Intuit Inc. — QuickBooks Premier 2012

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From the July 2012 Review of On-Premise SMB Accounting Systems

Best Fit: This product is targeted at businesses that need one solution that will meet both their accounting and office management needs. QuickBooks Premier has strong accounting functionality, management features, reporting tools, connected services, and document storage.

Strengths

- Improved – Local Document Storage
- New – Update Existing Worksheet in Excel
- Ability to send information to Accountant
- Many Third Party Applications
- Upgrade to QuickBooks Enterprise Solutions
- Industry-specific report templates (It allows online sharing of industry-specific account templates that are created by other QuickBooks users. It will populate your data in one click)

Potential Limitations

- Mac Version has less functionality
- Inventory limited to Average Cost
- Limited Import Capabilities

Basic System Functions: 4.75 Stars

Installation required me to turn off my virus protection but was otherwise quite easy.

home screen. Navigation is easy with various options available to the user, including the ability to modify the desktop by adding favorites and customizing the icon bar (tasks and reports).

A new feature is the Express Start that allows a new user to quickly set up a company file without using the set-up wizard. Users can now quickly set up a company and modify the preferences at a later date. Another new feature is the Calendar view that shows users the transactions that have been recorded on each day and list past due amounts as well as "to do" tasks. This feature helps users track important deadlines.

QuickBooks Premier is only available in a Windows version. A Mac version of QuickBooks Pro is available; files can be converted to the Windows version if needed. Converting files back and forth between the two platforms on a regular basis is not recommended.

QuickBooks does not use periods and is completely date driven. Users assign a close date and lock transactions from editing prior to the close date if desired.

Core Accounting Capabilities: 5 Stars

Payroll is included in the software without payroll tax tables therefore users can enter manual tax calculations. Companies can subscribe to QuickBooks Payroll Services which offer a selection of options from tax table updates to full service payroll at an additional fee.

A Multi-Currency option is included in the software and updates to currency rates can be downloaded from within QuickBooks as needed or updated manually if desired.

Multi–User capabilities are limited to 5 simultaneous users, additional users are available when upgrading to QuickBooks Enterprise Solutions.

Day to Day Operations: 5 Stars

Customer, Vendor, and Employee Management is supported with "Centers" to manage each of these groups. A new center for Leads has been added this year to track prospects, and to leads to customers when a sale is made. A customizable "Customer Snapshot" gives the user a dashboard of the sales activity and history for a given customer. Additional functionality can be found by integrating QuickBooks with Intuit's QuickBase or third party applications Customer Relationship applications. Integration with Salesforce.com is also supported.

Inventory and Purchasing features support light manufacturing need for a Bill of Materials feature with Assembly items. There is no book to inventory report; however this information is available to users with External Accountant user rights in the Client Data Review menu (discussed later). Inventory is limited to Average Cost and a single location. Additional functionality can be added with the upgrade to QuickBooks Enterprise Solutions or third party applications.

e-Features included in the product add substantial value with online bill payment, integration with Intuit Merchant services for credit card processing, ability to download bank and credit card transactions. Subscriptions are also available to QuickBooks Connected Services which allows you to process transactions from a smart phone, back-up data online, and store documents online, calculate commissions, and online time &billing. Fees for connected services vary based on the number of users and services needed.

Remote Access is supported through "QuickBooks Remote Access" which is free for the first year, plans start at $3.95 a month thereafter. Other remote access options include purchasing QuickBooks form an authorized hosting provider.

Management Features: 4.75 Stars

Dashboard Overviews are available by selecting the Snapshots icon and customizing

report writer uses an Excel interface to create customized reports. It should be noted that this program is included in QuickBooks Accountant version.

Security in QuickBooks Premier is based on individual user rights based on transaction type. A predefined External Accountant role is used to access Client Data Review and advanced accounting reconciliation features normally included only in the Accountant's version.

Integration and Import/Export: 4.75 Stars

Data Transfer is available within QuickBooks using Excel, iif, web connect files, and timer activities files. Additional imports are available with the purchase of various third party applications.

You can import contacts from Outlook, Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, or Excel. You can also import an items list from Excel.

Online Accountant Transfers are also available free of charge for PAP members that now include both uploading files for accountants and downloading accountant changes.

Help and Support: 5 Stars

Built in support features include in product help files links to online tutorials, training, and assistance finding a local advisor. The QuickBooks website has additional information and telephone support (outside of US) is available, some support calls will be routed to US based representatives. Links to the QuickBooks Community offer a wealth of information and the ability to get additional support.

Summary & Pricing

QuickBooks Premier offers users significant value with accounting, office

storage, and various add-on features including online backup, merchant services, full service payroll, integration with marketing campaigns, and numerous other services provided by third party providers. Pricing is $399.95 (399.95 upgrade) for a single user.

2012 Overall Rating: 5 Stars

Small Business

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