CPA Practice **Advisor**

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Nov. 01, 2010

From the November 2010 Issue

Along with professional tax preparation, write-up has long been a cornerstone client service for many full-service accounting firms, providing monthly, quarterly and annual engagements that equate to a fiscal checkup for client businesses. The core elements of account reconciliation, fixing improperly posted transactions and preparation of financial statements are critical to these entities truly knowing their health, and serve as a firm foundation for ensuring against employee fraud, as well as for planning, budgeting and valuation.

2010 Client Write-Up Review	While the end products are generally similar to
Sections:	what they were 20 or even
	10 years ago, write-up has changed dramatically
• Basic System Functions	over this time, particularly
• General	from the accounting professional's perspective.
Navigation/Ease-of-Use	Almost gone are the days
• Multiple Concurrent	of shoebox accounting and physical ledger books,
Users	with even the smallest of businesses
 Multi-Client 	increasingly relying on off-the-shelf bookkeeping
Mgmt/Setup	software to manage all, or
• System Customization,	at least most, aspects of their businesses. These
Alerts	technology tools have generally
• Core Write-Up Features	been great for productivity, but when it comes to
 Account/GL/Journal 	fixing the errors that users
Mgmt	make, well that's where write-up has turned
Adjusting entries, re-	accountants into technological
class and recurring	

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Compatibilityto only a few tasks, such as entering sales, check• Supportprinting or running basicwebsite/documentationreports. More advanced clients may be granted	Features	Clients only have access to their own company
 Support printing or running basic website/documentation reports. More advanced clients may be granted 	• OS/Browser	files, and can even be restricted
website/documentation reports. More advanced clients may be granted	Compatibility	to only a few tasks, such as entering sales, check
	• Support	printing or running basic
 Live Support full access to their payroll, 	website/documentation	reports. More advanced clients may be granted
	• Live Support	full access to their payroll,

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the integration capabilities of a professional write-up program, particularly with regard to importing and exporting data from a client's bookkeeping system to a professional tax compliance or trial balance system is one of the most important elements in determining the program best suited to a professional practice.

AccountantsWorld — Accounting Relief

AccountantsWorld was the first major vendor to offer a totally web-based accounting system for professionals, offering its software-as-a-service Accounting Relief write-up system with the ability to manage any number of clients for a monthly or annual price. The system includes comprehensive features with full GL, trial balance, reconciliation, after-the-fact payroll and financial statement generation... Read Full

Review

CCH Small Firm Services —

Client Accounting Suite

The TaxWise and ATX brands, which each offer popular professional tax compliance packages, also include a suite of accounting systems, including write-up, trial balance, fixed asset management, client checkbook, payroll, firm management, document management, W-2 and 1099 compliance, and payroll reporting. Read Full Review

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Accountant 2011

With QuickBooks being the most common small business accounting program in the United States, it's no surprise that most public accounting practices have also adopted the system, if not for total practice use, then at least for their clients who use it. The benefit of having the same general program simplifies data transfer, and finding para-professionals who are already experienced with the system is fairly easy. Read Full

Review

Micronetics, Int'l — Accounting

Xpert Enterprise Edition

Micronetics has developed professional accounting software since 1978, and last year introduced the completely redesigned Accounting Xpert Enterprise Edition, a comprehensive write-up system that includes full GL, AR, AP, payroll, reconciliation and financial statement generation...

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Review

PC Software Accounting, Inc.

- Client Write-Up for Windows

PC Software Accounting, Inc. (PCSAI) introduced the first version of its Client Write-Up for Windows system in 1997, and has continued to develop and add to the program since then. The most recent version, 9.24, continues to provide comprehensive professional accounting features, including full GL, financial reporting, bank reconciliation, after-the-fact payroll, tax interfaces, and payroll compliance reporting.

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enabling greater collaboration, streamlining write-up and payroll functions and increasing data accuracy. Read Full Review

The Versatile Group — Certiflex

Dimension

The Versatile Group offers professional accounting and business management systems under the CertiflexDimension brand. The company's professional Client Write-Up program and integrated business accounting series includes full GL, AR and AP... Read Full

Review

Related Article

BlackLine Streamlines Complex Reconciliation Functions

As a business grows and retains more of its accounting expertise in-house, the processes associated with period closes and reconciliations are just as important as for those who use an outside accountant. They still need more comprehensive tools than most traditional off-the-shelf business applications can provide, especially for balancing hundreds or even thousands of accounts, while ensuring that proper accounting principles are maintained. BlackLine Systems has been developing custom accounting solutions specifically for such businesses, starting with the First National Bank of Nebraska in 2001.

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Review

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