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AccountantsWorld – Accounting Relief

888-999-1366

www.AccountantsWorld.com

From the Nov. 2012 [Review of Client Write-Up Systems](#).

Best Fit: Professionals wanting to take both their firm and their clients to a cloud-based, always-accessible accounting system with which there is no need for data transfer, since both sides are always working with the same live data.

Strengths

- Newly redesigned interfaces support all web and mobile browsers
- Integrated web-based professional and client-side bookkeeping
- No data transfer, or accidental overwriting of data
- Client portals and collaboration features
- Customizable client letters, templates and financial reporting

Potential Limitations

- Batch processing functions are limited

AccountantsWorld has been developing technologies for professional firms for almost 30 years, and was one of the first vendors to adopt cloud technologies. The company currently offers a completely web-based suite of programs for firms, ranging from Accounting Relief, the professional accounting and client write-up system reviewed here, to practice management, document management, payroll, payroll compliance, website building tools and other systems.

Basic System Functions: 4.75 Stars

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With this method, the live data for every client is always accessible to the accounting firm and the individual staff members who manage those clients. No data ever has to be transferred or synched, so the firm is always working with the most up-to-date real data. This also helps when troubleshooting client transactions and entry errors in real time.

After initially logging into the program, the navigation screen offers text-based menus for moving to areas for adding clients, client overviews, firm options, document management or opening clients from a list. For 2012, the web-based interface for Accounting Relief has been redesigned to allow for greater usability on all major browsers and mobile devices. Screens have been enhanced and now include information buttons for quick access to pop-up help.

A new app, Accounting Relief Mobile, also provides access to many of the program's features, including running exception and GL reports, viewing registers and transactions, managing payables, customer balances and income expense summaries.

The system offers full GL, AR, AP, client management and financial reporting tools, and also offers alerts that can remind users of pending tasks. The system can be used to manage any number of clients, including full customization of charts of accounts, managing general journals, write-up and reconciliation functions, processing live and after-the-fact payroll (with an optional module), and customizable client invoicing.

Core Write-Up Features: 4.5 Stars

As noted previously, a key advantage of the integrated client bookkeeping systems is that firm staff are always working with and have full access to live client data. It includes fully customizable charts of accounts, as well as more than 30 industry-type

templates and the option to duplicate charts of accounts that have been created for

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Job costing features enable tracking of costs and income by job, as well as tracking phases, sub-parts and job categories. When viewed on screen, financial reporting and trial balance tools allow users to drill-down to individual transactions for audit and review. Reconciliation options include the ability to import transactions from client bank statements, credit card statements and other institutions, with spreadsheet work screens for performing reconciliations. The program supports consolidated entities and can produce consolidated financials.

The optional live and after-the-fact payroll systems include processing and compliance reporting, including automated wage and information reporting to federal and all states that is performed, and guaranteed, by AccountantsWorld staff. Accounting Relief includes 30 financial ratios that to help identify unusual activity.

Reporting & Financial Statements: 4.75 Stars

The program financial statements offer full customization and include income statements, balance sheets and cash flow statements, with comparative options showing current versus prior periods, variances and percentages. Separate statements of retained earnings or partner's capital statements can also be produced.

The system also offers template letters, tables of contents, title pages and notes. Financials can be customized to all clients, groups or individual entities. Documents and reports can be saved to Excel or Word formats, or saved digitally to the optional document management module.

The built-in AR module includes client billing functions, with full invoicing, receivables management, aging reports and support for recurring invoices. The system now includes purchased order functions that allow them to be entered for vendors, with the ability to create invoices from purchase orders. The AP

functionality includes management of recurring bills, pass-through billing, splitting

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Because it is web-based, additional collaboration tools are also included, allowing the firm and client to share documents via secure portals. Additional client collaboration tools can be found in the optional document management system.

Accounting Relief also offers data import most small business bookkeeping systems and from Excel and CSV formats, which allows for import from time clock and payroll systems. Data and reports can be exported to Word, Excel, PDF and CSV.

Help/Support: 5 Stars

The built-in assistive functions in Accounting Relief include new information buttons for quick access to task-specific help, as well as a built-in user guide, links to support documents and publications, and training options. The support website provides video how-tos, live and recorded webinars, FAQs and other options. With its recent redesign, the system now supports all major browsers. Live phone and web support is included with overall system pricing.

Summary & Pricing

Accounting Relief provides intuitive work screens and easy to understand and use tools for performing write-up tasks, from correcting client errors, making adjusting entries, performing reconciliations, client check writing, and optional modules for live and after-the-fact payroll and wage reporting.

One of the most beneficial features is the integration of client bookkeeping into the system, where firms can offer their clients an online bookkeeping system with functions limited by the firm, with that data actually being a part of the professional system. This eliminates data transfers and synching.

Accounting Relief costs \$99 per month or \$990 per year for the core accountant-centric part of the program, and \$9.95 per month, per client for the client

bookkeeping module. Currently a first year pricing special allows unlimited clients

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