



Thomson Creative Solutions — Payroll CS

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CreativeSolutions.Thomson.com

Payroll CS, previously known to many as Payroll Solution, is a comprehensive, full-featured in-house payroll application. Thomson Creative Solutions (CS) produces a wide range of software and online applications directed to use by



accountants. CS offerings include write-up, tax planning and compliance, asset management, practice management and website building for accounting firms. Payroll CS integrates with other CS applications. The company also offers secure online portals, permitting remote payroll access for clients or remote accounting staff. Client employees can also access personal information through these same secure, online portals. CS has been a pioneer in the development of the paperless office, and Payroll CS can certainly be utilized in working toward the goal of a paperless environment.

LEARNING CURVE

Payroll CS shares platform characteristics and a common user interface with most CS products, allowing users familiar with CS to get off the ground and running very quickly, as they can navigate and learn program nuances quickly.

Payroll CS is easy to navigate, thanks in part to consistent use of the Windows interface, and navigation is made easy with intuitive use of icons and pull-down task menus, including primary function windows with tabbed windows.

Payroll CS data input entries are performed on customizable screens, which allow users to turn off data fields that are not utilized in data entry (entry is faster when users have fewer choices). Kudos to the “smart” entry pull-down lists that save previously entered data like accounts, banks and cities, in addition to the ability to set up multiple employee templates.

Payroll CS users can opt to take advantage of a companion CS offering called NetClient CS portals, which provide fast and efficient payroll data exchange that can be utilized by clients, followed by seamless data flow directly into Payroll CS. By combining NetClient CS portals with Remote Payroll Check Printing, users can provide clients with the convenience and

speed of printing their payroll checks in-house. ★★★★★

FEATURES & SERVICES

CS has long been acknowledged as a leader in data integration and exchange. Payroll CS certainly takes advantage of its strong integration abilities with other CS accounting programs. Payroll CS integrates with CS write-up, tax compliance and planning applications.

It provides for an unlimited number of clients and supports unlimited employees, locations and departments. Payroll CS also supports an unlimited number of pay, deduction and withholding types, as well as an unlimited number of state and local withholding taxes. Batch processing and printing is supported as well as the ability to create salary and hourly payroll checks.

Payroll CS includes templates for quick setup of new clients. And since we're talking about templates, Payroll CS supports MICR printing of checks and includes templates to create professional, customized checks using 50 ready-to-use check layouts that can be used as is or modified to create custom designs. The program can also automatically pay third-party vendors, payroll taxes and the accountant. Thank you!

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Payroll CS includes support for time clock imports and can impound funds from your clients' individual bank accounts to a central impound account under the user's control. ★★★★★

REPORTING CAPABILITIES

Payroll CS includes 30+ standard reports that offer strong customization capabilities. The report function enables creation of report groups. Tax compliance forms support includes 940, 940-EZ, 941, 941-V, 943, 944, 1099, 1096, 1098, W-2 and W-3, plus electronic filing of Form 940 and 941, with Form 944 planned for the 2006 filing season. Payroll tax form processing for all 50 states is available as add-ons. ★★★★★

INTEGRATION/IMPORT & EXPORT

Integration is a very strong suit

for Thomson Creative Solutions, with almost all of their software products built upon the same database structure that allows them to seamlessly transfer data between applications. This is an incredible timesaver that cannot be understated. Additionally, the payroll system imports data from time clock applications as well as from spreadsheets. Payroll CS integrates with FileCabinet CS for electronic document storage. Employee setup information and time entry can also be imported from Excel spreadsheets. ★★★★★

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Payroll CS includes a comprehensive built-in Help utility that is further buttressed by a strong online support section. CS has a unique and extremely successful (free-of-charge) online user community (ARNE2) that enables users of CS products to share best practices

and to assist one another. Other support offerings include online tutorials and manuals, training seminars and an annual user conference. Licensees of Payroll CS receive free support for 60 days, at which time users can opt to receive live customer support via an annual unlimited support contract or on a per-call basis. ★★★★★

SUMMARY

Payroll CS is an extremely comprehensive, full-featured, well-supported, high-end payroll solution designed for the accounting firm that provides payroll services to many clients. Payroll CS enjoys an unusually tight level of integration with other CS programs. Payroll CS costs \$1,500 for the first 20 client payrolls.

2006 OVERALL RATING

★★★★★

“Payroll CS is an extremely comprehensive, full-featured, well-supported, high-end payroll solution designed for the accounting firm that provides payroll services to many clients.”



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Executive Summary

“Make my day!” Actually, that statement is incomplete. What I meant to say was, “Make my day EASIER!”

Service bureau payroll accounting applications truly offer unparalleled processing abilities for the payroll professional. Service bureau payroll applications are in the midst of a rapidly evolving and developing software environment — one that offers increased efficiencies and related productivity, as well as new tools that deliver improved client services.

