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[This sidebar article appeared with the September 2009 Review of Professional Payroll Programs.]

Automatic Payroll Systems has been developing payroll solutions for more than a decade, with its flagship APS OnLine payroll system geared toward automating payroll, tax compliance, time and attendance and integration needs of businesses. The small business edition of the program is specifically designed for businesses with up to 20 employees, providing unlimited payroll runs, direct deposit, checkwriting,
employee portals and many other features for a flat monthly fee.

The user-friendly web-based system can be used for businesses and employees in any state, including salaried, hourly, commissioned and tip-based staff, with the ability to add and process any number of deductions each. The system guides users through the steps of entering staff hours, reviewing a pending payroll run and making necessary adjustments to deductions, after which checks, check vouchers and direct deposit vouchers can be printed. Employees can be given secure online access to their own payroll information, including prior pay stubs and W-2s.

For employee reporting and tax compliance processes, APS offers an optional compliance service. After running a payroll, APS handles the rest, first creating a cash requirement statement and debiting the appropriate business account for payroll tax liabilities and holding them in impound until they are due. APS then handles reporting and payment of these liabilities and guarantees compliance as long as the tax liabilities are received from the company, thereby relieving business managers from tracking due dates and worrying about penalties.

In addition to payroll, the program also offers benefits management functions

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