CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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improved function windows and quicker list opening. Users can now also open multiple windows simultaneously, so users can view information in multiple locations

Mary Girsch-Bock • Mar. 14, 2016



www.quickbooks.com

Best Fit: Like all QuickBooks products, QuickBooks Point of Sale – Version 12 is a good fit for small to mid-sized retailers that are in the market for solid point of sale functionality in an easy to use format. Available in three editions; Basic, Pro, and

Multi-Store, QuickBooks Point of Sale – Version 12 is suitable for retailers with up to

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rutential weaknesses

- Designed strictly for desktops
- Pricing may prohibitive for very small retail businesses

From the 2016 Reviews of Point-of-Sale Systems.

The latest version of QuickBooks Point of Sale offers users enhanced start up speed, improved function windows and quicker list opening. Users can now also open multiple windows simultaneously, so users can view information in multiple locations without closing windows. Also included are easier to read user interface screens and better sorting capabilities.

BASIC SYSTEM FUNCTIONS: 4.75 Stars

Like all QuickBooks products, installation was easy, with new users able to activate a practice company to familiarize themselves with the product. The main user interface contains a drop down menu at the top of the screen that provides access to all features within the product including Customers, Inventory, Purchasing, Employees, Financial, and Reports. To the left of the screen, a vertical menu bar offers access to all point of sale and related functions. The Navigator portion of the screen offers a workflow chart that allows users to click on an icon to access a particular function.

During setup, users can choose to enter detailed information, or enter the minimum and enter the rest at a later date. The 'I Want To' function allows users to search and choose from a variety of point of sale functions. A list of reminders is displayed to the right of the navigator screen and displays inventory reminders, and other pending items. Users have the option to create custom dashboards that display vital data such as Sales Year over Year, Best Selling Items, and Department Sales.

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transaction types along with standard sales including adding new customers, layaways, returns, special orders, and discounts. The inventory module allows users to assign up to five pricing levels for each item, with a markdown percentage attached if desired. Intuit also offers a wide variety of third party applications to integrate with the point of sale product to increase functionality including an e-Commerce application. The product will also integrate with all QuickBooks financial products for complete front/back office financial management.

SPECIALIZED FEATURES/SERVICES: 4.5 Stars

During the initial product setup, users can choose to utilize a standard monitor or touch screen monitor to process sales and other transactions. Users can scan products into the system, or manually enter products by code. Third party applications are available to easily integrate brick and mortar locations with web stores for more accurate sales and inventory tracking. Users can accept a variety of tender types including cash, credit and debit card, checks, gift cards and gift certificates. Custom orders, layaways, and sales orders can also be processed in QuickBooks POS.

Users can choose to process sales as cash sales, or utilize the customer tracking options that will keep track of customer purchases including average sale amounts, as well as any rewards available for those using rewards cards. The Customer Center allows users to keep track of customer purchasing habits and other related statistics. Custom email and mailing campaigns can be created and customer mailing labels can be exported to other applications for processing. Customers can also be rated based on buying habits, and can be categorized as needed. The Customer Rewards Program allows retailers to offer a loyalty card to customers that will track spending and offer incentives.

TRACKING/REPORTING: 4.75 Stars

The Report Center offers users a convenient location where all system reports can be

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Customer Type Summary, and a Customer Sales Report that can track sales promo codes. The dashboard function is an excellent reporting mechanism for managers that wish to see a quick overview of store performance. And like all QuickBooks products, QuickBooks POS contains excellent audit trail functionality throughout the product, with all system transactions available to review in a detailed transaction report.

INTEGRATION/IMPORT/EXPORT: 4.5 Stars

An all-in-one system, QuickBooks Point of Sale easily integrates with all QuickBooks financial products as well as numerous third party applications designed to increase the efficiency of the product. An Import/Export Wizard guides users through importing or exporting data, and users can easily export reports and other data into Microsoft Excel as needed. The product easily integrates will all standard point of sale hardware such as signature capture devices, touch screen monitors, PIN pads, receipt printers, and credit card readers, and users can opt to purchase bundled hardware peripherals directly from Intuit if desired.

HELP/SUPPORT: 4.5 Stars

QuickBooks Point of Sale offers several Help options within the program, including general help functionality, hardware help, how-to videos, a comprehensive user guide, and the QuickBooks user community. Users can choose to receive automatic software updates from Intuit, or download the updates at their convenience. Intuit encourages uses to seek answers from the resources available on the Intuit website and encourages users to obtain local QuickBooks help resources when necessary. For those not comfortable utilizing these resources, Intuit offers QuickBooks Care Plan, which provides users with 24/7 unlimited phone support.

SUMMARY

QuickBooks Point of Sale – Version 12 can be used as a stand-alone point of sale

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