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In 2008, A-Systems Corporation celebrated 30 years of providing business owners quality accounting and construction software. With Visual Bookkeeper-Preferred Edition, A-Systems targets small business owners who are looking for a product a step above the typical entry-level products. The Preferred Edition offers a solid selection of modules, including GL, AP, AR, Payroll, Contact Management, Equipment Costing, Custom Report Writing, Purchase Orders, Point of Sale and Sales Orders. With the availability of two editions, (Small Business and Preferred Edition), purchasers of Visual Bookkeeper will be able to concentrate on their business growth, and not worry about their software becoming obsolete. The Preferred Edition currently costs \$995 for a single-user system with additional user licenses available for \$100 each.

From the June 2009 Review of [Small Business Accounting Systems: Tier II](#)

EASE OF USE/BASIC FUNCTIONALITY:

A drop-down menu at the top of Visual Bookkeeper's main interface provides access to all installed modules, as well as management functions such as the overview screen. Users can also choose to access modules by clicking on the respective icon to the left of the screen. Using the New Company Startup Wizard simplifies company setup and provides a handy list of information that you will need in order to complete the setup. The chart of accounts can be selected from a default option and then easily customized by adding account numbers relevant to your business. You can also enter beginning balance data from your current financial statements and enter and post AR and AP balances here, as well. If

you're currently using a QuickBooks product, you can import data directly

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All data screens contain extensive tabs that offer a variety of options available in each relevant module. Lookup options are also found throughout, as are import and export options.

CORE ACCOUNTING/SECURITY FUNCTIONS:

The Preferred Edition comes with all of the modules included in the Small Business Advantage Edition, which include GL, AP, AR, Payroll, and Sales, in addition to Inventory, Contact Management, Equipment Costing, Custom Report Writing and Point of Sale. All

modules integrate to create a solid accounting system perfect for the growing business. The Inventory module rivals any from a more robust product and features multi-warehouse management and detailed inventory tracking capabilities.

Version 9.0 of Visual Bookkeeper features over 90 product enhancements, including a significant upgrade of the 'paperless office' function, which now allows you to add a variety of file types to Visual Bookkeeper data including PDF files, spreadsheets, image files and even scanned documents. Better drilldown capability is now offered throughout, and Overview screens have also been enhanced significantly. The latest version also contains an improved data import process for easier data import. An always-on Audit Trail option allows you to view user login times and dates, as well as a summary of activity performed.

REPORTING & MANAGEMENT:

Visual Bookkeeper has significantly enhanced its reporting options in this latest version. The useful Overview screens have been enhanced to provide additional reporting fields, better drilldown capability, and more expanded report processing options. Overviews are available throughout the program and include the Company Overview, which provides an overall snapshot of your company financially. The Accounting Overview allows you to perform AP and AR trouble scans, where it will search entries for red flags or other glaring errors. Each module contains

a decent selection of standard reports that can be slightly modified. The DataView

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Internet connection. Although you can now import QuickBooks or Peachtree data directly into Visual Bookkeeper, other imported data must first be placed into a batch prior to system posting.

HELP & SUPPORT OPTIONS:

Visual Bookkeeper is an easily navigated product. Quick system setup and a good Help system guide new users through setup and answer many of the questions posed when using a new system. The Procedures Guide provides a great overview of the system, and online training is available for those who need additional assistance. Product support options vary and can be purchased on a quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis. Per-incident support is also available.

RELATIVE VALUE:

Visual Bookkeeper-Preferred Edition is an excellent product, ideal for businesses that find they have outgrown their accounting software but are not in need of an enterprise-level product that is frequently offered as an alternative. With the availability of two editions, (Small Business and Preferred Edition), purchasers of Visual Bookkeeper will be able to concentrate on their business growth, and not worry about their software becoming obsolete. The Preferred Edition is currently being offered at a promotional price of \$150 for a three-user system, with all add-ons included at no additional charge.

2009 OVERALL RATING:

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