

HEY FRED!

by Fred Ode

Editor's Note: Looking for answers to your tech issues? Send your construction-related technology questions to heyfred@foundationsoft.com.



Hey Fred,

I have been the bookkeeper with a contracting company for about eight years now. We had been using a small business accounting program until about six months ago when our CPA recommended that we switch over to a more sophisticated (and expensive) job costing system. I was very comfortable with the old software because it was easy to use, and it got the job done! The new system is much more complicated, and I am struggling to learn it all. Is it really worth investing in expensive technology if the end users aren't happy?

— Diane

Hey Diane,

I suspect that the reason you are not happy right now has more to do with you being out of your comfort zone than it does with an inferior software product. You were probably an expert on the old system and took pride in that fact. But technology moves on and so must you.

The truth is, small business accounting programs have their limitations for growing contracting companies, and your CPA was smart to recommend a change. When it comes to job costing, payroll, reporting and more, these generic systems just can't keep up. As a bookkeeper in construction, you should know how important it is to track each job's profit and progress. A good construction-specific accounting system will do this

quickly and easily. What's more, you probably now have a complete audit trail for all transactions and far less data entry thanks to integration and defaulting of information between modules.

Assuming that your company purchased an appropriate construction-specific product for your business, I recommend that you use the vendor's support help line, request additional training, attend a users' conference or whatever it takes to bring yourself up to speed. Remember, learning something new takes time, and it takes practice. You'll be a much happier end user if you embrace the technology concept and the positive

changes that it brings.

— Fred

Disclaimer: "Hey Fred" reserves the right to change names and edit questions for privacy, length and readability issues.

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