

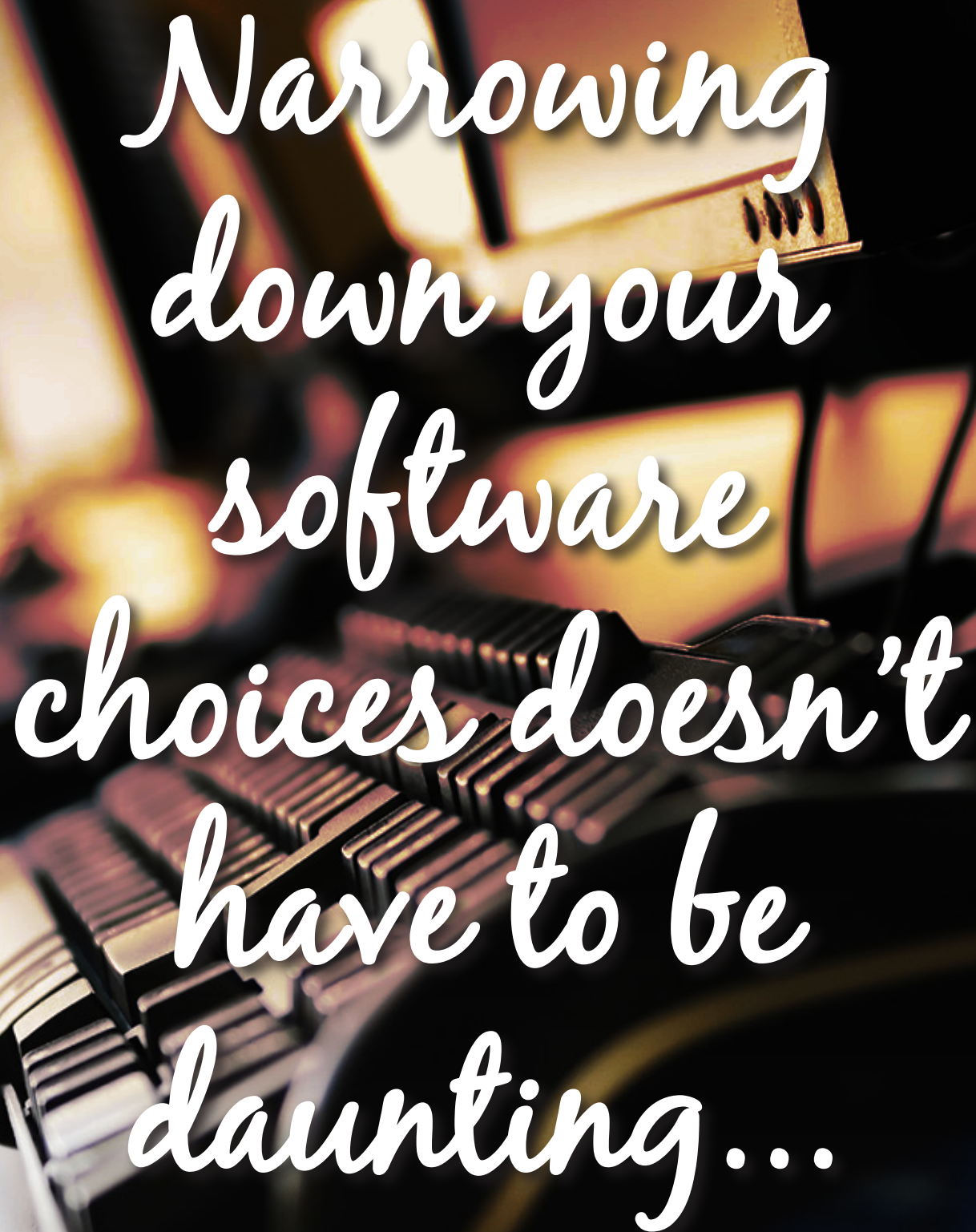


**COUGAR
MOUNTAIN**
SECURE • EASY • ACCOUNTING

**How to choose
small business**

Accounting Software





*Narrowing
down your
software
choices doesn't
have to be
daunting...*

Using the right business accounting software will save you hours of time compared to manually handling books and dealing with spreadsheets. That's because software reduces redundant data entries and has everything you need for financial management and bookkeeping, when you need it.

