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straight-forward, a small mistake can have tremendous repercussions. No longer as simple as taking hours from a timeclock, companies today have to pay part time ...

Mary Girsch-Bock • Apr. 18, 2018

Many of us have been there – the employee standing in our office, demanding to know why they've been shorted ten hours or why their health insurance was deducted twice. Then there's the employee whose paycheck never showed up in their bank account. Or the employee who is certain that her available vacation time is too low, or his PTO total is not accurate.

Processing payroll is not for the faint of heart. While the process may seem fairly straight-forward, a small mistake can have tremendous repercussions. No longer as simple as taking hours from a timeclock, companies today have to pay part time employees, salaried employees, hourly employees, employees that work remotely, and even temporary employees. And it's not just about the pay or the hours. Employers also have to track vacation and sick time, comp time, PTO, along with state and federal taxes, social security and Medicare deductions, insurance and other deductions, along with voluntary deductions such as 401K amounts. Those deductions then have to be paid to the party that they are owed to; the insurance company, the IRS, the federal government. Processing payroll also means keeping abreast of the latest tax laws, ensuring the correct amount is taken out of employee paychecks at all times.

No, payroll is not for the faint-hearted. But the good news is that today's payroll software programs and services have made it easier than ever before to accurately process payroll for your employees or offer those same services to your clients.

If you've recently made the decision to begin offering payroll services to your clients, be sure to take a little time and look at the various payroll options available today.

These options range from payroll modules designed to work with their native

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the payroll products reviewed offer online access, though there several designed for desktop or server applications that offer limited online access.

The products included in this review are ([see a comparison chart on page 8 of the digital issue](#)):

- [AccountantsWorld – Payroll Relief](#)
- [ADP – Run, Powered by ADP for Accountants](#)
- [AMS Software – 1099-Etc](#)
- [Checkmark Software](#)
- [Cougar Mountain – Denali Payroll](#)
- [CYMA](#)
- [Gusto](#)
- [Intuit – Intuit Online Payroll for Accountants](#)
- [Justworks Payroll](#)
- [Paramount Software – Crest Payroll](#)
- [Paychex – Paychex Flex](#)
- [Red Wing Software – CenterPoint Payroll](#)
- [SurePayroll – SurePayroll](#)
- [Thomson Reuters – Accounting CS Payroll](#)
- [Xero Payroll](#)

We've included a chart the displays the availability of common payroll features, allowing our readers to make a rapid determination if the product in question will be able to satisfy their needs. Those looking for a payroll application will also need to determine exactly how much (or how little) they wish to be involved in payroll preparation and processing, and make a decision based on those factors.

We always encourage our readers to ask questions prior to purchasing any software product, with payroll no exception. Here are some of the questions that should be

addressed prior to purchasing a payroll product:

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- Does the product also handle year-end 1099's and W-2's?
- Is there a portal where employees/clients can access their paystubs and manage their account?
- If online, does the product offer adequate security?

Many of these questions can be answered with a simple visit to the vendor's website, which we encourage. We also encourage those interested in a product to try it out prior to purchasing, if a demo is available.

In the end, whether you're looking for comprehensive payroll application for your firm or for your clients, we hope that the reviews in this issue serve as a good starting point in finding the product best suited for your needs.

Payroll

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