



## **Palladium Accounting 2011 Enterprise Product Review**

Conducted by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) as published in their Accountancy SA May 2011 publication.

### **Usability**

I was keen to test this product as it is the only Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) package in SA to have marketing functionality through SMS and email as well as embedded Virtual Private Network (VPN) and Point of Sale (POS) functionality. I was fortunate enough to meet the MD of the company who was proud of their flagship product which he believes is built to cater fully for the SME market in South Africa. He maintains that the architecture on which the product is based is the most robust within the market. He made reference to the fact that the application does not retain a fixed connection to the database when you are not transacting and, as a result, is not nearly as susceptible to power surges and fluctuations. This means less time wasted and more costs saved as the system guarantees no downtime from data corruptions and is backed up by a 3 year money back guarantee on data corruptions. The simple, easy to learn interface enables staff productivity almost immediately. Navigation was easy as the menu items are grouped by functional areas e.g. accounts payable or accounts receivable. Once these menus are accessed there are user friendly icons and descriptions to indicate the functions that they perform. Customizing invoices and other documents requires Crystal Reports to be installed which gives you the ability to export all reports into excel, word, pdf or various other formats. There is a very useful summary screen which graphically represents key ratios and trends. The application has advanced connectivity allowing your accountant to login to the system from the comfort their offices.

### **Support**

There is online documentation, online forums, a knowledge base and live chat that can be accessed from within the system. In addition 60 days free telephonic and email support is included. Further telephonic, email and remote support can be purchased from R185 per month for the Enterprise Edition single user edition. This support plan includes an automatic offsite backup facility as well as product upgrades.

### **Accounts Receivable**

In addition to the standard accounts receivable functions, the system caters for cycle billing such as subscriptions, credit note authorisations, printing of delivery notes and interest billings on overdue accounts. My favourite functionality was the ability to use SMS as a method to market products and services, send reminders and for debt collection. It is a simple process to filter those customers that will be recipients of the SMS campaigns and within seconds the communication can be sent. In this day and age of ubiquitous smartphone technology, this method of communicating with customers has become essential. Another feature that impressed me was the ability to do a number of processes from the invoicing screen alleviating the need for users to navigate around the system to process common routines. Users can create an invoice, convert a sales order to an invoice, process a credit note, process a recurring invoice and amend an invoice provided they have the requisite security access to do so.

## **Accounts Payable**

The usual functions are catered for such as purchase orders or requisitions, invoicing, payments, vendor terms, conversion from orders to invoices, recurring supplier invoices as well as a screen that indicates which invoices are due for payment.

## **Inventory**

Amongst the standard functionalities are included inventory forecasting, stock counts, stock transfers, barcodes, stock re-order points, picking slips as well as stock assembly to cater for input costs for a manufacturing enterprise. The system has full multi-warehousing and distribution capabilities.

## **Fixed Assets**

Details of fixed assets purchased can be captured using the subsidiary ledgers. Depreciation is also manually calculated and journalized.

## **General Ledger**

Journal entries, main and sub accounts, branches, subsidiary ledgers with full reconciliations are catered for. Also the full general ledger history is stored for life. The system caters for budgets and the respective budget v actual reports.

## **Reports**

Each functional area has a vast array of predefined reports that can be drilled down to transaction detail. The system has a consolidations reporting feature that allows for financial reporting across all or selected companies. User defined reports can be created with Crystal Reports. I have experience creating reports using Crystal Reports and it is very powerful. Some Crystal Reports training would be required before a user attempted to create their own reports.

## **Cash Book**

Deposits and payments can be captured as well as bank reconciliations performed.

## **Pricing**

Palladium is available in 3 editions. The Enterprise edition with full functionality is priced from R5025 for a single user, multi company system while the Business Edition is priced from R3095 for a single user and the Individual edition is free of charge.

## **Summary**

After having tested the product for over a week I was quite impressed. With its advanced connectivity capabilities, use of technology and wealth of features has resulted in this product differentiating itself from similar products in the market.

