

Are You Looking for New Accounting Software? Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How long does it take to switch over to the new system?** *While the timeframe varies depending on the specifics of the project, it is typically anywhere from a 2 month to 6 month project from start to finish. The elements of the project usually include software installation, setup, training and testing and may also include procedural review, data conversion, programming and report writing.*
- 2. Should I run the new system parallel with the old system?** *While this approach was necessary in the days when systems were custom made for individual companies, current day software is much more reliable in its ability to process transactions. Also, given the high pace of most offices, running two systems for a significant length of time is just no longer practical. Testing normally consists of running a test batch of transactions that represent the transactions that will be run on the system. This is typically a couple of days to a weeks worth of transactions that give you the ability to evaluate the system and make any minor needed adjustments before going live.*
- 3. If I purchase a more expensive program will it have all the features of my current program plus more?** *While the new program is likely to have more features and allow more functionality, it is not safe to assume that the more expensive software will have all the features of your current low end system. Because of their design for small business and small databases, QuickBooks and Peachtree have some features that even very high end systems won't perform.*
- 4. How much will it cost?** *For small to medium size businesses, the software can range from \$200 to \$50,000. The cost of the software depends on your specific needs and number of system users. Once a needs assessment has been preformed an estimated figure can usually be determined. Software implementation fees typically range from .50 to 2 times the price of the software, again depending on the specific needs of the company.*
- 5. I've heard stories of how software implementation projects go on for years costing companies millions of dollars. Is that a risk for my business?** *While there will always be some risks in implementing new software, they are much smaller than the Fortune 500 companies that install multi-million dollar systems while coordinating 100's if not 1,000's of users. Projects for small to mid size business do not involve the complexity of the large company project so the risk is much smaller.*