

# Comment on...

## Accounting Software Services

Your accounting software is at the heart of the success of your business. Data and business information must be accurate, accessible, timely, and secure in order for you to keep track of how your business is performing. Whether you are a Chief Financial Officer, Controller, or Bookkeeper, your accounting software should let you access and analyse the data you need to operate your business. If you are unsure about what would work best for your needs, it's time to learn more about accounting software.

Accounting software does not replace a qualified accountant for ensuring that your business adheres to legal and accepted accounting and tax practices. However, when you have accounting software that meets your needs, you are able to take control of your financial data, with access to reports on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

There are many strong reasons to use accounting software: it can save you time, money and stress, as well as help to make your business a success. As no two businesses are alike, it is important to choose a program that suits your requirements if you want the software to be effective.

Using accounting software saves time compared to handling the books manually and is more efficient than using a spreadsheet.

While some accounting systems may suit a variety of businesses, you shouldn't simply choose one at random and hope that it works. Working together with the Chiene + Tait team, we can advise you on the best software that meets your current and future needs. Key questions we ask include:

- What software features would save you time?
- Will the accounting software grow with your business?
- Is online or desktop account software best for you?
- Should online access be restricted for some users?

Our team will also discuss what reports are needed and will ensure you can generate them. Accounting software offers a wide range of features to simplify the process of recording your business' finances. We will help take a look at your business and decide which features you need most, depending on the type of products and services you offer. There are a multitude of software packages available including:

- Xero
- Sage
- Quickbooks
- Landmark
- Farmplan
- Freeagent

As an official Sage Accountant Partner our team is fully trained and accredited by Sage to offer the following:

- Provision of Sage software, including upgrades, at competitive prices.
- Advice on appropriate product selection for your business.
- Installation of Sage products and set up of nominal ledger accounts and tailored profit and loss accounts.
- Sage training; tailored to your specific requirements and carried out either at our offices or on your premises, using your data.
- Ongoing technical support.
- Report design to ensure that you make the most of your software.

Chiene + Tait is a Xero Silver Partner and our team has recently seen a huge surge in demand for cloud-based accounting software, in particular Xero. This innovative software connects people with their accounting information on the cloud anytime, anywhere, on any device. In simple terms, instead of using software hosted on your servers, you can log in to Xero via the internet. The benefits that this brings are:

- Money saved on hardware costs such as servers and desktop computers
- No upfront software purchase cost or ongoing licence fees per subscriber
- Free and automatic updates
- Unlimited users
- It's as fast as your internet connection, and has a 99.97% uptime record since 2007
- No costly IT support involved - it's as easy as opening Google!
- Free unlimited e-mail support from experienced specialist teams
- All for an average cost of £20 per month

The biggest benefit of Xero is that it can download your internet banking transactions each day and auto-populate them into the software, ready to be processed. Xero recognises entries that are posted on a regular basis and auto-suggests the entry. Once an entry is posted on Xero, it is automatically reconciled, removing the duplication that some other software packages require. There are also several hundred add-on applications designed to assist with inventory management, eCommerce, contact relationship management (CRM), point of sale and payments, payroll and HR, job costing and specialist invoicing and much, much more

Some may worry about the level of security that cloud based software offers. Xero offers the same multi-level encryption that banks use for their online banking services. Their reputation is based on security and they do everything possible to protect their clients' data, and in turn, their own business.

For more information on how accounting software can help your business, please contact our team at [mail@chiene.co.uk](mailto:mail@chiene.co.uk).