

CHOOSING QUICKBOOKS ONLINE VS QUICKBOOKS DESKTOP VERSION

BY: JILL COOPER, CPA

With web based software becoming increasingly more available and popular, it is important to consider the features offered in QuickBooks Online compared to the features of the more traditional desktop version.

Advantages:

- Automated backup
- Anytime/anywhere access with Internet
- Multiple users

Disadvantages:

- More expensive due to monthly fees, if you do not usually upgrade annually
- Each company requires a separate subscription
- Regular updates change the product features making it difficult to re-learn procedures
- Familiar features and procedures in QuickBooks desktop are often unavailable in the Online version
- Training for use of the Online version is more difficult to find
- Difficult inventory tracking
- Report customization is restricted
- Report options are limited
- Job costing is better with QuickBooks Desktop version
- According to feedback from users and accountants, frustration level is much higher with the Online version.

Before leaping on to the Web based software band wagon, carefully evaluate whether this is the right product for your company.