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Mary Girsch-Bock • Jul. 02, 2010

From the July 2010 Review of [Construction/Contractor Accounting Programs](#).

eTEK

for Microsoft Office is a financial/job costing software product ideal for construction companies looking to step up from off-the-shelf products. Designed to be highly functional as well as scalable, *eTEK* offers solid features and an easy-to-use interface that has been designed for functionality and efficiency.

BASIC SYSTEM FUNCTIONS:

When *eTEK* first updated its user interface to utilize Microsoft Office 2007 design, I was frustrated, as I was only beginning to familiarize myself with Office 2007. A few years later, I can truly appreciate the *eTEK* user interface, which like Microsoft Office 2007, uses the ribbon-style method of navigation. Built on Microsoft Office 2007, *eTEK*'s user interface contains a set of function icons at the top, with system modules listed directly below. Clicking on a module will display the corresponding functions within that module, with most functions expanding into features within each particular section.

Data-entry screens are easily navigated, with clean, uncluttered entry screens and the appropriate lookup options throughout. Setup checklists are available for setting up new companies, making it easy to enter information and ensuring that nothing is overlooked.

When entering a new job, users can choose an existing job template or just create a new job from scratch. *eTEK* also offers five data-entry screen views. Users can also choose which items to display on the toolbar, including minimizing the ribbon feature if desired. The Inquiry screens located throughout

can quickly and easily display selected financial and job-related reports. Because

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completed by reversing the entire batch or by entering a reverse transaction for a single item in the Enter Journal Entry option.

The AP module allows users to easily add or edit invoices or create or utilize an invoice template. Vendors can be added on the fly, and recurring invoices processed automatically. The AR module allows for the creation of a series of billings, including Time and Materials, AIA Invoicing and Contract Billing, along with the standard billing function. The choice to place all of these billing options in the AR module was a good one; it streamlines transaction processing and eliminates the extra steps often found in other programs. The Payroll module allows users to enter employee hours using the QuickTime entry function or the standard entry function where earnings and deductions can be entered along with labor cost codes and equipment hours. The Payroll module also supports direct deposit and multi-state payroll.

Other financial modules available include Cash Management, Inventory and Purchasing.

eTEK automatically creates a system Audit List, with batch numbers assigned for easy transaction processing. Solid system security options are also provided, with menu-level and step-level security available.

CONSTRUCTION/CONTRACTOR-SPECIFIC FEATURES:

eTEK offers an estimating function that can be used when entering new job information. Users can assign a job estimate or estimator to each project or enter a new one on the fly. Estimates can be entered in a variety of default categories including Labor and overtime hours, Equipment, and Material Cost. The Job Cost Master Editor tracks detailed statistics on each job, including job status (which provides percentage complete), burden percentage and job permit information. The Inquiry feature provides additional detail on job-related

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managed in the Payroll module, where extensive employee information such as historical wages, taxes and deductions can be viewed. Subcontractor costs can be tracked either by job or subcontractor, which provides detailed information on contract costs, change order amounts and balances.

The Inventory module allows users to enter both items and kits. Items can be assigned to specified locations, groups or suppliers, and can handle multi-location

warehouses. The Purchasing module allows users to add PO types, process POs and move information to the Inventory module. The Equipment Management function

allows users to track both equipment and labor costs and rates attached to each piece of equipment, along with machine serial numbers and a detailed description.

REPORTING & MANAGEMENT TOOLS:

eTEK offers an excellent selection of reports in each of the modules, including the Job Recap report, the Billing Receipts Analysis and the Job Cost report. The Reports Wizard offers quick report customization, and all reports can be exported to PDF, XPS, Excel, Word, or text file formats, as well as emailed directly from the print screen. As previously noted, *eTEK* offers AIA-compliant invoicing with certificates tracked by job name or number. Creating communication templates is easy when utilizing the product's exceptional integration with Microsoft Office products. Remote access is easily available using *eTEK's* SaaS option.

INTEGRATION/IMPORT/EXPORT:

eTEK offers solid integration of its entire selection of modules, along with strong integration with Microsoft Office products. *eTEK* also offers

import capability from Access, as well as the ability to import estimating data

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SUMMARY & PRICING

eTEK offers a solid construction software product that is ideally suited for small to mid-sized construction trades that require flexibility, ease of use and affordability along with a software product they won't outgrow. Priced at \$3,856 for a single-user system that includes Accounting, Payroll, Job Cost and Supply Chain Management modules, along with first-year product support and training, *eTEK* is a solid investment for construction companies.

2010 OVERALL RATING:

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