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Dec. 22, 2008

*From the [Jan. 2009 Review](#)
of Not-for-Profit Accounting Programs*

Cougar Mountain Software offers CMS FUND for Nonprofits as part of its CMS Professional 2009 lineup. As the vendor's flagship product with over 25 years of experience serving small and mid-sized organizations, CMS FUND continues to expand its comprehensive accounting system with many specialty tools for nonprofit users.

EASE OF USE/FLEXIBILITY – 5 Stars

Navigation of CMS FUND is simple in a menu-driven environment. Icons offer movement

between modules with new options available once the modules are accessed. This keeps the data-entry screens clean and easy to navigate. Lookup options are available throughout, aiding users in data entry.

Cougar Mountain's strength in flexibility has long been best realized in the customization options for its products. CMS FUND uses a 45-digit account number structure, allowing for six segments to track unlimited funds. User-defined fields abound with simple import/export functions. Custom programming is available

from CMS to further tailor CMS FUND to an agency's specific needs.

MODULES/SCALABILITY – 5 Stars

The base CMS FUND is designed for small to mid-sized organizations, offering GL (including fund, grant tracking and budgeting functionality) and Bank modules as a base. Budgeting and FASB 116 and 117 reports are also included with CMS FUND. For smaller organizations, this may be enough, as other optional modules can be added as needed.

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Infinity, Single Point (Remote Access), and Tax Updates. Considering all options, CMS Suite is extremely adept to handle many different operations while offering the fund accounting foundation to meet an organization's financial needs.

FEATURES/FUNCTIONALITY – 5 Stars

CMS FUND provides full account-ing for an unlimited number of funds, departments or grants, and easily handles inter-fund transfers, fund balancing, and multiple grants with varied year ends. A 36-month calendar allows for flexibility in closing and reporting. Cougar Mountain also offers consolidation for multiple organizational needs.

Allocations can be made by fixed cash or fixed percentage, allowing posting to unlimited accounts. The Purchase Order module offers options to track encumbrances and manage budgets more effectively. Paperless functionality was added this year with the ability to attach documents within the main record windows. By simply clicking on an attachment within most record screens, you can add pertinent documentation to your file. Another paperless enhancement is the PDF Blaster integration. As previously noted, PDF Blaster Lite is included, allowing users to e-mail and fax 30 invoices, statements and notices per month. The full version is available as an add-on and offers unlimited e-mail and faxing capability.

This year's new version release is focused on ease of information retrieval and the ability to do more functions from just one screen. The latest version offers numerous new features in inventory and payroll, along with tighter security for credit card processing.

REPORTING – 4.5 Stars

CMS FUND includes all necessary GAAP financial statements as well as audit trail, operations analysis and basic budget reports. The addition of the GL Report

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SUPPORT/HELP – 5 Stars

Telephone Support is available from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)

Monday

through Friday. Cougar Mountain also offers the online Customer Service Center, which provides efficient access to product documentation, e-learning tools, product news, updates and downloads.

Training is available at CMS locations, onsite and online. E-Learning video training options and other resources are available from their Customer Service Center. Software Assurance packages provide access to additional resources, upgrades, technical support and discounted training. CMS also offers additional packages for more computer or accounting assistance your organization may need, including installation, wellness and phone support plans.

RELATIVE VALUE – 5 Stars

Cougar Mountain pricing includes Software Assurance. CMS FUND is priced at \$2,245

(single-user) and \$4,647 (multi-user). CMS FUND Suite is available for \$4,887 (single-user); \$7,047 (multi-user). Add-on module pricing varies. Cougar Mountain is an exceptional value and offers excellent nonprofit functionality to small and mid-sized organizations with features often found in higher-end packages.

2009 OVERALL RATING:

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