CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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Dec. 01, 2008

From the October 2005 Review of W-2/1099 Software

After-the-Fact Payroll (AFP) from AccountantsWorld provides users with the ability to prepare annual Form(s) W-2 and 1099. AFP is available as a stand-alone program or as part of the Accountants Office Suite of products. AFP supports Forms 1099-MISC, 1099-R, 1099-B, 1099-DIV, 1099-INT, 1099-S, 1098, 1096, W-2, W-3, plus all quarterly federal forms 940, 941 and 943. The program supports paper and electronic filing; it will print paper copies of all returns and, likewise, will also produce the SSA Magnetic Media file and create the electronic file for 1099s. AFP also provides quarterly state support for unemployment and withholding taxes, as add-on modules, for CA, CT, FL, GA, IL, MA, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TX and VA. The After-the-Fact Payroll federal W2/1099 with payroll compliance forms, including magnetic media and electronic filing, fully integrated with Accountant's Relief costs \$195. After-the-Fact Payroll (states) for the states listed above costs \$125 per state.

Usability/Navigation — 4 Stars

AFP can produce W-2s and 1099s in typewriter mode or through the AFP system, where individual payroll checks are entered in the payroll register. Should the user choose to enter data via the payroll register, compiled payroll data is linked to forms, which speeds processing. Users can enter data onto form replicas or by entering data into a non-forms-based record. The system uses easy-to-understand color-coding to note various fields, with highlighting of active fields. Navigation between fields is via the Tab or Enter keys. AFP automatically

calculates FICA withholding for W-2s and allows for overriding of calculated amounts. After setting up a client, data entry is geared toward the payroll

application, with data for employees entered in different steps. Basic

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value (*.CSV) format. Users may also use a text editor to create the *.CSV file. Many accounting programs can export information in this format so that the timewasting

task of re-keying data is avoided. AFP data can produce summary reports for unemployment, vendor data and employee earnings per client, a complete payroll register and state reports. The system supports Windows-based printers and offers users the ability to print mailing labels.

Support For Paperless Transmission — 4.5 Stars

AFP Payroll can be used to file W-2s and 1099s magnetically or electronically to the appropriate agency.

Help/Training — 4 Stars

AFP offers context-sensitive help, index-based help and additional Help features like right-click menus that provide shortcuts to program routines. AFP includes FAQs, *.PDF versions of IRS form instructions, a user's manual, an Internet help center via the company's web site, plus e-mail and phone-based support at no additional cost. The program supports automatic updates via the Web.

2005 Overall Rating — 4 Stars

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