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Mary Girsch-Bock • NOV. 01, 2010

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The software needs of the nonprofit organization are vastly different from those implemented by standard organizations. Many nonprofits are funded solely by grants, which require detailed tracking and accountability for every dollar spent. As well, those active in fundraising need a way to record donations, provide receipts and track donors for future fundraising campaigns.

Not-For-Profit Accounting Systems:

2010 Review Sections

- **Basic System Functions**
 - Installation
 - General Navigation/Ease-of-Use
 - Modules (core & add-on)
 - Scalability
- **Core NFP/Fund Acctg Features**
 - Account Structure/Types
 - Multiple Transaction Types
 - Budget Management/Tracking
 - Multiple Budget Types

As evidenced by 2009 statistics showing there were a record 16 million nonprofit corporations in the United States, this is a continually growing segment of the population. And as this segment continues to grow, nonprofit software products will continue to grow, as well. In our review of nonprofit products, we took a look at the following:

Basic System Functions

This section includes information on product installation (if applicable) and setup, along with navigational ease. We also list the modules that are included or available with the product, and we consider scalability, examining whether the software can grow and expand along with an organization.

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Management Features

- Dashboards (snapshots)
- Analysis & Budgeting Scenarios
- Security Features/User Roles
- Spending Control Functions
- Collections
- Fundraising
- Document Management
- Capabilities

• Financial Statements & Reporting

- Customization Capabilities
- Financial Statements
- FASB/GASB Reporting
- Endowment/Grant Reporting
- Reporting Export Options

• Import/Export/Integration

- Data Transfer/Import
- Integration w/vendor's products

system capacity, and e-payment and e-banking functions.

Management Features

This section considers things such as dashboards, what-if analysis, fundraising, collections, and document management capabilities.

Financial Statements and Reporting

Along with standard reporting, we also look at financial statement formatting options, endowment and grant reporting, and any report customization features that are available. As well, we note report export options and whether they handle FASB or GASB reporting.

Integration/Import/Export

In this area, we look at product integration with vendor-related products as well as third-party products. We also examine data transfer and import/export capability, along with remote or online accountant functions.

Help/Support

This area looks at built-in support features, availability of system downloads, support documentation on the

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Support
website/documentation

- Training Options
- Live Support

- **Summary & Pricing**
- **Overall Rating**

Because nonprofits vary so widely, their needs will vary, as well. That's why it's so important for your nonprofit clients to carefully investigate the available products (visiting websites, taking test runs, etc.) before making a purchasing decision.

AccuFund, Inc. — AccuFund Accounting Suite

AccuFund Accounting Suite is a software product designed specifically for nonprofit and government entities. AccuFund is highly suitable for mid-range nonprofit organizations that desire a strong accounting product.

[Read Full Review](#)

Blackbaud Inc. — The Financial Edge

The Financial Edge, from Blackbaud, Inc. is a sophisticated, easy-to-use financial product designed primarily for mid-sized to large nonprofit organizations. More than a nonprofit accounting product, The Financial Edge provides organizations with financial insight while streamlining daily activities.

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Blackbaud Inc. — Fundware

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and its Windows-based version, CMS Professional, over 12 years ago. The CMS Professional 2011 system provides a full accounting suite, with industry-specific versions like FUND. Offering a complete line of fund-related products, CMS Professional 2011 FUND is designed for small to mid-sized nonprofit organizations.

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[Review](#)

CYMA Systems — CYMA Not-For-Profit Edition

CYMA has been offering its Fund Accounting software to nonprofit organizations for 30 years. Modular in design, this system is a good fit for small to mid-sized nonprofits that desire flexibility and scalability.

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Donald R. Frey & Co. — Budgetary Control System

Donald R. Frey & Company has over 35 years of experience in the software business, currently specializing in software aimed specifically at nonprofit and government sector organizations. BUCS (BUDgetary Control System) is a fund-based accounting software product that offers real-time processing and excellent grant tracking and encumbrance monitoring and tracking. BUCS would be a good fit for small to mid-sized nonprofit organizations and government entities.

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Fund E-Z Development Corp. — FUND E-Z

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QuickBooks Not-For-Profit 2010 offers a solid nonprofit product designed for startup and smaller nonprofit organizations. Featuring a nonprofit-specific chart of accounts and excellent reporting and tracking capabilities, QuickBooks Not-For-Profit is an affordable choice for small organizations with limited budgets.

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[Sage Peachtree — Sage Peachtree](#)

[Premium Accounting for Nonprofits 2011](#)

Along with its core financial product, Peachtree offers several industry-specific products, including its Sage Peachtree Premium Accounting for Nonprofits 2011, which is well-suited to small nonprofit organizations.

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[Sage North America — Sage](#)

[MIP Fund Accounting](#)

Sage MIP Fund Accounting is a financial software product designed specifically for nonprofit organizations and government entities. Modular in structure, the system would be an excellent fit for mid-sized organizations that require a product that's scalable and flexible.

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[Serenic Software — Serenic Navigator](#)

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Aqubanc, LLC

Cheque 21 System from Aqubanc, LLC is a system designed to optimize gift and donation processing. Designed to work with multiple nonprofit software systems such as Raiser's Edge, DonorPerfect, Sage Fundraising 50, PledgeMaker and others, Cheque 21 allows larger nonprofits to easily process a large influx of donations.

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2010 Review of Not-for-Profit Accounting Programs — Comparison Chart

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