

QuickBooks 2008 – Updated Features in Newest Version

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The 2008 version of Intuit's QuickBooks contains minor updates and enhancements that may appeal to current QuickBooks users, as well as those considering making the initial switch to QuickBooks.

It is important to note that QuickBooks comes in several editions, each with different business needs in mind. Some will include the features described here, while other editions won't. If a specific feature is important to you, make sure the edition you choose includes that feature.

Editions range from the very basic Simple Start Edition, to the high-end Enterprise Solutions. While the basic product does not have inventory, accounts payable, budgets, or multi-user capability, it does have great features for the small business just starting out. New for this year, Simple Start now includes payroll.

The Enterprise Solutions product includes all the features of the Pro and Premier lines, such as Payroll, Inventory, Accounts Payable, Multi-User capabilities, time tracking, estimating and budgeting. It also accommodates up to twenty users, and an unlimited number of customers, vendors, and items.

Program Launch Speed Improvements

The program launch speed has been improved in the 2008 version. A 33% decrease in program launch time was found in a non-scientific test comparison of the QuickBooks Premier: Accountant's Edition 2008 versus the 2006 edition.

As always, other software currently running on the system, hardware specifications, etc. will affect results dramatically for individual users.

Accountant's Copy Enhancements

The main purpose of Accountant's Copy is to create a separate copy of the client data file that allows the accountant to make changes while the client continues working in the original data file. Then, when the accountant finishes, the changes made are "imported" back to the client's original data file. The 2008 version offers an online data transfer alternative (in addition to creating the file locally), as well as several other enhancements to improve the coordination of the accountant and client.

One of those improvements is the addition of a "dividing date" to the Accountant's Copy. When clients create an Accountant's Copy, they enter a date, such as year-end 12/31/2007. While the accountant makes significant modifications to the file that affect the General Ledger *before* the dividing date, the client can continue to work in the file with few restrictions, as long as the entries affect the General Ledger *after* the dividing date.

QuickBooks has taken the "dividing date" one step farther in 2008. A client can now choose a more recent date, for example, "1 week ago," that allows the accountant to edit transactions up to the dividing date.

As was previously available in earlier versions, an Accountant's copy can be saved locally for transmitting via e-mail, CD, flash drive, etc. However, you can now transfer the Accountant's copy online -- uploaded to Intuit's server, and encrypted with password protection.

New Customer Credit Card Protection Features

QuickBooks has applied a Payment Application Best Practices as it relates to credit card security.



