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Mary Girsch-Bock • Apr. 24, 2017



If you've ever processed payroll, you'll understand the importance of accuracy. No

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business owners are also responsible for ensuring that the taxes are paid to the appropriate agency on time. It also means ensuring that insurance and other deductions are entered properly, and that insurance premiums are paid on a timely basis. And there's one more thing, payroll tax laws frequently change, and it's up to the payroll processor to ensure that those laws are being followed when they process payroll.

In many ways, the sheer responsibility of processing payroll is one of the reasons why many business owners choose to outsource the entire process, leaving them time to focus on other vital aspects of their business. Other businesses simply do not have the staff, or the time to dedicate to the task of preparing payroll accurately. And with major tax law changes looming in regards to the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it's likely that even more owners will want to outsource payroll processing to the professionals.

Enter the accounting firm. While payroll has traditionally been a service that many firms have shied away from offering in years past, many now find that offering payroll processing services to their clients is a win-win.

For the large international accounting firm that outsources its own payroll, adding these services may not be feasible, but for other firms looking to add to their menu of services offered, adding payroll to your services makes a lot of sense. The truth is that many business owners struggle to process payroll and keep abreast of new payroll and tax laws. They would likely welcome the opportunity outsource the payroll, particularly to a firm that they already know and trust.

Once you make the decision to add these services to your firm, you'll need to take a look at the products available, and what level of service you wish to provide. This can include everything from determining whether you want your clients to have access to any payroll information, or whether you'll be handling the entire process. You'll

also want to look at how much you want to enter in-house – or whether you’d be

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The products included in this review include:

Programs:

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

To make the process easier, we’ve added a handy chart of features that indicate some of the most vital features of a payroll system, allowing readers to quickly determine whether a product is suitable for their needs. For instance, if you only want a cloud based application, you can take a look at the chart and see which of the products reviewed offer cloud access; thus eliminating the need to research others.

The majority of the products reviewed in this issue are suitable for both businesses and accounting firms, though there are some that are designed solely for the

professional accounting office. Whatever the situation, the products reviewed here

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