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We live in a mobile and always-on world, and where the smartphone by itself was

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Apple's App Store, there very likely is "an app for that," whatever *that* happens to be. In fairness, there are other mobile device app stores, most notable being the Android Market, which at the time of this writing had more than 200,000 apps. The nearest competitors from there include Blackberry with about 25,000 apps, the new Windows Phone Marketplace with nearly 13,000 as of early April 2011, and Palm, with less than 10,000 apps as of the end of 2010.

While many of these apps are games or utilities with minimal purpose, the last two years have seen an avalanche of truly useful personal and business-focused tools. Many of these consumer apps are familiar, offering banking tasks, document productivity tools, calendars and options for news, sports, hobbies, travel, e-books, social networking and even auto diagnostics, to name a few.

Even though useful, several of these apps are still geared toward entertainment. However, there *are* some real business apps out there, including some specifically designed for accounting professionals, and even some designed *by* accounting pros. With hundreds of thousands of apps from which to choose, we can't possibly cover them all. But here are some you might find to be productivity boosters for you or your small business clients.

Apps For Tax & Accounting Professionals

BNA Quick Tax Reference – Free

www.bnatax.com/quick-tax-reference-app

Offers instant access to standard mileage rates; individual, corporate and estate tax rates; standard deductions/exemptions; Sec. 179 limits; and other information.

Mobile CS from Thomson Reuters – Free

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Allows for simple smartphone access to CCH's IntelliConnect tax research platform, including customizable Tax Tracker News, primary materials such as the IR Code and Regulations, various tax tools and calculators, and even the Smart Charts feature. Users can also save and email any document from the app. (Subscription to IntelliConnect may be required after mid-2011.)

Mobile Accountant (mAccountant) – \$6.99

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mobile-accountant/id395155845?mt=8>

Designed for accountants, offering a single app to track client information, expenses, billable time, CPE credits, staff schedules, travel details and deadlines. The vendor also offers specific apps for time and expense tracking, staff management and consulting.

Documents to Go Office Suite – \$9.99

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/documents-to-go-office-suite/id317117961?mt=8>

Offers fully featured viewing, editing and creation of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint files, as well as the ability to view Adobe PDF, Apple iWork and other files. The system integrates with Google Docs, Box.net, Dropbox and other online file storage and sharing tools. Users can also view and edit email attachments from within the app.

iAnnotate PDF – \$9.99

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iannotate-pdf/id363998953?mt=8>

Designed specifically for use on the iPad, this app allows users to open and work

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<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/intuit-gopayment-credit-card/id324389392?mt=8>

Allows small businesses or individuals to easily accept credit cards from wherever they are. Comes with a free card reader; no contracts, monthly fees or merchant account necessary. Upon download, they send you a free credit card swipe reader that plugs into the mobile device. The app itself and the card reader are free; pricing is 2.7% of each transaction. This is great for small businesses, especially mobile service professionals, such as plumbers, electricians and contractors.

Mobile Paycheck for SurePayroll – Free

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id389154416?mt=8&CID>

Designed for the employees of businesses who use SurePayroll (or accounting firms managing multiple employers). It lets paid staff instantly access their detailed pay stubs and payroll data the instant they are paid. They can also see accrued and used paid time off, view historical data and check wage and retirement deduction contribution rates.

If I missed an app that you think can help boost productivity for tax and accounting professionals or their clients, let us know (email editor@CPAPracticeAdvisor.com or post a comment on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cpapracticeadvisor). Also, keep in mind that every app above (and most ever made) are available for the iPhone and iPad (since they run on the same platform), and most are now available for Android phones. Users of other devices need to check availability ... or use that as an excuse to get a new phone.

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RC – Pullout idea if space allows:

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(All of the top 10 are games.)

Source: Apple AppStore April 2011

Payroll

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