Sage Timberline Office continues to dominate the construction and property management industries with its comprehensive financial and operations software product. Offering upwards of 50 modules, Sage Timberline Office is aimed at larger specialty and service contractors, commercial and industrial contractors, and residential builders.

Learning Curve/ Ease of Use — 5 Stars

The main screen of Sage Timberline Office features a drop-down menu bar at the top, with a series of icons directly below. A handy tool for new users is Setup Central, which is series of setup wizards that can assist in setting up the GL, Cash Management, AP, AR, Billing, and Job Cost modules. Another organization feature is the Sage Timberline Office Desktop, which is a modified homepage that allows users to organize frequently used functions and daily tasks for easy access. Report access and links to websites and various third-party applications can also be set up. Having all of this information available in one screen makes system access and navigation easier than ever. As always, the Help function is comprehensive and able to answer many of the questions that may hamper new users. Customization capability is excellent with more than 250 user-defined fields for additional levels of data tracking in addition to the numerous data that Sage Timberline Office automatically tracks for the user. Projects can be tracked based on a variety of criteria, including by job or weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Job IDs can use up to 10 alphanumeric characters, and cost codes can utilize up to 12 characters. The Equipment Tracking module allows users to organize and maintain equipment costs and revenue. Estimates can be created quickly, using a material, cost or labor basis, depending on the potential job and business needs.

Modules & Functionality — 5 Stars

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mentioned Desktop, ODBC, Report Designer, and a variety of service modules such as Service Agreements, Service Inventory, Service Management and Service Purchasing.
A variety of Development Partner products compatible with Sage Timberline Office are also available.

Productivity Tools — 5 Stars
The Workflow Centers are designed to help new users learn to navigate the system comfortably. Displayed on the main user interface screen, the centers can guide users through common tasks found in modules such as Job Cost, AP, AR and Cash Management. The Information Assistant provides non-users with access to company financial and management reports, security permitting. The Document Management module is an excellent way to reduce paper. Scanned or computer-generated documents
such as invoices, purchase orders, estimates or correspondence can be attached to Sage Timberline Office files. This allows for the electronic storage of such documents, which can later be retrieved by classification. Scanned or system-generated
invoices can also be routed to various departments for review and approval.
My Assistant is an organizational feature that assists with task management.
It comes with 125 pre-defined tasks that can be utilized or users can simply add their own.

Import/Export/ Integration — 5 Stars
ODBC allows users to easily import and export data from a variety of third-party applications as well as Microsoft Excel, Word and Access. Customer and estimating data can be easily imported from a variety of applications, as well. Pricing software can be accessed using the TRA-SER Integrator, which links directly to pricing programs. Sage Timberline Office modules are all designed to integrate

and can be purchased as needed, allowing for the addition of modules at a later

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provide a quick snapshot of accounting and financial data. For further customization,
Crystal Reports can be used.

Support & Training — 5 Stars
Sage Timberline Office offers three levels of product support: BasicCare (which provides access to the Knowledgebase along with software notices and alerts), EssentialCare (which offers customers all BasicCare benefits along with unlimited telephone, fax or e-mail support) or PremierCare (which offers all the benefits of the other two levels along with personalized assistance from an assigned account manager). The SmartStart feature provides all new users with 60 days of unlimited support. Sage Timberline Office contains an excellent system Help function that will answer many questions. More comprehensive training options are available in the classroom, onsite and online.

Relative Value — 5 Stars
Sage Timberline Office is ideal for medium to large construction companies high-end construction companies and specialty contractors. Costs vary widely and can range from $7,500 to more than $30,000, depending on modules purchased and number
of users. For construction-related businesses looking for exceptional customization capability and module availability, Sage Timberline Office is definitely worth serious consideration.

2008 Overall Rating: 5 Stars

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