2008 OVERALL RATING
★★★★★

TAX COMPLIANCE SUITES

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Thomson Reuters — UltraTax CS™

800-968-8900
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UltraTax CS is the comprehensive professional tax preparation system offered by Thomson Reuters, which also offers a full array of accounting and firm management programs under the CS brand. All of these systems, including write-up, trial balance, engagement, document management, tax planning, payroll, secure online portals, client bookkeeping,

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engagement management and asset management, fully integrate with each other and with the UltraTax CS system. This provides a unified practice environment that can streamline everything from data entry through reporting.

UltraTax CS provides compliance for all entities, including 1040, 1065, 1120, 1120S, 1041, 706, 709 and 990, with support for all states and many municipalities, many property tax returns, and e-filing of all federal and most state returns for which such filing is accepted. The tax program's modules are available individually, with pricing starting at $2,100. A fully inclusive multi-state, multi-preparer package costs around $6,000, although most firms can reduce this cost significantly by selecting only the entities and states necessary, and by using the company's pay-per-return option for infrequently used entities. Also available through Thomson Reuters' CS line is a virtual/remote office option and a website building tool for accountants.

▶ **GENERAL OPERATIONS/EASE-OF-USE**

The UltraTax CS system lets users get straight to compliance and management tasks by providing an excellent primary interface that uses separate information areas to offer links to specific functions. This customizable Home Page includes traditional icons at the top, along with panels in the main screen that identify frequently performed tasks and recent return activity based on the individual user. Panels are also offered for Cumulative and At-a-Glance Status Summaries and for Notices, providing information on product updates, e-filing transmission status and news items. Existing client returns can be opened using the option in the Tasks or Recent Activity panels, or by selecting it from the new Client Profiles screen, which provides a sortable client list that is also filterable by entity or preparer and, when a client is selected, opens a summary information panel with tax and basic client contact data. Professionals can also use the Open Client icon, which provides similar sorting, filtering and search functions within a popup window.

UltraTax CS enables data entry directly onto form replicas or through an interview mode. When working in a client return, the interface changes to offer a form/section navigation menu on the left. Data is automatically calculated as it is entered, with the system using various color schemes to note an entry's source as manually input, transferred, calculated or override. Right-click menu options give access to field-specific instructions and review functions such as notes.

When using the form view mode, the left-hand navigation menu and tabs above the work area give access to primary form pages and subsidiary forms, worksheets and schedules. In the interview mode, the left-side menu breaks return data entry into logical sections (income, business, rental, farm, taxes, credits, etc.), while tabs further break each of these sections down into specific areas, such as W-2, 1099 and 2439. All data automatically flows throughout the system, including between interrelated parent/child returns and K-1 pass-throughs. ★★★★⟡

▶ **WORKFLOW & PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS**

To speed data entry, UltraTax CS provides smart selection lists for data-entry fields that are likely to have repeated information, such as employers, EINs and cities. These fields remember previous entries, allowing users to select from a list on future returns, which can be especially useful when preparing returns for individuals working for the same employer, and for interrelated business entities. This smart entry feature, in addition to remembering previously entered information, also lets users skip over areas unrelated to the current return, such as spousal information for a client filing as single. The program also allows multiple clients to be open at the same time.

Among the key features noted in every review of UltraTax CS is the benefit of total integration with all of the other systems in the CS line. With all of the programs sharing the same database and similar interfaces, the potential for saved data-entry time is substantial for full-service practices. Additionally, the program offers great review process functions that include an audit trail with line-by-line drilldown access from forms to supporting statements, as well as the ability to set field-specific notes and view side-by-side two-year comparisons. UltraTax CS also includes strong built-in diagnostic capabilities to help find discrepancies and missing information, which help guard against errors. The error and diagnostic functions provide direct access to form data entry. Both the review and diagnostic functions can be accessed with one click from the application toolbar. UltraTax CS supports the

UltraTax CS

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use of multiple monitors for simultaneously working within the program and viewing source documents, spreadsheets, research websites or other items on full screens.

With optional UltraTax/1040 Portals, a tax practice can offer clients secure online access to individual returns, as well as the ability to upload documents and other materials. Similar portals are available through NetClient CS™ for non-1040 clients. As another online option, the implementation of Virtual Office CS™ allows firms with remote staff to access and work with client returns from any location. The program supports bar-coding of all returns and forms. New for TY 2007, Thomson Reuters introduced watermark functions for noting copy versions, the previously mentioned Client Profiles screen, proforma of client notes and data-entry displays, and the ability to export client reports. ★★★★★

▶ INTEGRATION/ IMPORT & EXPORT

As noted, UltraTax CS integrates with the various Thomson Reuters CS accounting and practice management programs, as well as with Microsoft Excel for report generation and importing of client data. The program also offers excellent professional tax research capabilities through integration with PPC 1040 Deskbook, and RIA Tax Reference Guides, Checkpoint system and LineFinder feature. As well, document management functions allow saving returns, reports and other items to PDF and Excel. ★★★★★

▶ SUPPORT/TRAINING & HELP SYSTEM

With its smart data-entry fields, line-by-line instructions and other features, UltraTax CS offers abundant assistive capabilities, including built-in task wizards, tutorials and access to the online ARNE2 community of tax and accounting professionals. Thomson Reuters offers live and web-based training options through its training department, as well as classes at its annual user conference. ★★★★★

▶ RELATIVE VALUE

UltraTax CS provides exceptional integration between all of its modules and the other programs in the CS suite of professional tax and accounting systems, enabling practices to streamline many of their processes. This integration makes the system ideal for any size full-service accounting and tax firms, where UltraTax CS can achieve the sought-after balance between high-end functionality and ease of use. And the product is offered at a moderate price-point that enables firms to move up into additional modules as their client bases grow increasingly complex and diverse. ★★★★★

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CATEGORIES ▶ COMPANY/PRODUCT ▼	General Options/ Ease of Use	Workflow & Productivity Tools	Integration/ Import & Export	Support/Training & Help System	Relative Value	2008 Overall Rating
BNA Software 706 Preparer /709 Preparer	4.5	5	4.5	5	5	5
CCH, a Wolters Kluwer business ProSystem *fx* Tax	4	5	5	5	5	5
CCH Small Firm Services ATX	5	4	4	4.5	5	4.5
CCH Small Firm Services TaxWise	5	5	4	5	4.5	4.5
Drake Software Drake Tax	4	4	4	5	4.5	4.5
Intuit Lacerte Tax Software	4.5	5	4.5	4.5	5	4.5
Intuit ProSeries	5	5	4.5	5	5	5
Orrtax Software IntelliTax	5	3.5	3	4	4	4
Orange Door, Inc. Orange Door Tax Suite Pro	4.5	4	3	4	4	4
RedGear Technologies TaxWorks	4.5	4.5	4	4.5	4.5	4.5
RCS TaxSlayer Pro	4.5	4	3	4	4	4
Thomson Reuters GoSystem Tax ES	4.5	5	5	5	4.5	5
Thomson Reuters UltraTax CS	4.5	5	5	5	5	5

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