



## Choosing the Best Accounting System

*Here's a list of companies specializing in accounting software for nonprofits—and steps to pick the right one for you.*

**Q:**

We're thinking of upgrading our accounting software from OneWritePlus to a more sophisticated program. After some preliminary research, we have found that there is a bewildering array of accounting packages available for nonprofits. Rather than pay extra to have an outside consultant do the research and installation for us, we want to set up the program ourselves.

We would like to know what our options are. Is there a current summary of computerized accounting packages specifically for nonprofits? Do you know which programs are the most useful for nonprofits? Do you recommend any specific software package?

*Khalid Wasti, Accountant  
Society for Study of Myth & Tradition  
New York, New York*

**A:**

You're right that today's nonprofit organization has a vast array of accounting options. To choose the best one for your organization, perform a "needs analysis." Ask yourself: What are your organization's biggest accounting needs? What is your organization's projected growth? What are your flexibility requirements? Must your accounting package be integrated with other software, or can it stand alone?

Next, gather material from a spectrum of companies that specialize in accounting software. The accompanying

list of software companies will give you a good starting point. All these companies specialize in accounting software for nonprofits. The list names each accounting package and the size of nonprofit organization for which it is intended.

These companies will be glad to send you information on their accounting packages, usually including a "demo disk." Also ask them to let you review their client list to see if organizations similar to yours are using the software. Contact these organizations and see what they have to say about the software.

Questions to ask: Is the software easy to use? Is it powerful enough for all your needs? Is it flexible enough to record transactions in detail by account? Can you integrate it with other software? Can you customize the

As a member of the Society for Nonprofit Organizations, you are invited to send in, every month, one question which you or your organization would like answered. You will receive a written response from one of our panel of experts—professionals located throughout the country. Selected questions and answers will be published in each issue of *Nonprofit World*. If you prefer that your question appear anonymously, please let us know. Send questions to: Ask the Experts, *Nonprofit World*, 6314 Odana Rd., Suite 1, Madison, WI. 53719. Include your name, address, phone number, and Society membership number.

account structure? Will it keep a detailed audit trail? Does it include a good security system to safeguard your data? Does the company provide high-quality training and support for the long term?

For more information, see "How to Choose the Right Fund Accounting Software," *Nonprofit World*, November-December 1995, and "10 Tips for Better Fund Accounting," *Nonprofit World*, March-April 1995. Remember, the myriad of

# Software Packages

**Name of Software:** Financial Management System (FMS)  
**Recommended Size:** Annual budget over \$5 million  
**Vendor:** Access International  
432 Columbia Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141  
**Phone:** (617) 494-0066  
**Fax:** (617) 494-8404

**Name of Software:** ADS ProFund  
**Recommended Size:** Any size  
**Vendor:** Advanced Data Systems (ADS)  
P.O. Box 2130  
Bangor, Maine 04402  
**Phone:** (800) 288-8167

**Name of Software:** FundWare  
**Recommended Size:** Annual budget \$1 million and up  
**Vendor:** American FundWare, Inc.  
1385 South Colorado Boulevard, Suite 400  
Denver, Colorado 80222  
**Phone:** (800) 551-4458  
**Fax:** (303) 759-3515

**Name of Software:** Axcnt Account Software for Non-Profits  
**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$25 million  
**Vendor:** Axcnt Corporation  
635 South Lakeshore Drive  
Tempe, Arizona 85282  
**Phone:** (800) 292-3687  
**Fax:** (602) 345-4109

**Name of Software:** Fund Accounting  
**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$25 million  
**Vendor:** Banyon Data Systems  
4600 West 77th Street, Suite 349  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55435  
**Phone:** (800) 229-1130  
**Fax:** (612) 882-7734

**Name of Software:** Blackbaud Fund Accounting Series  
**Recommended Size:** Any size  
**Vendor:** Blackbaud, Inc.  
4401 Belle Oaks Drive  
Charleston, South Carolina 29405-8530  
**Phone:** (800) 443-9441  
**Fax:** (803) 740-5410

**Name of Software:** Fund General Ledger  
**Recommended Size:** Any size  
**Vendor:** Caselle, Inc.  
1570 North Main, P.O. Box 31  
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660  
**Phone:** (801) 798-9851  
**Fax:** (801) 798-2097

**Name of Software:** Compass Accounting Software  
**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$25 million  
**Vendor:** Compass Computer Solutions  
11403 Bluegrass Parkway, Suite 730  
Louisville, Kentucky 40299-2349  
**Phone:** (502) 266-7277  
**Fax:** (502) 266-6028

**Name of Software:** Fund Accounting by Cougar Mt. Software  
**Recommended Size:** Any size  
**Vendor:** Cougar Mountain Software  
7180 Potomac Drive, Suite D  
Boise, Idaho 83704  
**Phone:** (800) 388-3038  
**Fax:** (208) 375-4460

