



Certified Public Accountants  
and Business Advisors

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## COMPUTING SOLUTIONS

### BACK ON THE MAC—QUICKBOOKS RELEASES NEW PRODUCTS



Many Macintosh users remember when QuickBooks stopped issuing new releases for the Mac. I remember the event well, because many loyal Mac users began switching to MYOB after the announcement. Recently, however, QuickBooks has announced the release of several new products, including a new version designed specifically for Macintosh users.

QuickBooks Pro Edition 5.0 for the Mac will be built for Mac OS X users, but will run on Mac OS 9 as well. This new edition is part of QuickBooks' multi-year plan to develop and support their product for the Mac, and they plan to issue new versions on an annual basis going forward. Details about the updated product are not yet available, but if you are interested in finding out about new developments and announcements regarding this release, visit [www.usequickbooks.com/mac5](http://www.usequickbooks.com/mac5).

Another product that is just now available for purchase is QuickBooks Premier: Contractor Edition 2003. This QuickBooks software solution has been tailored specifically for contractors to make it easier for them to manage their organizations' finances. It includes improved job costing functionality, more

accurate and complete estimates with change orders, new contractor specific reports, a new contractor menu and much more. Users with earlier versions of QuickBooks can upgrade easily to this version. QuickBooks began accepting pre-release orders on October 22nd, and the product will begin shipping on December 3rd. Up-graders will receive a rebate of \$120.00 when ordering the product, making the price \$379.95. In addition, anyone ordering before December 6th will receive a \$50.00 discount. To receive the discount on your order, call 1-888-246-8848 and mention source code CO2923 and offer code P02135.

Last, but not least, QuickBooks has released a product specifically for non-profit organizations—QuickBooks Premier:Nonprofit Edition. This version makes it easier to track donations, generate grant and 990 reports and reduce redundant data entry to save time and help non-profit organizations stay on top of fundraising and reporting easily and quickly. Current QuickBooks users can smoothly upgrade from versions 5.0 and up, and it comes with a multimedia training video on CD-ROM. For more information, go to <http://www.quickbooks.com/support/versions/2002np.html>.

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#### I AM THE VIRUS—WATCH OUT FOR HOAX E-MAILS

I recently received a forwarded e-mail which warned me that, if a certain file was on my computer, I had a virus. Later, it was discovered that this e-mail was a hoax, and people who believed it and deleted the file were later unable to boot up their computers. Hoaxes are common these days, and it's difficult to know who to believe, but one way to check whether the virus warning you have received is a hoax or not is to visit <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>. There you can enter the name of the virus and see if it's real or just someone's idea of a joke.



Beginning in January 2003, those of you who prepare your own payroll tax quarterly reports will be able to file your federal quarterly returns electronically with the IRS. When you file electronically, it reduces the processing time to one week, and you will receive an acknowledgment within 48 hours. Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on the *e-file* logo for more information.

## NEW RELEASES FROM MYOB

MYOB has recently announced the release of two new versions—MYOB Plus 12 for Windows and MYOB AccountEdge 3 for Macintosh users.

MYOB Plus 12 for Windows won't be shipping until November, but it sounds like it will have some impressive improvements. Developed from wish lists completed by MYOB customers, focus groups, Certified Consultants and on-site visits to small businesses, the new version will have the following enhancements:

- Cash or accrual based Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss reports will let business owners consider their company's financial picture from both perspectives with the flexibility to switch from one to the other.
- The new report viewer makes it easier to customize the way reports are viewed on screen and includes a print preview, scaleable columns, a quick filter tool bar and drag and drop columns.
- Businesses with inventory will find a new Items Register with an inventory audit path that shows exactly how the inventory arrived at its current quantities and values. Also, running balances are provided for quantities on hand and current item values. More importantly, the new version also allows editing and modifying of inventory transfers and adjustments (a much needed improvement), and includes an Item History report and an Inventory Reconciliation report.
- A new memo field on each line of cash transactions tracks why money was spent or from where it was received. This feature is available in the Spend Money, Receive Money and General Journal Entry areas.
- Category tracking has been improved to handle multiple lines of business, funds, departments or other categories and provides a full set of reports specific to each category.

All in all, it sounds like this upgrade has some significant improvements over the current version that will make Minding Your Own

Business easier than ever. New users can purchase the product for \$229.00, and up-graders for \$119.00.

MYOB AccountEdge 3 has all of the previously mentioned improvements, and demonstrates MYOB's continuing commitment to Macintosh users. It is compatible with Mac OS X, versions 10.1 through 10.2 as well as Mac OS 9 and 9.x. A few of the additional enhancements it contains are as follows:

- Multi-User functionality for Mac OS X version 10.1 and later lets AccountEdge users share their company files more efficiently and productively.
- vCard® compatibility changes how MYOB users maintain their contact lists by letting them drag and drop their contact information to and from MYOB AccountEdge and other vCard applications, including the Mac OS X Address Book, Apple's iPod™ and Microsoft Entourage™.
- This product is excellent for Mac small businesses that need to work closely with outside accountants, those in other departments, or anyone working on a Windows computer, as AccountEdge offers cross platform company file compatibility with MYOB Plus for Windows. This allows a windows MYOB user to open an AccountEdge file and vice versa. Also, as a part of MYOB's effort to support their customer's accountants, they offer new users a free copy of their software for their accountant.

MYOB AccountEdge 3 is priced at \$249.00 for new users, and \$119.00 for up-graders. To learn more about MYOB's latest products, go to their web site at [www.myob.com/us](http://www.myob.com/us). To place an order, call MYOB Customer Service at 1-800-322-6962.

