

Honest Feedback from Real Users of Payroll Processing Software



Payroll Processing

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Multi-State Capabilities, Online Management and Direct Deposit Functionality Are Payroll Necessities

The successful payroll management solution will reduce the time needed to conduct this repetitive resource-consuming activity

by Tom Johansmeyer

Flexibility and Efficiency Matter Most

Flexibility used to mean being able to customize reports, see more data and implement a specific business process. Increasing business complexity, though, has changed the definition. Today, payroll software must meet the needs of a variety of businesses, from outsourced service providers to small businesses managing the process in-house. The solution must contain the technical features necessary for compliance, such as multi-state capabilities, and online management and direct deposit functionality. More important, though, is the ability to deliver the necessary tools in a cost-efficient manner. Software is no longer a solution in itself; it must deliver a tangible return. This year's payroll solutions show innovative business thinking, using technology to make payroll management and execution more efficient with fewer errors.

Process Governance Is Not Enough

No two firms have the same payroll requirements. Everything from timing to scope of services varies. Some firms run payroll in-house, while others outsource it. Even when payroll is outsourced, on some occasions, the company will run payroll itself; the service provider will have to update the payroll system later for the sake of consistency. An ostensibly simple process—paying employees—can become incredibly complicated, and the likelihood of error compounds. Today's software must do more than guide the process of paying employees and managing benefits deductions and tax withholdings. Payroll solutions must make the process virtually bulletproof; rigid enough to prevent impropriety while remaining flexible, to support the unusual situations that can arise during the normal course of business.

Different Firms, Similar Objectives

For the average business, payroll is a cost. The accounting service provider, though, sees it as a potential source of revenue. On both sides of this relationship, efficiency matters, and accuracy is not negotiable. Businesses that run payroll in-house seek to lower operating costs, freeing accounting resources to work on higher-value activities; and accounting firms that provide payroll management services are always eager to widen their margins on the services they provide. Even with two vastly different perspectives, the goal of both is the same: to make payroll fast, easy and less expensive. The successful payroll management solution, therefore, will reduce the time needed to conduct this repetitive resource-consuming activity. Accuracy (including regulatory compliance) comes first, followed closely by operational efficiency and cost.

Efficiency is crucial, but how we characterize it is changing. While it was once in vogue to let the software dictate the operation, a fluid business environment requires that software be flexible. Thus, efficiency may come from being able to execute payroll now and have the accountants update the software later. When selecting a payroll system, think not only about how business flows now; think about how it could change. Try to envision the exceptions. Effective payroll software will address both the usual and the abnormal.

Efile Center Equipped to Manage High Volume W-2 Processing Needs

"I even use it for efile and the nice thing about efile is they maintain records."

Aatrix's State & Fed Payroll Reports™ allows Payroll customers to automatically complete over 250 state & federal unemployment, withholding, and new hire reports from the payroll data within their payroll software.

Benefits and Features

- The interface is simple to understand, easy to use, making quarterly and annual reporting a snap.
- Comprehensive state reporting tool that gives you instant and seamless integration to tax forms and new hire reports for each state. Stay current with all state tax reporting and state law changes.
- Efile Center equipped to manage the high volume W-2 processing needs of any large employer.
- Technical support is provided at no charge as part of the annual subscription service.

What Users Say

"Can't live without it. Love it and the software gets better all the time. I started using the software for the ease of preparing quarterly reports and now using the program for everything. I even use it for efile and the nice thing about efile is they maintain the records. They have all the forms you need, whether you need them or not. Technical support is great. Every time I pick up the phone and call, someone answers. Bought on a whim and the more I use it I can't seem to live without it. Works really slick and wonderful with my accounting software. Would recommend Aatrix to anyone!" says **Julie Mostad** of General Resources Technologies in Eagan, Minnesota.

Summary

Aatrix State & Fed Payroll Reports software eliminates the need to create these reports manually. Once reports are automatically completed, reviewed and edited on screen, they are printed on plain paper, ready to be mailed or eFiled in minutes to the Aatrix eFile Center for processing.

Aatrix
www.aaatrix.com
800-426-0854



Multi-State Ready Handles Federal and State Taxes for All 50 States

"Offers solutions beyond the CyberPay program by providing strategic alliances and options that allow me to compete with the larger players in the payroll industry."

AdaptaSoft, Inc. began in 1996, focused on building a better software solution for the payroll world. Years later, the AdaptaSoft team realized that a number of businesses in the payroll industry needed consulting level services to build a stronger business and stay competitive.

