

Timecard Monitor Lite

Overall Rating **9.0**

Product Name

Timecard Monitor Lite
By Count Me In, LLC

Reviewed By



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Summary

Timecard Monitor Lite is a time and attendance system that uses a fingerprint reader to clock in and out. It then passes the time card data to QuickBooks for use in payroll processing. This is a great program and can save a lot of time compared to calculating elapsed time from a manual timecard. It also has the advantage of keeping people from punching in for their friends.

Strengths

- 1 - The fingerprint reader is great. It is the first one I have tried that works well. It is quick and accurate as long as you keep it clean. It can be kept clean easily using a piece of scotch tape and light dabbing the reader to remove any debris! This is the most outstanding feature of this software because so many of these fingerprint readers just don't work. I think by registering multiple fingers and helping you identify those with more pronounced prints that greatly improves the speed and accuracy of recognition.
- 2 - The "Who's here now list". This is a handy feature, like an office in/out board that lets the receptionist know who is currently clocked in.
- 3 - Reconciliation flagging: items that need to be reviewed or reconciled by a supervisor are flagged by the software to bring them to your attention during the reconciliation process. This really speeds up the timesheet review process.
- 4 - Rules for Breaks: that define what to do when people take extended breaks.
- 5 - Automatic over-time calculation even when the over-time period is a different duration than the pay period, i.e. if you pay semi-monthly but the overtime is determined weekly.

Limitations

The main limitations I encountered with the integration to QuickBooks can be overcome by upgrading to the Pro Edition of Timecard Monitor. First, you cannot enter the QuickBooks Service item (which is used on invoices for billing purposes in QuickBooks and in job cost reports) and second, you cannot record time by customer: job for job costing purposes. Both of these issues are solved when you upgrade to the Pro Edition of Timecard Monitor from Count Me In.

While there are a lot of reports and they can be somewhat configured, the report customization is not as flexible as you find in QuickBooks. The download to Excel is a two-step process and also not as flexible as it is in QuickBooks but the function does work.

Wish List

A more powerful flexible report writer and a cleaner download to Excel would be nice.

Product Ratings	Rating	Ratings Definitions
<p>Setup and Installation:</p> <p>Setup went very well. With the little instruction booklets I was able to get everything installed without incident. I had a few error messages when I accidentally unplugged the reader but I restarted the application and everything was fine.</p>	9.0	<p>10.0 (Perfect): This exceedingly rare score is reserved for a product that is as perfect as it could be.</p> <p>9.0 to 9.9 (Spectacular): A product that receives a rating in this range succeeds at meeting all of its intended users' needs and has no meaningful drawbacks.</p>
<p>Interface:</p> <p>The interface is very basic but I found it intuitive and easy to follow.</p>	9.0	<p>8.0 to 8.9 (Excellent): A product that receives a rating in this range is superior in so many ways that its relatively few drawbacks are not very important.</p>
<p>Features:</p> <p>1) I like the fingerprint reader. It is the first one I have tried that works well. The registration process is intuitive. Don't be discouraged if you can't register every finger. Once you get a few fingers registered the consistency and speed of the reads is excellent. It is not like the reader on my Thinkpad where you draw your finger across the reader. The Count Me In reader has a soft gel surface and you just hold your finger there for two seconds. You get feedback from the computer that you have a good read or a reject and the sounds it uses to tell you this are user configurable WAV files.</p> <p>2) Who's here now list. Handy, like an office in/out board.</p> <p>3) Reconciliation flagging: items that need to be reviewed or reconciled by a supervisor are flagged by the software to bring them to your attention during the reconciliation process. This includes things like missed punches, punches with same start and end time, etc. This really speeds up the timesheet review process.</p> <p>4) Break rules that define what to do when people take extended breaks.</p> <p>5) Automatic over-time calculation even when the over-time period is a different duration than the pay period, i.e. if you pay semi-monthly but the overtime is determined weekly.</p>	9.0	<p>7.0 to 7.9 (Very good): While the strengths of a product scoring in this range certainly outweigh its weaknesses, it has some minor faults that certain users should be aware of.</p> <p>6.0 to 6.9 (Good): This range represents a product that is above average. Its strengths slightly outweigh its weaknesses, making it good for most uses but not a standout.</p> <p>5.0 to 5.9 (Average): A product that scores in this range is functional but unremarkable.</p> <p>4.0 to 4.9 (Mediocre): Products in this range are below average. They fall in the middle of the pack for most features, but suffer from a few additional major flaws.</p> <p>3.0 to 3.9 (Poor): A customer should probably not consider purchasing a product in this range or lower. There may be one or two specialized circumstances, however, that could justify the purchase of this product for a very low price for a specific demand.</p> <p>2.0 to 2.9 (Terrible): A product that receives a rating in this range does not satisfy any of its intended users' needs and has no meaningful strengths.</p>
<p>Ease of Use/Service and Support</p> <p>This product is intuitive and easy to use. The documentation is somewhat sparse but then this is not a very complicated program. Online help is also available.</p>	9.0	<p>1.0 to 1.9 (Abysmal): A product in this range should never have been produced. This product has no redeeming qualities and worse, may actually harm the user or the user's productivity.</p>
<p>Data Security / Privacy</p> <p>The system restricts access with passwords but the underlying files are not encrypted. The company does not obtain any confidential information from the users in the process of using the software.</p>	9.0	



Integration with QuickBooks

9.0

When installed there is a separate folder in the program menu called "connection to QuickBooks". It offers four programs which are:

- 1) Create employee file from QuickBooks
- 2) Import timecard file into QuickBooks.
- 3) Test Connection to QuickBooks Company and
- 4) View Existing Links.

The process is batch oriented and is done at the end of each pay period by transferring the file from Count Me In. The first time you link you must match employees in Count Me In to employees in QuickBooks and types of hours in Count Me In to QuickBooks payroll item types. Setting up the integration was not as easy as setting up the initial program. I ran into a few error messages during the process and required some technical assistance. You must upgrade to the Pro version in order to pass through service item and customer job information to QuickBooks.