

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

## ACCOUNTING

# 2013 Review of Blackbaud, Inc. — The Financial Edge

May. 27, 2013

**Blackbaud, Inc. — The Financial Edge**

800-443-9441

[www.blackbaud.com](http://www.blackbaud.com)

From the [June 2013 review](#) of non-profit accounting systems.

**Best Fit:** The Financial Edge from Blackbaud is ideally suited for mid-sized to large nonprofit organizations, and government entities that have complex management and reporting needs, as well as the need for comprehensive donor and grant management capability.

## Strengths

- Excellent budget management tools
- Long list of add-on and complementary modules
- Easily created custom dashboards
- Solid integration with The Raiser's Edge and The Education Edge
- Customizable by Focus, Solution, or Goal
- Flexible, scalable product is suitable for just about any nonprofit organization

## Potential Limitations

- System setup can be time consuming

- Learning curve can be steep for some users

The Financial Edge from Blackbaud is part of Blackbaud's wide selection software designed for nonprofit organizations, educational facilities, and government entities. The Financial Edge is both powerful and easy to use; an unusual combination.

[Read about how a nonprofit is using Financial Edge to achieve success.](#)

### **Basic System Functions: 5 Stars**

Users can utilize The Financial Edge as a desktop/laptop product, or as a hosted version of the product. I utilized The Financial Edge through Blackbaud's typical hosting interface with no issues. For all of its strength, The Financial Edge is easily navigated, with a drop-down menu at the top of the screen that contains various system functions.

The Organize Favorites option offers easy customization capability, allowing users to choose the features they want to display on their user interface. Users can also set up Quick Access links to system functions and reports can be saved under the Favorites menu. Clicking on a system module will display the related workflow area. Data entry screens are easily navigated and contain the necessary lookup options as well as various function tabs providing easy access to additional system features. The Financial Edge uses a batch system to process system transactions, and all data entry screens contain a 'Find' function, which serves as a search function within each module.

The Financial Edge offers a total of 28 system modules including GL, AP, AR, Accounting Forms, Accounting Queue, Advanced Budget Management, Advanced Security, Allocation Management, Cash Management, Cash Receipts, Consolidation Management, CounterPoint, Web Purchasing, Web Invoicing, Fixed Assets, Paper Save, Payroll, Point of Sale, Project, Grant & Endowment Management, Purchase Orders, Visual Basic for Applications, Application Programming Interface, Student Billing, School Store Manager, Electronic Funds Transfer, and F9 Financial Reporter. The Financial Edge also integrates with The Raiser's Edge, a top of the line fundraising and donor management software. The Financial Edge is extremely scalable; with users able to purchase the modules they need immediately, and add the others as needed.

### **Core NFP/Fund Accounting Capabilities: 5 Stars**

The Financial Edge offers a flexible account structure, with users able to utilize up to 30 characters and up to 10 segments for each account. The new account screen offers various function tabs where users can choose account attributes, activity, budget, related notes, default transaction attributes, and change history. The Financial Edge easily handles multiple transaction types including general journal entries, recurring and reversing journal entries, account allocations, as well as standard accounting transactions such as cash receipts, vendor invoice entry and bill payment, and banking transactions.

The Financial Edge offers an excellent Budget Management module, where users can create budgets for current, past, and future fiscal periods. Users can also create budget scenarios allowing the creation of multiple budgets for each account. The Budget View and Project View option allows users to add and project budget totals as needed. An Advanced Budget Management module provides even more customization capabilities including the ability to link payroll/personnel expenses to a specific project budget. Blackbaud's Raiser's Edge software offers high level donor management capability, and is one of the best donor management software products available today.

Donor detail is easily tracked, with users able to manage both current and potential donor detail. Easy integration with the GL module tracks all donations. Blackbaud's Project, Grant, & Endowment Management module allows users to easily manage separate projects and grant monies, recording activity, income, and expenses for each individual project or grant. The automatic fund-balancing feature keeps all funds in balance, at both project and segment level. Users can leave an unlimited number of fiscal years open, and can institute a 'soft close' where no transactions can be posted to that fiscal year. The Financial Edge offers excellent audit trail functionality, with all system transactions recorded and easily accessible at any time.

The Accounts Payable for Bill Paying Automation provides users with the ability to pay bills via EFT, as well as using traditional means. Users can also email statements or invoices to recipients. The Financial Edge offers hosted solutions, so users can easily access the software from any location with an Internet location.

### **Management Features: 5 Stars**

Users can easily create custom dashboards in The Financial Edge by choosing from the numerous panels available. All dashboards offer drill-down capability, and easy customization capability. By using budget scenarios in the Budget Management module, users can forecast multiple budgets for every account, using a variety of

what-if situations. System users can be given Supervisor Rights or Selected Group Rights, with specific criteria defined for each level. Employees can also be given system access at various levels including project, function, and module.

System users are provided with a warning if a transaction will place totals over budget, and users can easily track delinquent past due accounts. The Raiser's Edge provides complete donor management functionality, from initial donor contact to managing multiple campaigns and constituents. The optional Paper-Save module allows users to store documents electronically, creating a virtual file cabinet.

### **Financial Statements & Reporting: 5 Stars**

The Financial Edge offers over 100 standard reports that are easily customizable as needed. For further customization capability, The Financial Edge offers easy integration with both Crystal Reports and F9 Financial Reporter. The Reports module provides users with a list of available report categories. Choosing a category will display the available reports within that category. Grant and project reporting options are excellent, with users able to choose a report by grant or project filter. Nonprofit specific reports such as FASB 117 and GASB 34 are easily processed in The Financial Edge, and all system reports can be easily exported to a wide variety of formats which include CSV, Excel, FoxPro, Microsoft Word, Rich Text, Text, or HTML

### **Integration & Import/Export: 5 Stars**

Users can export various data types, including grants, accounts, projects, and transactions. The Export function guides users through the export process using a variety of formats including CSV, Fox Pro, Microsoft Access, Lotus 123, Microsoft Word, Rich Text, and Text. All Blackbaud products are designed for complete integration, creating a powerful system that is truly designed to work together. Accountants can gain access to system data with a user login and password.

### **Help/Support: 5 Stars**

The Financial Edge contains excellent Help functionality, including a comprehensive system overview, access to whitepapers, the Blackbaud knowledgebase, and various How-To documentation available for all modules. Users can also simply press F1 during system navigation to display extensive help options. Blackbaud offers users various training and product support options, and all system updates and enhancements can be downloaded from the website when available.

[Read about how a nonprofit is using Financial Edge to achieve success.](#)

## Summary & Pricing

On-Site licensing of The Financial Edge starts at \$2,995.00 for a 3-user system. Subscription pricing begins at \$299.00 per month for a single user. The Financial Edge remains one of most comprehensive nonprofit software products available on the market today, and with a long list of system add-ons, is a scalable system that users will never need to replace.

## 2013 Overall Rating: 5 Stars

[Blackbaud, Inc.](#) • [Accounting](#) • [Accounting & Audit](#) • [Auditing](#) • [Not-For-Profit](#) • [Product & Service Guide](#) • [Reviews](#) • [Article](#) • [Non-Profit Accounting](#) • [Not-for-Profit Accounting](#) • [Review-SmallBiz Accounting](#)

CPAPA is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors.

© 2023 Firmworks, LLC. All rights reserved