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Mary Girsch-Bock • NOV. 04, 2010

From the November 2010 Review of [Not-for-Profit Accounting Programs](#).

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.

BASIC SYSTEM FUNCTION:

QuickBooks products remain some of the easiest to install, with installation taking little more than a few minutes. QuickBooks will automatically scan for product updates after installation, so the installed product will be current.

QuickBooks Not-For-Profit 2010, like all QuickBooks products, offers a user-friendly interface that can appear cluttered, but can be customized to suit each user's preferences. QuickBooks contains separate navigational areas throughout the product, and tutorials are available for all new users. Data-entry screens are easily navigated and contain the requisite lookup options and drop-down menus throughout. The features offer a main destination for product users to access current data, enter new information or process system transactions.

QuickBooks does not offer modular functionality; rather, it is an "all-in-one" financial solution. QuickBooks Not-For-Profit offers the following features: Nonprofit, Company, Customer, Vendor, Employee, Online Banking, Document Management and Reporting. Intuit also offers a long list of add-on products available for an additional cost, including the APP Center, which provides access to a series of add-on applications designed to make QuickBooks more efficient. Also available

is a Payroll option, the ability to accept credit cards, various marketing tools,

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transactions

with donations entered as sales receipts and pledges entered as invoices.

A separate budget can be set up for each account for the current fiscal year. For multiple budgets, users must set up additional classes within each account. The class function is where nonprofits would set up all programs and projects. Budgets can be easily tracked, with necessary information such as Budget vs. Actual easily monitored for both donors and grants. Donor information can be easily managed in the customer area, with the ability to add specific customer types such as donors under \$100 or donors over \$5,000, with each easily tracked. Grants will need to be entered into QuickBooks as a customer and job.

QuickBooks Not-For-Profit contains numerous electronic features including the ability to email pledge detail (invoices) directly from the entry screen as well as e-payment and e-banking capabilities that make it easier for smaller nonprofits to keep their records up to date. QuickBooks Not-For-Profit 2010 also makes it easy to provide system access to tax and accounting professionals.

MANAGEMENT FEATURES:

The Company Snapshots feature allows users to choose specific accounts and reminders

to display on the Company Snapshot screen. QuickBooks offers password protection with the ability to provide complete system access or select access, with an option available to provide access to a tax and accounting professional, as previously noted. Administrators can choose access levels for each particular system area, and the corresponding level of access permitted. Pledges can be entered into QuickBooks and collection letters produced. Both pledge acknowledgement

and collection letters can be sent from the nonprofit navigational center.

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Reports can also be saved as PDFs.

INTEGRATION/IMPORT/EXPORT:

QuickBooks data can be easily exported to all Microsoft Office products such as Word or Excel. Billed as a complete financial system, all QuickBooks functions completely integrate with each other. Intuit also offers a wide selection of add-on products designed to work with QuickBooks, including the Accountants Tools, which makes it easy to transfer system data between organizations and accountants.

HELP/SUPPORT:

The system contains an excellent Help feature, as well as direct access to the QuickBooks Live Community, making it easy to obtain answers to just about any question. QuickBooks automatically scans for available system updates and will download automatically, if desired. User guides and training manuals are available to access or download. QuickBooks offers several different levels of product support, with options depending on organizational needs and user ability. Learning guides, tutorials and training seminars are also available.

SUMMARY & PRICING

QuickBooks Not-For-Profit 2010 is priced at an affordable \$399.95 for a single-user system. Like all QuickBooks products, QuickBooks Not-For-Profit 2010 is designed for the small business owner/nonprofit organization that desires a solid financial product that offers nonprofit-specific accounting structure. With affordability playing such a large role for smaller nonprofits when making software choices, QuickBooks would be a logical choice.

2010 OVERALL RATING:

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