Benefits and Features

- Built-in library of over 300 reports
- Multi-state ready. Handles federal and state taxes for all 50 states

What Users Say

"AdaptaSoft offers solutions beyond the CyberPay program by providing strategic alliances and options that allow me to compete with the larger players in the payroll industry," **Mark Zelbo**, President, Focus Payroll in Chevy Chase, Maryland. "When you factor in the quality support for CyberPay and the excellent service from AdaptaSoft, the ability to develop the competitive edge I need becomes clear."

Betty Jo King a CPP at Complete Payroll Services in Little Rock, Arkansas says, "I can't say enough good things about AdaptaSoft. We've found CyberPay to be a reliable and affordable product. AdaptaSoft regularly adds additional reports and features to the software, they respond quickly to any support issues we have and our client care rep stays in touch with us on a regular basis. They've never let us down."

Summary

AdaptaSoft provides an unlimited number of employees, pay types, employer liabilities, deductions, benefits, time-off accrual types, pay groups, and direct deposit accounts.

AdaptaSoft
www.adaptasoft.com
877-423-2782



Includes UI Forms for All 50 States, The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico

“Backup command allows users to backup to various media as well as restore payer data.”

A-T-F Payroll is a powerful and inexpensive add-on module to the 1099-Etc software package. It allows users to process live and after-the-fact (post facto) payroll as well as generating quarterly/annual FUTA and SUTA forms.

Benefits and Features

- Includes the ability to create NACHA direct deposit file for no charge.
- Phone, fax and email technical support is provided at no additional charge.
- Includes UI forms for all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
- Backup command allows users to backup to various media as well as restore payer data.
- Download software updates from 1099-Etc website.

What Users Say

“The best software in the world. They are responsive, quality is top notch, always testing, ask for comments and feedback, and always fix problems that arise. Their customer service is superb and their technical support is a ten plus. Would recommend them to anyone, in that the software works perfectly and never a problem. Best piece of software that I have seen in 45 years. I love them and have been working with them 20 plus years. What you see in their marketing that is what you get,” says **Gary Chaiklin** of Chaiklin Tax Service in Connecticut.

Summary

A-T-F Payroll includes features normally found only on more expensive payroll packages. The license agreement allows users to install the software in multiple PC's or on network for no additional charge. (Multiple installations require that the users be in the same office location. Multiple branch offices would need multiple copies.)

Advanced Micro Solutions

www.1099-etc.com

800-536-1099



Includes After-the-fact Payroll and Contains More Than 250 Federal and State Forms

“A live payroll module is also available or for those who prefer to do payroll via a web service.”

CCH's ProSystem fx Write-Up assists firms in providing high-quality, profitable write-up and payroll services by incorporating essential functions to help manage day-to-day client operations, with additional features that make it easy to provide expanded services to clients.

Benefits and Features

- Includes after-the-fact payroll and contains more than 250 federal and state forms at no additional cost. New forms are continually being added to meet the monthly, quarterly and annual filing requirements for state income tax and unemployment insurance reporting. A live payroll module is also available or for those who prefer to do payroll via a web service.
- Use magnetic media or e-filing for payroll forms from ProSystem fx Write-Up for submission to federal and state agencies.
- Streamlines workflow through its extensive data import options (QuickBooks, Quicken, PeachTree, Write-up CS, ASCII and Windows Clipboard) and its integration with ProSystem fx Tax, Engagement, Profit Driver, Document and Practice Management.
- Instant paychecks, direct deposit, bonuses, commissions, tips, voluntary deductions, retirement accounts and expense reimbursements.

What Users Say

“I've been using since its creation by CCH and love the program. It integrates seamlessly with all other CCH programs. The staff experienced a quick learning curve and the program handles all aspects of bookkeeping and payroll perfectly. If there are any issues, tech support is quick to help with whatever fix is required. The upgrades are constant and CCH is always finding ways to improve,” says **Kevin Krueger**, CPA in Tampa, Florida.

Summary

ProSystems fx Write-Up enables users to organize transactions in any way, including by departments, divisions and locations. Users can also use ProSystem fx Write-Up for other important basic tasks, such as bank reconciliations, check writing and more.

CCH, a Wolters Kluwer business

www.cchgroup.com

800-739-9998



Changes in One Portion of System Automatically Reflected in Software

“Generate paychecks yourself and electronically submit tax forms and W-2s.”

