

Computer Reseller News

CRN Test Center

PRODUCT REVIEWS & CHANNEL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

BQE Software BillQuick 2000

Straightforward billing program for professionals

Extensive reporting

Includes project management features

Busy professionals often let billable hours slip by and given that service revenue is what they are in the business for, it can be particularly unfortunate. BQE software's BillQuick 2000 strives to be the magic wand that cures time-billing ailments.

BillQuick 2000 provides the balance between on-the-fly billing and time sheet management to address common concerns shared by most time-based operations. Based upon Microsoft Access, BillQuick 2000 works under all the current flavors of Microsoft Windows.

The \$595 entry-level package supports five users and is fully network compatible. Various options are available to support features as diverse as remote time entry to customized reports.

Minimum hardware requirements are a Pentium processor with 32 Mbytes of RAM and 80 Mbytes of hard drive space. BQE recommends a 400MHz processor or better to achieve the best performance.

BQE software offers a 60 day full working evaluation copy.

Analysis

Test Center engineers found BillQuick 2000 both easy to install and to operate.

BillQuick 2000's menu system is straightforward and easy to use with all of the primary functions easily found in the switchboard-like

control panel. Other options are easily accessible by standard pull-down menus. Pop-up help prompts or help balloons would be a welcome addition to further assist neophyte users.

One of the more notable features of the program is the support of a service-fee schedule, which allows the creation of custom-billing rates by employee, client, project or any combination of these elements.

The driving force behind the program is the Time Card function, where hours are logged by employees and assigned to clients, tasks and projects. Billing is primarily generated from the time cards, but users do have the option to create manual invoices for special services.

As with most parts of the program, little memorization is required, all common elements—from employee IDs to project information—are available via pull-down menus, easing time card creation.

BQE includes several custom invoice templates and the BillQuick 2000 has more than 100 reports available. All reports offer a preview function so paper is not needlessly wasted. For business requiring additional reports, custom reports can be generated by using the optional Crystal Reports package.

Commentary

While the software is easy to use, at a minimum users will need to familiarize themselves with terminology and operation of billing, expense and payment cycles.

The included quick start guide does an ade-

BillQuick 2000

www.billquick.com

- PRICE: \$595
- AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS: NONE
- DISTRIBUTORS/INTEGRATORS: MODEL/ORDER #: BQE SOFTWARE LOMITA, CALIF. (310) 530-0214 (888) 245-5669

quate job of explaining the software, and users can access the excellent online help to further their understanding of the package.

New users would benefit more if the quick start guide included a step-by-step procedure on creating a new project and performing the billing, expense and payment options associated with accomplishing a billable task.

BillQuick 2000 fits well into a professional business that earns most of its income from time billing. The robust feature set and excellent reports will provide most any consulting-style business with the features needed to concentrate on billing and not accounting.

The chaos often found in consulting firms drives ad hoc billing practices, and the flexibility required to be competitive is usually not found in off-the-shelf accounting packages. BQE Software's BillQuick 2000 is a great middle ground and the CRN Test Center at Comdex recommends it.

—Frank J. Ohlhorst