These Service Bureau programs

include so many options and choices that users will truly need to carefully sample the available applications on a first-hand basis. These applications hold the promise of a near-perfect fit for many accounting firms. However, what is important to one payroll accountant or firm may have lesser importance to another. Some enhancements have sizzle, but will clients appreciate them. This is an appropriate time to review and assess client needs. Determination of client needs and the services they require will aid the accounting firm in the selection process.

Providing payroll services can be a truly rewarding experience for an accounting practice today. In addition to the added billings, payroll services can assist with solidifying relationships while providing the personalized services that many small businesses will really appreciate.

The payroll service bureau application chosen should ultimately be the one that most closely integrates with the capabilities and resources of the accounting firm, while flexibly delivering services and solutions required by clients. ■

CATEGORIES COMPANY/PRODUCT	Learning Curve	Features & Services	Reporting Capabilities	Integration/ Import & Export	Training & Support	2006 Overall Rating	Pricing Information
AccountantsWorld Payroll Relief AC	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5	4.5	Per-employer all-inclusive pricing for weekly processing is \$5.95 for up to five payroll checks. Others are \$9.95 for up to five payroll checks. Per-check charges range from \$1 per payroll check for six to 10 checks to \$0.50 each for over 100 checks.
AdaptaSoft, Inc. CyberPay	4.5	5	5	5	4.5	5	The base license fee for entry-level CyberPay is \$6,000. Monthly maintenance costs vary depending upon number of companies or transactions processed. The monthly maintenance cost for up to 50 clients is approximately \$300.
ADP EasyPayNet	5	4.5	4.5	4	4	4.5	ADP's prices vary based on the feature set selected by a client's geographic location and pay frequency. For example, ADP's price for a basic payroll package is approximately \$24 for a client with five employees processing payroll biweekly. A complete payroll, tax filing and delivery package is \$35.
CompuPay, Inc. (formerly PayMaxx) PowerPayroll	5	5	3.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	For CPA clients, CompuPay offers "Innovation Pricing" that bundles key services into one low price. A client with a payroll of 10 employees paid biweekly would typically pay \$50 per payroll or \$1,300 per year.
Execupay Execupay Payroll	4.5	5	5	4.5	4.5	4.5	Licensing for Execupay starts at \$8,750 and scales to \$38,000 for an unlimited license.
Intuit Complete Payroll	4.5	5	4.5	4.5	5	4.5	Complete Payroll is available for a subscription price starting at \$100 per month.
Mangrove Software Mangrove Online	5	5	5	5	4.5	5	The CPA Reseller Program offers wholesale monthly all-inclusive per-employee pricing, e.g. 50 employee biweekly payroll at \$6.75 per employee per month including unlimited web reporting access, check printing, tax filing, direct deposit services and annual W-2 preparation. The Standard Service Bureau Payroll Processing license costs \$25,000 for up to 6,000 active employees. The Enterprise Service Bureau Payroll Processing license costs \$50,000 with unlimited active employees.
PenSoft PenSoft Payroll Plus	4.5	4.5	4	4	4	4	Pricing on the software ranges from \$1,629 to \$2,119, depending on the number of employees. Renewal cost ranges from \$1,299 to \$1,689.
Sage Software Sage Payroll Services	4.5	5	5	5	5	5	The average rate per paycheck, per employee is \$1.65, with no additional fees for time clock interface, check signing, data downloads, report archive and GL integration.
Stellar Software Payroll Café	3.5	4	4	3.5	4	4	The Service Bureau version costs \$1,599 (\$999 renewals). The CPA Version for up to 20 businesses costs \$1,099 (\$849 for renewals). The Single Business Version cost is based on the number of employees (see page 28 for details).
SurePayroll SureChoice for Accountants	5	5	4.5	4	4.5	4.5	SureChoice for Accountants pricing is as follows: Monthly – \$40.45 plus \$1.66 per employee. Biweekly/Semi-monthly – \$27.85 plus \$1.66 per employee. Weekly – \$17.05 plus \$1.35 per employee. W-2s cost \$36 plus \$3.82 per employee.
Thomson Creative Solutions Payroll CS	4.5	5	5	4.5	5	5	Payroll CS costs \$1,500 for the first 20 client payrolls.

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➤ Paperless Convenience. Profitable Payroll.

➤ It's possible.

Payroll CS™

It's true. Payroll is back and more profitable than ever. The days of manual data entry and check delivery by courier are long past. With Payroll CS, you can implement a completely paperless process, where clients input payroll data online, you retrieve it online, and it flows seamlessly to your system. Post final paychecks to clients within a secure online portal so they can print them onsite. Even give their employees online access to payroll check stub information.

Payroll made simple and convenient. You reap the benefits of a highly profitable service and say goodbye to the hassle of traditional payroll processes.

It's possible with Payroll CS.

CS Professional Suite

- Client CS
- Engagement CS
- FileCabinet CS
- Financial Analysis CS
- Fixed Assets CS
- NetClient CS
- Payroll CS
- Planner CS
- Practice CS
- ToolBox CS
- Trial Balance CS
- UltraTax CS
- Virtual Office CS
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