

FIVES STARS! Public-Sector Solutions “easy-to use software system that adapts to current and future needs.”

A fund accounting system that can accommodate a growing organization with minimal change in operating procedures may sound like a pipe dream, not for Public-Sector Solutions. Public-Sector Solutions offers USL Financials, a scalable fund accounting system comprised of fully integrated modules that reside on either a local server (intranet) or a remote accessed through the internet. Minimum system requirements include Microsoft Windows 3.1, Microsoft SQL Server, and Microsoft NT Terminal Server.

Core Modules include GL, AP, AR, Purchase Order and Control System. These modules integrate with the Microsoft Office suite (e.g., Access, Excel, Word and Outlook) as well as software products distributed by vendors in partnership with Public-Sector.

To select a core module, the user clicks on either the Modules menu, the modules icon in the tool bar or on the application module icon. This action opens Microsoft Access, where all module screens reside. Every screen has a standard look that facilitates navigation throughout the system. Screen features include the name of the module or the action across the top, and on either side of the name, there is an icon that defines the user's location within the module. For example, if the user is recording general journal entries, the Enter General Journal action will appear across the top of the screen; the GL icon will be in the upper left-hand corner; and the Transactions icon will be in the upper right-hand corner. In addition, command buttons like OK and Cancel always appear in the right-hand side of the screen.

The Control System module contains functions necessary for the centralized operation of the system. Examples of these functions include creating the chart of accounts and defining security levels for system access. The chart of accounts supports an unlimited number of GL accounts. The user can define the account structure but is restricted to a maximum of 32 alphanumeric characters and nine components, which may include fund, department and cost center. Each component can have up to nine alphanumeric characters. For system administration, the user can restrict access at four levels: module, function, topic and action. For example, the user can deny, grant or selectively deny/grant access to any module by clicking on the applicable radio button on the Maintenance / Define Group screen.

USL Financial has several features and capabilities that can facilitate data entry and the overall fund accounting process. For users who are disenchanted with the mouse, USL Financials supports keyboard equivalents that enable the user to enter data or select options without the mouse. One example is using the space bar to select an option from a list or checkbox. Organizations that record the same transactions on a regular basis, like rent payments, can set up recurring entries in the GL, AP, and AR modules. In the GL, a

user can click on the checkbox that allows multiple batch processing and accounts to be added on the fly. Also, in the GL reports function, the user has the option to create a quick set of financial reports (i.e., on demand) without setting up print layouts. Another reporting capability is drill-down. In the GL Reports view mode, the user can select criteria for sorting through (drilling down) all financial data to produce a specific report, like actual and budget year-to-date balances for all balance sheet accounts. The user can also create a chart based on the report data.

I'd suggest USL Financials for medium- and large-sized organizations interested in a well organized and easy-to-use software system that adapts to their current and future needs. This program offers fully integrated modules, a web-hosted deployment option, scalability and funds for tracking FASB 116 and 117. To try the demo and download a brochure, log on to the company's web site (www.public-sector.com)
Rating *****

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