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Hey Fred!

Hey Fred,

I've spent almost a year, off and on, looking at construction accounting programs to replace our small business software, which we've definitely outgrown. One product stands out because it seems to have all the features we need as an electrical contractor. One criticism I have heard, though, is that the software has been around a long time and was not designed using "current" technology. But as long as it delivers the features we need, why should I care? - Sam in Erie

Hey Sam,

I am often the first person to tell a contractor that new is not always better. The latest and greatest software may not necessarily be the answer to all your problems, especially if it requires a huge investment of time and money.

Sometimes, contractors can achieve the efficiencies and goals desired with additional training, changes in procedures, or maybe just a little extra effort. However, since you are ready to move to the next level of construction accounting programs, you need to consider more than just product features. Do you really want to purchase a product that may be obsolete in just a few years? Even though the software promises to deliver the features you need, it may not perform these functions cleanly and efficiently.

Find out: does it take one step to complete a task, or is it a three or four-step process? Older software products contain far more lines of complex code compared to current technologies. And with each new function, more lines of code are added. Newer products are lean and fast by comparison. Plus their newer technology platforms can take advantage of newer approaches, methods and operating systems, and offer seamless integration with other products. The bottom line: construction-specific features are important, but don't overlook a program's underlying technology. - Fred

Hey Fred! is authored by Fred Ode, CEO/Chairman of Foundation Software.

Foundation Software is a national developer of FOUNDATION for Windows construction job cost accounting software, serving the construction market exclusively since 1985. Mr. Ode has over twenty-five years of industry expertise and is a renown author, speaker, and instructor on construction, accounting and technology-related topics. Additionally, Mr. Ode plays an active role in various construction trade associations and has assisted colleges and universities with the development of stronger construction management programs.

To submit your questions to Hey Fred!, please email HeyFred@foundationsoft.com and type the term Question in the subject line. You can learn more about Foundation Software by visiting www.foundationsoft.com Disclaimer: Hey Fred reserves the right to edit questions for length and privacy issues.