IYM Software Review

Ever tried to automate the accounting process for a business? If so, you've almost certainly hit a wall of confusion and complications that made you reconsider the decision—at least briefly. In this review, we present overviews of four current solutions to the problem. They all have their strengths—and weaknesses, but they all do the job, and any one of them is easier to use than the best choices available just a couple of years ago. Whether you like DOS, *Windows*, or even the way things look on the Macintosh, we have something for you here.

Teknon Accounting
Teknon Corporation

Teknon Accounting takes the unusual approach of emulating the Macintosh, on a PC platform. No, it isn't a *Windows* product with Mac conventions grafted on; it's a direct port of PeachTree Software's *atOnce!* Macintosh-based accounting product. Visually, it's stunning, and the kind of product that could make a PC lover covet the Mac on the next desk. It's really suitable only for service-based businesses—there's no inventory module—but *Teknon Accounting*'s General Ledger, Accounts Payable and Receivable, and Payroll elements are so smoothly integrated that if you track paper rather than product it's a pretty good choice, in spite of its documentation, the one distasteful ingredient in the recipe.

You'll want at least an 80286-based system to use *Teknon Accounting*. Although it will run on less, anything below an 80386 with a significant disk cache becomes painfully slow. A monitor capable of working in at least EGA graphics resolution is also required. *Teknon Accounting* defaults to that pixel matrix even if you have VGA or higher, and we found it much easier on the eyes than forcing the program to comply to the higher abilities of today's most common. *Teknon Accounting* runs as an EGA application under *Windows* running at VGA, quite reliably.

Teknon Accounting excels in its configurability. It ships with thirteen default charts of accounts designed to accommodate various professions, and sales and service companies, so it's likely that your setup process will be short. The product offers adjustable fiscal periods for those after-the-fact alterations, and an interface that includes an optional clock, calculator, and screen savers. The windowing environment allows you to work on multiple functions simultaneously, and thanks to the unusually tight integration, the ability even extends across modules.

Some operational conventions used in *Teknon Accounting* are like nothing any PC user has seen. The slider buttons that *Windows* devotees use to navigate long lists and large windows are replaced by similar devices that will

reposition themselves on screen if you hold the primary mouse button down with the cursor positioned over them, even though you don't actually move your hand. Likewise, we enjoyed *Teknon Accounting*'s Navigator. Acting as a central point from which you can initiate any action in the program, it is expanded by the addition of a floating selection list with a click of the secondary mouse button (see figure 1).

Teknon Accounting features an eclectic set of accounting practices. It is a true double-entry system requiring you to always balance transactions to get them accepted, but the posting process is carried out automatically—yet is still reversible. Complex, multi-step processes such as payroll processing may be completed automatically or by hand, and as is required for any small business accounting package that is to be taken seriously, *Teknon Accounting* lets you jump between functions with practically no effort. In fact, this is often done for you; double click a customer's name while doing an invoice inquiry, for example, and you immediately add a window for customer inquiry.