**Name of Software:** Benefactor  
**Recommended Size:** Annual budget over \$5 million  
**Vendor:** Datatel  
4375 Fair Lakes Court  
Fairfax, Virginia 22033  
**Phone:** (703) 968-9000  
**Fax:** (703) 968-4625

**Name of Software:** "BUCS" Budgetary Control System  
**Recommended Size:** Any size  
**Vendor:** Donald R. Frey & Company, Inc.  
40 North Grand Avenue, Suite 303  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075  
**Phone:** (800) 659-3739  
**Fax:** (606) 441-7152

**Name of Software:** Echo Fund Accounting System  
**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$25 million  
**Vendor:** Echo Management Group  
1620 Main Street  
Center Conway, New Hampshire 03813  
**Phone:** (800) 635-8209  
**Fax:** (603) 447-2037

**Name of Software:** Fund Accounting Software Series  
**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$25 million  
**Vendor:** Executive Data Systems, Inc.  
1640 Powers Ferry Road, Bldg. 27  
Marietta, Georgia 30067  
**Phone:** (800) 272-3374  
**Fax:** (404) 955-1975

**Name of Software:** FUND E-Z  
**Recommended Size:** Annual Budget from \$1/2 million to \$30 million  
**Vendor:** FUND E-Z Development Corporation  
106 Corporate Park Drive  
White Plains, New York 10604  
**Phone:** (914) 696-0900  
**Fax:** (914) 696-0948



**The myriad of accounting options available today puts the burden on you to do your research.**

accounting options available today puts the burden on you to do your research. But if you're willing to do so, there's a good chance you'll find the perfect fund accounting software for your needs. ■

# Software Packages

**Name of Software:** Basic Fund Accounting & Reporting System Plus (BARS+)

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$25 million

**Vendor:** HiTech Services, Inc.  
237 Ridge Road  
Hopkins, South Carolina 29061

**Phone:** (803) 776-5679

**Name of Software:** Non-Profit Accounting (NPA) System

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$25 million

**Vendor:** Integrated Grant Systems, Inc.  
258 W. Midland Road  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46217-3530

**Phone:** (317) 782-1660

**Fax:** (317) 786-2843

**Name of Software:** Fund Accounting

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget \$5 to \$25 million

**Vendor:** Manatron, Inc.  
2970 South 9th Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009

**Phone:** (616) 375-5300

**Fax:** (616) 375-9826

**Name of Software:** Fund-Master, FM Light, MSC Accounting Series

**Recommended Size:** Any size

**Vendor:** Master Software Corporation  
5975 Castle Creek Parkway, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250

**Phone:** (800) 950-2999

**Fax:** (317) 849-5280

**Name of Software:** MIP Fund Accounting System

**Recommended Size:** Any size

**Vendor:** Micro Information Products (MIP)  
505 East Huntland Drive, Suite 340  
Austin, Texas 78752-3772

**Phone:** (800) 647-3863

**Fax:** (512) 454-1246

**Name of Software:** Financial Management Systems (FMS)

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget over \$20 million

**Vendor:** Mitchell Humphrey & Co.  
11720 Borman Drive  
St. Louis, Missouri 63146

**Phone:** (800) 237-0028

**Fax:** (314) 991-5288

**Name of Software:** Grant Manager

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$5 million

**Vendor:** Niles & Associates  
2000 Hearst Street  
Berkeley, California 94709

**Phone:** (510) 649-8176

**Fax:** (510) 649-7179

**Name of Software:** Manage!

**Recommended Size:** Any size

**Vendor:** Omega CG Limited  
377 E. Butterfield Road, Suite 675  
Lombard, Illinois 60148

**Phone:** (708) 969-7799

**Fax:** (708) 969-8690

**Name of Software:** FRISS, Fund Accounting System

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$5 million

**Vendor:** Samuelson Associates  
350 S. Schmale Road  
Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

**Phone:** (708) 668-1598

**Fax:** (708) 668-2654

**Name of Software:** Association Management System

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget over \$1 million

**Vendor:** Smith, Abbott & Company  
1447 York Road, Suite 800  
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

**Phone:** (410) 494-1600

**Fax:** (410) 494-0400

**Name of Software:** Accountmate Fund Accounting

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$5 million

**Vendor:** Sourcemate Information Systems, Inc.  
20 Sunnyside Avenue  
Mill Valley, California 94941

**Phone:** (800) 877-8896

**Fax:** (415) 381-6902

**Name of Software:** Membership Accounting & Recordkeeping System (MARS)

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget up to \$1 million

**Vendor:** Taranto & Associates  
P.O. Box 6216  
San Rafael, California 94903

**Phone:** (415) 472-2670

**Fax:** (415) 472-2673

**Name of Software:** USL Financial Solutions

**Recommended Size:** Annual budget over \$5 million

**Vendor:** US LAN  
8227 Old Courthouse Road  
Vienna, Virginia 22182

**Phone:** (703) 790-2754

**Fax:** (703) 790-3396