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designed to appeal to the entrepreneur that has little time to spare on simply running a business, and would rather focus on growing that business.

Mary Girsch-Bock • Jun. 14, 2016



While the sole proprietor or small business owner may not realize their impact on the U.S. economy, small businesses account for 55 percent of all jobs in the U.S. Since 1982, the number of small businesses has risen 49%, with no signs of slowing down. While some of these small businesses will never grow past the sole proprietor stage, if the business owner's intention is to grow their business successfully, they need to be using accounting software.

No longer a cumbersome, expensive investment, modern accounting software is

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Cloud-Based SMB Accounting

[AccountantsWorld – Accounting Power](#)

[Accounting Suite](#)

[FreshBooks](#)

[QuickBooks Online](#)

[Sage One](#)

[Xero](#)

Installed (On-Premise) SMB Accounting

[Acclivity – AccountEdge](#)

[Red Wing Software – CenterPoint Accounting](#)

[Cougar Mountain – Denali](#)

[A-Systems – Visual Bookkeeper](#)

With so many products now available via the cloud, small business owners need only have a fairly modern computer or tablet, and access to the Internet. Likewise, small business accounting systems that are still available as installed-programs also offer much more streamlined structures, advanced workflow features, and easy product installation and setup.

Here are just a few advantages to using the right accounting software:

- Real time access to business and financial data is available at any time

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increased vendor competition can have advantages and disadvantages to the small business owner, particularly when presented with so many more options than were available only a few short years ago. The reviews in this issue are truly aimed at the small business owner – those with between 1 and 100 employees. And while the solutions may vary tremendously, the fact remains that businesses have many more options today when it comes to accounting software.

The review is divided into two sections: **On-Premise products** and **Cloud-Based products**. While some small business owners prefer a product that is installed on their desktop or server, others are looking for accessibility – whether that be from laptops, tablets, iPhones, or Android devices. Entrepreneurs and their accountants can both agree that the choices are better than ever – but making that choice can be difficult.

We looked at the same features and functionality in both on-premise, and cloud computing products, which includes the following areas:

Basic System Functions – this area includes system installation (if needed), product intuitiveness, the availability of industry specific solutions, as well as what platform(s) the product was designed for.

Core Accounting Capabilities – The heart of the product, we looked at GL, AP, and AR functionality within the product. Other key areas such as sales tax tracking, payroll, and employee management capability were assessed as well. Finally, we looked at multi-currency capability, multi-language capability, and whether the product could be accessed by multiple users.

Day-to-Day Operations – This area assessed the availability of both sales and point-of-sale functionality within the product. For those with online or mail-order businesses, we also looked at shipping integration options. Customer, vendor, and

employee tracking capability were examined, as well as inventory management and

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area looks at how easy (or possible) it is to import or export data from other applications. Another area of importance is accountant accessibility to the product.

Help/Support – In this area, help and support functionality is assessed, as well as what product support options are available. We also take a look at system updates and their availability.

So many factors are taken into consideration when looking at purchasing software of any kind. So whether a business has one employee or one hundred, helping you and your client determine what is best for their business is what we do.

Accounting • Cloud Technology • Small Business

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