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Programs

Market Booming for Contractor/Construction Accounting & Management Systems

Jul. 01, 2010

From the July 2010 Issue

As more people are creating more service-related businesses, the software industry has been scrambling to keep up with the growth. And small service businesses (equipment rentals, HVAC and home builders) continue to see growth.

This growth has produced more demand for software that suits the needs of these specialized business types. As a result, software vendors continue to add more features and functions to their core products in order to appeal to both the traditional builder and the contracting trade.

Each industry requires its own set of functionality. Traditional construction companies need a strong job cost module, and service and repair companies need a solid service and dispatch module, with perhaps an equipment management module, as well. This is a major reason why most of the construction software products reviewed in this issue will not suit all construction-related businesses.

One of the other reasons is strictly monetary. The more robust products tend to be more expensive, and the entry-level products will easily fit the budget restraints of the smallest company.

Regular readers of *The CPA Technology Advisor* will know that 2010 brought in a new way of looking at and reviewing software products. The result of this new review method makes the product ratings easier to understand. So a 5-star product will contain just about every feature available for that product type, as outlined in our review criteria on this page.

However, that also might mean that a product that earns a 4-star rating could easily

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should provide, but we recommend that anyone looking for a new product should invest the time to research the many options available in today's market based on their individual needs. Many of the products reviewed in this issue offer free demos so those parties interested will have a better idea about the suitability of a product after seeing it perform.

Please remember that it's only the user's opinion of the software that really matters. The products reviewed here are all excellent in their own way and at least one is likely to be a perfect fit for your small construction industry clients.

A-Systems Corporation – JobView

Cougar Mountain Software – CMS Professional Accounting

CUC Software – Contractor Essentials

CYMA Systems Inc. – Accounting For Windows Job Costing

eTEK International Inc. – *eTEK* for Microsoft Office

Foundation Software – Foundation for Windows

Intuit – QuickBooks Premier 2009 Contractor Edition

MICS, Inc. – Builder Information System

Peachtree by Sage 2011 – Peachtree Premium Accounting for Construction 2011

Sage – Sage Master Builder

Sage Software – Timberline Office

WennSoft – WennSoft Job Cost

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