For over 25 years, Cougar Mountain Software continues to develop and improve the CMS Professional lineup for small business accounting. Changes in one portion of the system are automatically reflected in all other relevant points in the software—no more entering the same information twice or waiting for other programs to sync up. Print dozens of reports outlining specific information so you can better track all the important aspects of your business, Cougar Mountain’s Payroll software takes the work out of doing payroll and eliminates the cost and hassle of outsourcing.

Benefits and Features

- Multiple Pay Rates
- Multi-State Capable
- Updates provided by CMS for Tax Tables/Forms
- Direct Deposit
- User Friendly
- Eliminates the cost and hassle of outsourcing

What Users Say

“I have used the payroll processing software from Cougar Mountain for many years and find it to be user friendly and reliable. The monthly payroll reports are very easy to run and the option of running plain paper payroll reports is so much faster than using pre-printed forms. I have had no problems with any of the reports or updates,” says **LeAnn Sherman** in Austin, Texas.

Summary

Generate paychecks yourself and electronically submit tax forms and W-2s through Aatrix (an eFile service partner). Whatever pay method you use - hourly, salary, hourly/salary combined, per-diem, contract or piece work - Cougar Mountain’s Payroll software can handle it.

Cougar Mountain
www.cougarmtn.com
800-388-3038



The Ability to Manage Up to 50 EINs with One Payroll Subscription

“I also use the Employee Cost Comparison to show clients changes from year to year in their employees.”

QuickBooks Enhanced Payroll for Accountants lets accountants offer end-to-end payroll processing as a profitable, value-added service to their clients. The product allows accountants to process payroll for up to 50 clients with a single subscription. Enhanced Payroll for Accountants integrates directly with QuickBooks.

Benefits and Features

- The ability to manage up to 50 EINs with one payroll subscription.
- Client-Ready Reports let accountants prepare professional payroll statements and analyses.
- Auto-Fill Preparer ID lets accountants auto-fill the primary signature, third party designee and paid preparer information on federal and state tax forms.

What Users Say

“I like the “After the Fact” Payroll data entry option. It helps me enter the client’s payroll, match to what the client calculated and easily prepare their quarterly tax forms.” says **Wendy Moyer-Drabick** of Moyer-Drabick & Associates in Barto, Pennsylvania.

“I also use the Employee Cost Comparison to show clients changes from year to year in their employees. Clients can get a better picture of what it is costing them per employee and eventually helps with budgeting for how much money it is going to cost them to bring on new employees in the same category.

Summary

The After-the-Fact Payroll tool which lets accountants enter client payroll data into QuickBooks when clients have run payroll themselves.

Intuit
www.payroll.com
888-236-9501



Creates a File to Import Seamlessly Into QuickBooks

"The ability to share responsibility with clients."

PayCycle is an payroll online for your clients with 1-50 employees. PayCycle guarantees the accuracy of all calculations or will pay any penalties.

PayCycle provides the convenience of electronic tax payments and form filings for federal and states where available, reducing paperwork and time spent managing payroll tasks.

Benefits and Features

- Direct deposit, additional payroll runs, electronic payments and filings, W-2s and customer support.
- Seamlessly integrates with QuickBooks, Peachtree and most leading accounting programs.
- Customizable client marketing tools and guides are offered free of charge to help grow your payroll practice.
- Free, live phone support with payroll experts is available five days a week.

What Users Say

"Jody Padar, a CPA at James J. Matousek in Mount Prospect, Illinois says "I can do or review payroll anywhere...all I need is an Internet connection. No coupons, no paper and no software to install on my computer. It's simple to use, completely electronic and allows me to make a nice profit on payroll. Best of all, it creates a file to import seamlessly into QuickBooks and there are no additional fees to pay to send everything electronically."

"PayCycle has robust online payroll features, is easy to navigate and reasonably priced. The ability to share responsibility with clients, automation of most of its features and daily reminder notices give it an unassailable edge over competitors," mentions **David Awe** a CPA in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Summary

PayCycle's unique client access feature enables you to reduce work by allowing you to share payroll tasks with clients if you choose.

PayCycle
www.paycycle.com
866-729-2925



Import Data From Time Clocks and Send GL Transactions to Accounting Software

"Especially suitable for multi-location payrolls."

Paymate payroll is easy to learn and easy to use and with its short Go Live period, you can be up and running very quickly. Paymate offers a cost-effective solution and is supported by full implementation services including training, data conversion and set up.