If the points below apply to your business, then you **should be investing in business accounting software:**

- ✓ You are just starting out and want to set up your business for success.
- ✓ Your business is growing, and a manual accounting system is inefficient.
- ✓ The system you have now is too complicated, and you'd like solutions specifically made for small businesses.
- ✓ You want on-demand access to customer information and financials. You want to include details about vendors, clients, credit terms, and purchase histories.
- ✓ You want to streamline operations, be it day-to-day transactions, inventory, or payroll.

Your business needs accounting software that can integrate all the parts of your operation and automatically input data from your CRM, POS, and ERP. You want to comply with regulations and laws, and want your small business accounting software to do the legwork for you and ensure you are compliant. Narrowing down your software choices doesn't have to be daunting. Make a list of the small business accounting features you require to run your business.



Accounting Software reduces redundant data entries.



Most solutions include:

Payroll
Inventory management
Estimates
Budgeting
Sales tracking
Tax reporting
Merchant account support to accept credit card payments
Customer contacts management

So how do you find the right business accounting software for your needs?
Follow these tips...

8 Considerations for Choosing

1: Industry-Specific Software

Certain software is designed specifically for certain industries, such as wholesale, manufacturing, or construction. If your small business falls into an industry with specific accounting software, you'll need software with features to meet those requirements.

2: Word-of-Mouth

Before you make an investment, talk to other small business owners who are already using an accounting software system in your industry. Ask them what they like about their business accounting software and what they think needs improvement. You may find that there is no perfect solution out there, but don't let that discourage you. The idea is to find software that is going to best meet your business's needs.

3: Keep a Budget in Mind

There's accounting software out there to fit various budgets. Your cost can range from a little for generic or lite versions of accounting software to five figures for comprehensive software with multiple integrations and work process improvements. Generally speaking, the more generic the software system, the less expensive it will be.

4: Pay Attention to the Add-On Features

Add-on features offer extra functionality and enhance the value of your accounting system. For example, they may integrate your accounting system with payroll, inventory, and payment systems. You can also get add-ons or integrations that are compatible with tax software.

5: Let Your Accountant Help You Make the Decision

Your accountant may want to select accounting software that will work with the software he or she uses. Your accountant will be in the position to offer an educated opinion on the best choice for your business. He or she may even be able to help you set up the software.



The idea is to find software that is going to best meet your needs.



6: Security

Fraud and embezzlement can have a huge financial impact on your small business. You're going to need tight control over every aspect of the software and be able to decide who will be authorized to make changes. Look carefully at the accounting software's internal controls and security features.

A lack of a healthy audit trail tends to look suspicious to the IRS and make your business vulnerable to fraud and theft.

7: Reporting

While the software will allow you the opportunity to utilize your accounting information, you still need to ask for the specific information you want. Ensure the accounting software system has a long list of existing reports.

You also want to ensure the software you choose will let you design specialized reports for your business.

8: After-Sales Services and Support

Don't underestimate that the quality of help available can make or break accounting software. The software should include a searchable index and context-sensitive help, but there should also be a support team available to talk you through any issues you encounter.

Demos and tutorials can also get you up and running quickly.

Keep an Eye on the Future

Think ahead and ensure the solution you choose for your company is going to be able to grow with it. If you foresee your small business expanding to the point where several people will need access to the financial data, ensure the software you choose is a multiuser, networked version.

Ready to take the next step?

If you're ready to invest in accounting software for your small business, Denali from Cougar Mountain offers out-of-the-box solutions that will save you time and ensure all your accounting needs are met. Talk to the team at Cougar Mountain to discuss your requirements. You can call the sales team at **(800) 388-3038**.

MORE ABOUT Cougar Mountain Software

Cougar Mountain Software was founded in 1982 with a vision to develop powerful business accounting, nonprofit accounting, and point of sale software solutions. Our 30 years of success comes from two key practices; (1) employing in-house accounting and business professionals for our sales, support, training, and development teams, and (2) listening to our clients. These two practices make our accounting solutions unique to competitors who outsource their support and build fixed and un-scalable solutions to meet the general needs of the masses.

VISIT US ONLINE

www.cougarmtn.com



Cougar Mountain Software
7180 Potomac Dr.
Boise, ID 83704
Phone: 208.375.4455

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