

PROADVISOR review

GovCalc Accounting Software for Government Contractors

Overall Rating **9.0**

Product Name

GovCalc Accounting Software for Government Contractors by TechBiz Solutions, Inc.

Reviewed By

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Summary

GovCalc is a system that allows a business to maximize their ability to get a government contract or grant with minimum cost and then to prepare the required indirect cost and fully burdened project cost calculations required once the contract or grant has been awarded. The day-to-day accounting work is still done in QuickBooks however the GovCalc templates ensure that all the appropriate information is tracked appropriately, the required calculations prepared, and appropriate reports are available. Businesses have the option of doing the specialized calculations and reporting in-house or paying a monthly fee to have TechBiz do it for them.

Strengths

GovCalc features accounting operations that satisfy the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) requirements, development of up to three indirect rates which are critical for pricing in the proposals, contract summary information as required by the DCAA, and accounting for "extra effort" time over 40 hours per week. The system works with both PC and Mac systems. Other services available for additional fees include support for the contract negotiation process, guidance regarding Federal Acquisition Regulations, preservation of intellectual property rights, and assistance with Defense Contract Audit Agency audits.

Limitations

Due to government accrual accounting rules, it is not preferred that payroll be processed within the primary QuickBooks file...it should be handled in a separate QuickBooks file or through an outsourced payroll provider. If it is important for payroll to be processed within the same QuickBooks file, support needs to be called. GovCalc also works with all desktop versions of QuickBooks but not the on-line version.

Wish List

There is nothing currently to put on the wish list...the system works as stated.

Product Ratings	Rating	Ratings Definitions
<p>Setup and Installation:</p> <p>Set up and installation was easy to follow & comprehend. The Accounting Manual did a good job of explaining the installation and set up process and the template QuickBooks file provided much of the set-up already (chart of accounts, items, payroll items, customer structure, and memorized reports).</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 consists of a QuickBooks file and an Excel file so the interfaces are very easy to use, particularly for those already familiar with QuickBooks and/or Excel.</p>	9.5	<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>The features of the GovCalc system consist of two parts. The first part is the template QuickBooks file and the second part of the system consists of a series of Excel worksheets with the advanced calculations and reports needed. The templates make it easy for a business to record transactions easily within QuickBooks but then to get more advanced job costing and reporting information taken care of in Excel, through the report export process initiated through QuickBooks. The features help keep what can be an extremely complex accounting system rather simple and straightforward.</p>	8.9	<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>Follow-through on Claims</p> <p>The product follows through with its claims on the Intuit Marketplace and on it's own website.</p>	9.5	<p>5.0 to 5.9 (Average): A product that scores in this range is functional but unremarkable.</p>
<p>Ease of Use/Service and Support</p> <p>GovCalc is easy to use as most of the work is done within QuickBooks and the rest is in Excel and both of those products are fairly easy to use. It is important to make sure that transactions are recorded as instructed by GovCalc to make sure that the advanced calculations required are correct but the accounting manual is a good resource and makes it very easy to understand how transactions need to be recorded. It is also important that a business preparing the advanced calculations and reports in Excel understands when support needs to be contacted to update the Excel schedules (when a new account or job is added for example). If both parts of GovCalc are purchased (the QuickBooks template and the Excel spreadsheet), four hours of training are provided for free. If additional support is needed, live chat support is available through the website (www.techbizsolutions.us) and paid e-mail and phone support is available from 8-5 MST.</p>	8.5	<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>Data Security</p> <p>For the work done in QuickBooks, the security options are limited to those available within QuickBooks. Any user with access to the financial reports is able to export that information to the Excel file and there that data can be secured based upon the options available within Excel. The GovCalc documentation does recommend that users utilize the security options available in both products.</p>	8.0	<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>



QuickBooks

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Privacy

The company has a well-documented privacy policy on the website which is comprehensive and easy to understand.

10.0

Integration with QuickBooks

The system revolves around QuickBooks and Excel so the only integration involved is with the export of QuickBooks reports to Excel. This process is very easy and straight-forward. Caution just needs to be taken when new accounts and/or jobs are added in QuickBooks as GovCalc support may need to take additional steps to make sure the formulas in the Excel file are calculated correctly. The product does contain a quality test within Excel that provides a few checkpoints to help identify potential issues with the data once it has been exported into Excel.

8.9