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**Mary Girsch-Bock** • Oct. 17, 2019



For years, every other Friday, when paychecks were disbursed, co-workers would line up outside my office, thankfully not for me, but for our staff payroll person, whose office was down the hall from mine. It never failed, not a payday went by without the line appearing. Some weeks it was just a few people, other times the line curled around the corner. Many of the concerns were legitimate; hours worked that didn't appear on their check, or overtime miscalculated or even missing. But others were asking for explanations of deductions (why is my health insurance so much?), while a few wanted to know why their vacation time was so low, or why they didn't have any PTO left. The bottom line is that while other departments can make data entry

mistakes and correct them with no repercussion, a payroll mistake will result in long

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pay, they also need to be paid to someone, such as an insurance company, a financial management company, the IRS, and other appropriate tax authorities. If that isn't enough, the payroll department is also responsible for tracking employee sick time, vacation time, comp time, and PTO. Payroll staff needs to be sure that employees are paid properly if they work overtime, and it is the responsibility of the payroll department to ensure that neither the employee or the company is abusing federal labor laws.

Which is why more businesses are looking for one of two things: a payroll software that simplifies the entire process, or an accounting firm that offers payroll processing. But how do you know which payroll application is best for your needs, whether those needs be to enable your client to process payroll, or for your firm to offer payroll processing for your client?

In this issue, we've reviewed 17 payroll applications that suit everyone from the one-person office to the CPA firm that is handling payroll for multiple clients. While some products fit into one of those categories, others have a broader reach and can work in a variety of scenarios.

The products included in this review are:

- [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](#)

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found in each of these applications, allowing you to narrow down your choices to the products that offer many if not all of the features you're looking for.

Unfortunately, there is no real way to try out a payroll application prior to purchasing, so it's best that you do your due diligence before making a commitment. Yes, demos are available for many of the applications, and I always encourage folks to try them out if they can, but details such as tax remittances and payroll funding dates cannot be answered by a demo, instead they will need to be addressed with the vendor directly.

Whether you're looking for a payroll service for your client's small business, or you're looking for a comprehensive application you can utilize for your firm and clients, these payroll reviews should help to narrow the field down to the a few products that may be right for you.

Payroll

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