of Mid-Range Accounting Systems

TurningPoint from Red Wing Software is positioned as a replacement for entry-level software products for companies not quite ready to make the jump to high-end, high-cost software. An excellent product for single-user environments, TurningPoint can also be used in both peer-to-peer networks for fewer than three users, as well as in a network environment.

Ease of Use/Transaction Entry – 4.5 Stars

Once logged in, users are presented with a grid in the middle of the screen that contains a series of icons with links to Microsoft Office products such as Excel, Word, Outlook and Access. Below those icons are links to all system modules. Clicking on the link expands the menu, listing all features found in that particular module. Once a feature is chosen, additional options appear to the right of the menu.

Navigation is easy with buttons that provide various options where users can add a transaction, edit a transaction, display a list or search for a particular item. Data-entry screens provide extensive lookup options. Transaction data-entry screens are split between Header and Detail, which adds an extra step. Journal entries are not automatically posted, but are rather saved as batches, which will need to be posted separately.

Modules & Notable Features – 4.5 Stars

TurningPoint is a modular system, with modules available in suites or individually. The Core Financial Suite contains GL, AP and AR modules. The Inventory Suite offers GL, AP, AR, Inventory, Order Entry and Purchase Order modules. CenterPoint Payroll is also available at an additional cost.

TurningPoint contains numerous Wizards to assist users with everything from

Integration/Import/Export – 5 Stars

TurningPoint offers excellent integration with Excel, Word, Access and Outlook. As well, the product features an import/export wizard that assists in importing data from other software products. The Payroll Import function allows users to choose the payroll export file as well as the file in which you want the data imported. The Export Wizard offers export templates to various system modules, allowing users to choose the fields they wish to export. All text can also be easily converted to XML using the XML Convertor, and the Import/Migration Wizard allows for the selection of the import location and the data to import.

Reporting – 4 Stars

Reports are accessible in each module and are powered by the Crystal Reports engine, allowing them to be slightly modified if desired. Reports can also be exported to a variety of formats including Excel, HTML, Word, PDF and Text formats. The Financial Snapshot reporting feature provides management with relevant summaries of important data such as Cash on Hand, AR, Inventory, AP, Sales and Cost of Goods Sold. This snapshot displays as a one-page report, giving the business an idea of its current net income. All pending activity can also be presented in the Snapshot Reporter, as well.

Support/Training/Help – 5 Stars

TurningPoint contains a comprehensive Help feature that is available throughout the program. The Customer Care Membership provides users with unlimited toll-free access to the vendor's call center. The Customer Care Membership also provides users with product updates, updated tax tables and downloadable service packs. This membership starts at $525 for Gold-level support for a single-user, with Silver-level support costing $325 per year. The vendor's website

also features the "How-To" Viewer, which maintains a list of common

2008 Overall Rating: 4.5 Stars

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