



The Accounting Library 2004 Results

Top-Ranked Business Management Systems

As a result of the analysis performed in December 2004 utilizing *The Accounting Library* software selection tool, Microsoft Great Plains was determined to be the top-ranked business management systems among 100+ accounting solutions in the following areas:

- 1) [Basic Functionality](#)
- 2) [All Features](#)
- 3) [Out-of-the-Box functionality](#)

Charles Chewning, Jr., Solutions, Inc., December 2004

The Accounting Library, developed by Solutions, Inc, allows companies to compare business management systems requirements against a wide range of accounting solutions. By utilizing this tool, companies can determine which of the products in The Accounting Library database are best suited to their specific needs. Analyzing the functional strengths and weaknesses of several products that most closely match the criteria can help in the system selection process.

The Accounting Library, first published in 1990, has helped thousands of organizations in the process of selecting the right business management solution.

As a result of a full feature-to-feature comparison analysis of 100+ of the top accounting and business management solutions, conducted by The Accounting Library in December 2004, **Microsoft Great Plains** was determined to be a top-ranked business management system among 100+ accounting solutions in the following areas:

- 1) [Basic Functionality](#)
- 2) [All Features](#)
- 3) [Out-of-the-Box functionality](#)

Microsoft Great Plains is a full-featured business management system that meets most typical requirements of a broad range of businesses. In a side-by-side functional analysis of the leading mid-market products, Microsoft Great Plains was the top-ranked product under each of the three different scenarios created: basic accounting and distribution, all modules including manufacturing and multi-currency, and perhaps most important of all: out-of-the-box functionality (meaning no credit was given for requirements that could be met only by using third party products or system modifications).

1) BASIC FUNCTIONALITY

The Basic Functionality category contains the requirements for General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Accounts Receivable, Payroll, Human Resources, Inventory Control, Sales Orders, Job Costing, and Budgeting). **Result: Microsoft Great Plains was the top-ranked product (along with Microsoft Navision and Epicor) meeting 80% of the requirements listed.**

The Accounting Library Product Ranking Basic Functionality			
% Needs met	Product Name	Version	Vendor Name
80%	Microsoft Great Plains	8.0	Microsoft Business Solutions
80%	Microsoft Navision	4.0	Microsoft Navision
80%	Epicor	7.3	Epicor Software Corporation
78%	Syspro	6.09	Syspro
78%	MAS 500	6.3	Best Software, Inc.
76%	ACCPAC Advantage Series Enterprise Edition	5.2	ACCPAC International
76%	ACCPAC Professional Series	7.2	ACCPAC International
75%	Solomon IV	5.5	Microsoft Business Solutions
72%	Macola ES	ES	Exact Software North America
69%	MAS 90/200	4	Best Software, Inc.
68%	AccountMate 6.5	6.5	AccountMate Software
57%	TRAVERSE	10.1	Open Systems, Inc.

Basic Functionality: This ranking measures only the core functions (GL, AR, AP, PO, IC, PR, HR, SO, and JC)

2) ALL FEATURES

In addition to the requirements included in the Basic Functionality category, the All Features category is expanded to include manufacturing and multicurrency requirements as well as "General Questions" (which are system wide features that are not associated with an individual module). **Result: Microsoft Great Plains was the top-ranked product along with Microsoft Navision.**

The Accounting Library Product Ranking All Features			
% Needs met	Product Name	Version	Vendor Name
79%	Microsoft Great Plains	8.0	Microsoft Business Solutions
79%	Microsoft Navision	4.0	Microsoft Navision
78%	Syspro	6.09	Syspro
77%	ACCPAC Advantage Series Enterprise Edition	5.2	ACCPAC International
76%	Epicor	7.3	Epicor Software Corporation
76%	MAS 500	6.3	Best Software, Inc.
74%	ACCPAC Professional Series	7.2	ACCPAC International
72%	Solomon IV	5.5	Microsoft Business Solutions
71%	Macola ES	ES	Exact Software North America
64%	AccountMate 6.5	6.5	AccountMate Software
64%	MAS 90200	4	Best Software, Inc.
57%	TRAVERSE	10.1	Open Systems, Inc.

* This ranking is based on all questions in The Accounting Library including Manufacturing, Multi-Currency, and system wide questions.

3) OUT-OF-THE-BOX FUNCTIONALITY

Out-of-the-Box Functionality strictly looks at the functionality that is shipped with the product, meaning that no credit is given for requirements that can be met by system modification or third party products. **Result: Microsoft Great Plains was the top-ranked product (along with Microsoft Navision and Epicor)**

The Accounting Library Product Ranking Out-of-the-Box Functionality			
% Needs met	Product Name	Version	Vendor Name
73%	Microsoft Great Plains	8.0	Microsoft Business Solutions
73%	Microsoft Navision	4.0	Microsoft Navision
73%	Epicor	7.3	Epicor Software Corporation
70%	MAS 500	6.3	Best Software, Inc.
69%	Syspro	6.09	Syspro
65%	ACCPAC Professional Series	7.2	ACCPAC International
64%	Macola ES	ES	Exact Software North America
63%	ACCPAC Advantage Series Enterprise Edition	5.2	ACCPAC International
62%	Solomon IV	5.5	Microsoft Business Solutions
56%	MAS 90/200	4	Best Software, Inc.
52%	TRAVERSE	10.1	Open Systems, Inc.
44%	AccountMate 6.5	6.5	AccountMate Software

Note: The product names printed in bold represent The Accounting Library certified solutions.

About The Accounting Software Library Selection Tool:

At its core The Accounting Software Library is an easy to use but powerful computer-based software selection program by which you can:

- Understand how this whole accounting software selection process should be organized.
 - Build as detailed a needs definition as required by selecting from a comprehensive list of up to 4,000 features, functions and reports that users and consultants have indicated to us should be considered.
 - Compare your requirements against a wide range of products.
 - Determine which of the up to 150 products in our database are best suited given your unique needs.
 - Analyze the functional strengths and weaknesses of each product.
 - Select that one product with which you can form an efficient and effective partnership.
 - Prepare yourself for the process of installation and implementation.
 - Analyze and improve every aspect of your organization to make sure that you are operating at top efficiency and effectiveness.
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For more information and to purchase a copy of The Accounting Library:

Call: (804) 330-0000

E-mail: cchewning@accountinglibrary.com

Visit: www.accountinglibrary.com

About the Company:

Solutions, Inc was founded in 1987 to assist organizations increase their profitability through improved organizational effectiveness. As the PC accounting industry began to grow, so did Solutions. The Accounting Software Library, a natural outgrowth of our business improvement specialty, was first published in 1990 as a DOS-based software selection program. A Windows version was introduced in 1995, and has been expanded and improved significantly each year. Currently 150+ products are featured in our databases with new products being added each year. While our initial thrust was directed at the PC accounting industry, we have expanded our product line to include the entire industry from QuickBooks to Oracle, PeopleSoft and SAP.

About the Author:

Charles Chewning, Jr., the founder of Solutions, is a nationally recognized expert in the field of software selection. He has written articles for a number of magazines, is quoted in software selection reviews, and presents workshops to end-users, consultants and resellers.