Benefits and Features

- Can run multi-state payrolls and handle federal, state and local taxes, including printing and e-filing of all tax forms. Paymate supports multiple companies and unlimited employees. You can define unlimited earnings, deductions, accruals, benefits, etc, and also customize them to meet your own rules.
- With the direct deposit (EFT) and the capability of emailing pay stubs and reports, Paymate can make your payroll paperless to save you time and expense and is especially suitable for multi-location payrolls.
- Reduces work by being able to import data from time clocks and send GL transactions to accounting software like Quickbooks, SAP, Sage MAS 90/200, Great Plains and many others
- Comes with many standard reports and a report writer to create your own reports and spreadsheets for further processing.

What Users Say

"Kim Judd in New Hampshire says, "The software works well for us. Once you get it set up, it is fairly easy to use and integrates right with our software."

"Fairly easy to use and is good for someone who has been in payroll. They send our information on updates and when things will be changing. With technical support, whether by phone or email, there has been a quick response. When trying to locate a feature, they help you navigate the system to find a solution," says **Julia Lee** in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Summary

Paymate interfaces with many accounting software. The customer does not have to change their payroll software and can continue using Paymate when they migrate to other accounting software.

Paymate Software
www.paymatesoftware.com
866-729-6283



One Minute Payroll Used with Excel Timesheets

“Because we now do not have to pay the \$3-\$5 filing fee per return, we are going to realize cost savings of thousands of dollars per year.”

UBCC's Payroll Processing programs are designed to maximize flexibility, productivity, and portability. A plethora of productivity features keep keystrokes to a minimum and virtually unlimited reporting assure maximum profitability.

Benefits and Features

- Flexible – adapt to any payroll situation. Multi-state, 401k, Section 125, multi-tier plans, garnishments, child support, vacation & sick accruals, plain toner laser checks, plain paper state and federal reports and much more.
- One Minute Payroll TM - used with Excel timesheets and UBCC's queued reporting.

What Users Say

“UBCC Payroll Software has positively impacted my practice. Their seamless integration with many popular tax programs coupled with their incredibly flexible reporting capabilities saves us a tremendous amount of time, especially during tax season. We are also really excited about the enhancements they made to the self-directed 940 and 941 eFile feature, which allows us to electronically file the 940 and 941 Federal Tax returns directly with the IRS. Because we now do not have to pay the \$3-\$5 filing fee per return, we are going to realize cost savings of thousands of dollars per year,” says **Ria Botzler**, CEO & Founder of Checks & Doublechecks. “No matter how large or small the task, I would highly recommend UBCC for the invaluable flexibility the software offers in terms of platform dependencies, powerful functionality and easily adapting to unique client situations.”

Summary

Scalable – fits the needs of any size company and grows to match the payroll needs for 1000s of companies. Well suited whether you process just a few payrolls or are a full Payroll Service Bureau.

Universal Business Computing Company

www.UBCC.com

800-827-8610



Comprehensive Solutions for Payroll Processing

“Tax tables for all 50 states, plus capabilities for local taxes and special deductions.”

CCH Small Firm Services offers a comprehensive payroll solution under both of its popular brands, ATX and TaxWise. The two versions are identical except that each is integrated with the respective Client Write-Up programs offered by ATX and TaxWise.

Users can quickly print employee paychecks and process direct deposits through the easy-to-use, flexible interface. Complete with a wide array of reports, the ATX and TaxWise Payroll modules help clients track their payroll expenses and make crucial business decisions.

Practices looking for an integrated suite of accounting solutions will find that CCH Small Firm Services also offers a Client Write-Up with Payroll package under both brands. This package combines the features of the live Payroll module with several popular accounting tools, including after-the-fact payroll, general ledger, trial balance, accounts payable and receivable and professional financial statement reporting.

Benefits and Features

- Efiling of 941/Schedule B through W-2/1099 program
- Extensive program options make it easy to handle expense reimbursements, tipped employees, third party sick pay, commissions, garnishments and other special situations
- Tax tables for all 50 states, plus capabilities for local taxes and special deductions
- Print year-end reports including W-2s, W-3s and 1096s for federal and states or file on magnetic media

What Users Say

“Attending the Client Write-Up with Payroll webinar was time and money well spent. I'm always looking to increase my efficiency and I look forward to learning more detailed features of this program ,” says **Jane Patton**, CPA in Galax, Virginia.

Summary

Enhanced with a wide range of conversion abilities and professional training, each program is supported by friendly U.S. based Customer Service agents. Customers can email or call a toll-free support line.

CCH Small Firm Services

www.taxwise.com, www.atxinc.com

888-455-0184

TaxWise
ATX™