

CYMA Systems, Inc. — CYMA Accounting For Windows

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www.job-cost-software.com

CYMA is a veteran in the accounting software industry, providing technology solutions since 1980. The latest version of CYMA Accounting For Windows (Version 9) highlights the Job Cost module that is available. Not specifically designed for the construction industry, CYMA is still a strong contender in this niche area, mainly because of its excellent Job Cost module.

The latest version of CYMA also contains numerous product enhancements, such as grids, where multiple vendors can be added simultaneously. The quick invoice entry grid allows users to utilize batch controls for entering numerous invoices. The Job Costing module contains new invoice options, including cost plus with fixed fee, time and material with markup, and time and material with markup and fixed fee. Numerous tabs have been added to the Maintain Jobs screen, including Labor Entry, Financial Overview, Job Tasks and Adjustment Entry. The new Job Contacts tab allows for vital information to be recorded, such as subcontractor data and contacts and phone numbers.

Up to 10 alphanumeric characters can be used when setting up job control numbers. Multiple costing methods are available, including Direct Material, Subcontractor, Other Costs and Overhead, and Direct Labor. Material costs can be directly applied to a specific job or spread between jobs. Labor costs can be distributed by job and by skill. Extensive data can be easily tracked by CYMA, including Costs/Budget by totals and to-date, percentage of job completion, all work in progress billings, and sales and revenue by job or cost type. ★★★★★

► LEARNING CURVE

Installation was quick with limited input required. The main screen contains a drop-down menu bar at the top containing system functions such as File, Maintain, Enter, Process and Report. The options found under these headings are updated when the module is changed. Below that is a window that displays the

current module, and users simply click on the arrow to change the module. Various tools provide access to CYMA's website and download center. Navigation within the program is easy, and all data-entry screens contain lookup options. The batch entry system is an easy-to-navigate grid where users can enter new batches or add to existing ones. Sample companies are available with which to practice entering data. ★★★★★

► MODULES & ADD-ONS

CYMA is a modular system, allowing users to purchase only the modules needed. The System Manager module is required in order to run any other modules. Available modules in the CYMA Financial Management System include AP, AR, Bank Reconciliation, GL, Inventory Control, Job Costing, Payroll, Purchase Order, and Sales Order. These modules are all priced individually and can be purchased as needed. CYMA can be used with Crystal Reports or F9 Financial Reporting software, and the vendor also offers a MICR Check Package. CYMA runs on a Pervasive Database that will have to be purchased as a separate license. Pervasive is available in workgroup and server versions, for up to 50 users. ★★★★★

► PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS

CYMA offers several features designed to make life easier for those in the construction or contractor trades, including eDesk, which is a web-enabled desktop that works alongside the software. eDesk allows users to add links to web pages, create shortcuts to specific menu items within CYMA, create one-click access to frequently run system reports, and even add web content and images. Taking the time to configure eDesk properly will save a great deal of time later. Within eDesk is a series of financial calculators, including a 1040 Tax Calculator, Breakeven Analysis, Cash Flow, Loan Comparison, Financial Ratios and Business Valuation. The Custom Data Designer allows data to be entered into user-defined fields. ★★★★★

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► IMPORT/EXPORT & INTEGRATION

The Job Costing module integrates seamlessly with all other modules available from CYMA. Along with Crystal Reports and F9, numerous third-party software products that integrate with CYMA are also available, including various fixed assets, human resource, and time and attendance systems. As well, users can import BNA or Asset-Keeper Fixed Asset files. ★★★★★

► REPORTING

Reporting options within CYMA are decent, but the option to use Crystal

Reports or F9 dramatically increases the reporting options. All reports can be printed, viewed on-screen, exported to a PDF file, or saved as an HTML file. Reports can be easily exported to Excel, Crystal Reports or as plain text files. Job Costing reports available include numerous budget reports, job analysis and detailed transaction lists. ★★★★★

► SUPPORT & TRAINING

CYMA offers an “unlimited support” agreement that starts at \$395 per year, and the cost is dependent on the number of modules purchased and the number of system users. A Software Maintenance plan is also offered, which will supply users with product updates and upgrades, service packs, and payroll tax updates for one year. The software maintenance plan costs 18 percent of the total cost of modules

purchased. Various training options are also available, including online training classes and training guides. Tutorials are included with the product, as well. ★★★★★

► RELATIVE VALUE

CYMA modules start at \$595 each. Additional users and additional modules are also \$595 each. The Pervasive Database for workgroups is \$125, with server versions costing more. Add-on modules vary in price. CYMA would be an excellent addition to the small to midsize construction company with limited finances and a desire to not skimp on functionality. The program can be up and running quickly, making this an even more cost-effective product for the small business. ★★★★★

2007 OVERALL RATING

★★★★★



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