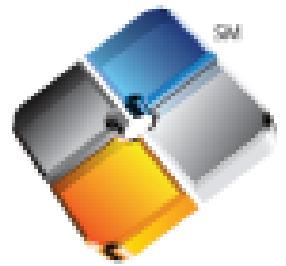


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**AccountantsWorld<sup>®</sup>**



Payroll Relief is a cloud-based payroll solution specifically designed for accounting professionals to offer payroll services to their clients. The solution is focused on quickly processing payroll for a large number of payroll clients. New features this year include a newly redesigned user interface, full support for independent contractor workers, and new tools to enhance the accounting professional's view of client and firm data.

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

Since the previous review, Payroll Relief has received a complete recoding. This provided several new enhancements to the solution, the most significant is a new, streamlined user interface. The navigation menu remains similar to the previous release, but each screen is now consistent in font, color and appearance. Also due to the recoding is full compatibility with all modern internet browsers. This now allows users to access Payroll Relief from virtually any device with an internet browser, including mobile devices.

Upon logging in to Payroll Relief, accounting professionals may access all payroll clients from one screen. This prevents the need for a unique user login for each payroll client. Each client also has a specially tailored dashboard detailing due dates, reminders and required forms. The dashboard may also be set to display visual

graphs of a variety of payroll related data, such as year-over-year gross pay

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New for this year is the ability to track and pay contract workers on hourly wages instead of fixed or salary wages. All contract workers may also receive direct deposits through the same process as employees. Also new this year is enhanced support for HSA and other benefits, including automatic payment processing. This allows the accounting professional to control all payroll related cash needs from required tax deposits, to garnishments and 401(k) and health care benefits.

Payroll runs are exception-based to ease the data entry process. This allows the accounting professional to process payroll quickly and only address issues, such as different hours or job costs from previous payrolls. Data entry that is required, is accomplished through a spreadsheet style input screen. Before the payroll is approved and processed, an onscreen report is displayed that shows comparisons to previous payroll runs. Once approved, a predetermined group of reports may be generated, printed, emailed or archived through CyberCabinet, the document storage solution from AccountantsWorld.

One final option for processing payroll is through Payroll Relief Mobile. This solution, coupled with the recent website recoding, allows accounting professionals to perform basic tasks through most mobile devices. Additionally, compliance form filing is now supported through mobile devices.

## **Reporting & Monitoring: 5 Stars**

A new feature recently added is the Payroll Center. Through the Payroll Center, accounting professionals are provided a comprehensive tool for managing client payroll data regardless of which client is currently in view. This new section provides current status and due dates of all payroll clients in the system along with visual clues for upcoming and past due items. The Payroll Center may also be sorted or filtered to meet specific needs. The Payroll Center also provides links to client correspondence and automatic emails generated within the system.

An e-services section is provided and details all the electronic services currently

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the payroll system. Once a reminder has been addressed, it may be marked as completed and cleared from the reminder list.

A large number of reports are included with the system. Each report may be sorted or filtered to meet end-user needs. Additionally, custom reports may be generated and saved for future use. As reports are generated, all settings associated with each report are maintained based on the user login. This allows a user to use multiple devices to access Payroll Relief and maintain a consistent user experience.

Any report in the system may be assigned to a group and automatically generated upon a payroll run. These report groups may also be emailed to the accounting professional or client as appropriate. Reports may easily be exported to Excel or text formats.

### **Integration/Import/Export: 4.75 Stars**

Payroll Relief is the payroll solution within a suite of products maintained by AccountantsWorld. All other products including the accounting, document management and practice management solutions have seamless integration with Payroll Relief. Direct time integration is provided for Swipe Clock and Advantek.

Integration points for QuickBooks and Sage 50 US (formerly Peachtree) is built-in and allows direct export of payroll information. This export data may then be directly imported to these respective solutions.

Excel files may be imported or exported through a new data mapping utility. This utility provides users the ability to customize imports and exports to fit specific spreadsheet requirements for third party software. The utility allows users to create and save customized Excel templates for future client data imports and exports.

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

As users navigate through Payroll Relief, help and support options are provided on

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maintained. Short webinars and training videos are also available to users. Other help options include sample reports, engagement letters, worksheets and a variety of other employment related forms.

Updates to Payroll Relief are handled automatically without any user interaction. All federal, state and local tax rates and laws are updated in real time to ensure payroll is processed as accurately as possible.

## **Client Self-Service Features: 5 Stars**

Payroll Relief may be branded to each accounting professional through the use of custom colors and logos. This branding is seen by each payroll client that accesses the system. Payroll clients may utilize the system for time data entry, access checks for local printing and any requested payroll reports. All payroll client data and report access is controlled through user login rights.

Payroll Relief extends web service offerings through an employee portal for each payroll client. Through this service, employees may access their recent and previous paystubs as well as their annual W-2. Through this portal employees may also maintain and update contact information and other personal information. Employee rights are tightly controlled within the system to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive company payroll data.

## **Best Firm Fit**

- Accounting professionals offering their payroll service through a cloud based solution

## **Strengths and New Features**

- Eleven years of experience working specifically with accountants in function and

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- Version 2, released late 2013, has unlimited customizable pay types and allowances for greater flexibility. Accountants can define as many custom, allowance and reimbursement pay types as they want.
- Enhanced Microsoft Excel import function allowing employers to adjust hours and amounts for an entire payroll without any direct data entry

## Summary & Pricing

Payroll Relief is a cloud based payroll solution designed specifically for accountants. With enhanced design and strong client level dashboard reporting, Payroll Relief is a strong offering for accounting professionals looking to add or enhance their payroll service offerings.

Several pricing options are available and range from unlimited payroll processing to per paycheck or per payroll processing. First year pricing for accountants is \$997 and includes unlimited processing of payroll for twelve months. Per paycheck pricing is available as low as \$0.45 per paycheck for large volume users.

Per payroll pricing is available for \$5.95 per payroll run and is based on a 10 paycheck weekly cycle. Additional fees apply depending on the payroll time cycle and number of paychecks in each payroll run.

## 2014 Overall Rating: 5 Stars

Payroll • Payroll Software • Software

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