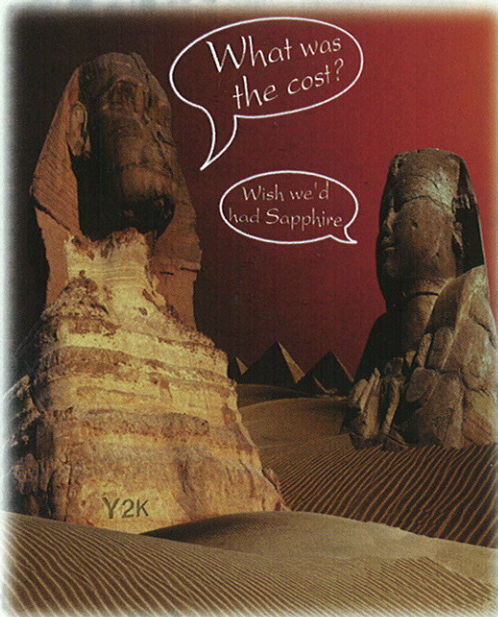


# SAPPHIRE



**Sapphire Software** the first and only 100% Australian owned and developed Financial Management System that is truly **multi-platform**, able to run on Windows NT, Windows 95/98, Mac OS 8 and OS X simultaneously. Sapphire is truly a gem of an accounting package. Not only is this revolutionary software package 2000 compliant, it also offers you the tools to continually improve your business well into the new millenium. Including **Euro and Foreign Currency**, GST and **e service** functionality.

**Y2K Compliance** - Part of our commitment to users, is our guarantee that Sapphire is 2000 compliant.

**Sapphire GST Equipped** - From inception, Sapphire has been equipped to handle GST as well as VAT and sales Tax.

**The Sapphire Package** - Unlike many other critical software packages, Sapphire is not purchased in modules. The package comes complete with - Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, General Ledger, Inventory Sales Order Entry, Purchase Order Entry, Quotes, Excel Link, Apple Events, Time Sheets, Retentions, Project Budgets, Projects, Project General Ledger, Contacts, Diary, Payroll, Fixed Assets, Resources, Foreign Exchange, Multiple General Ledgers, Importer Manager, Exporter Manager, e-services, Back to Back Ordering, Formula Pricing, Auto Serial Creation and much much more.

**Amazon Paint, the industry standard in 3D paint systems**, has been used on such films as Toy Story, Titanic, Fifth Element, and Starship Troopers. With an extensive palette of tools in addition to the flexibility of user customizable scripting and macro editing, Amazon is the final word in digital paint technology.

# AMAZON

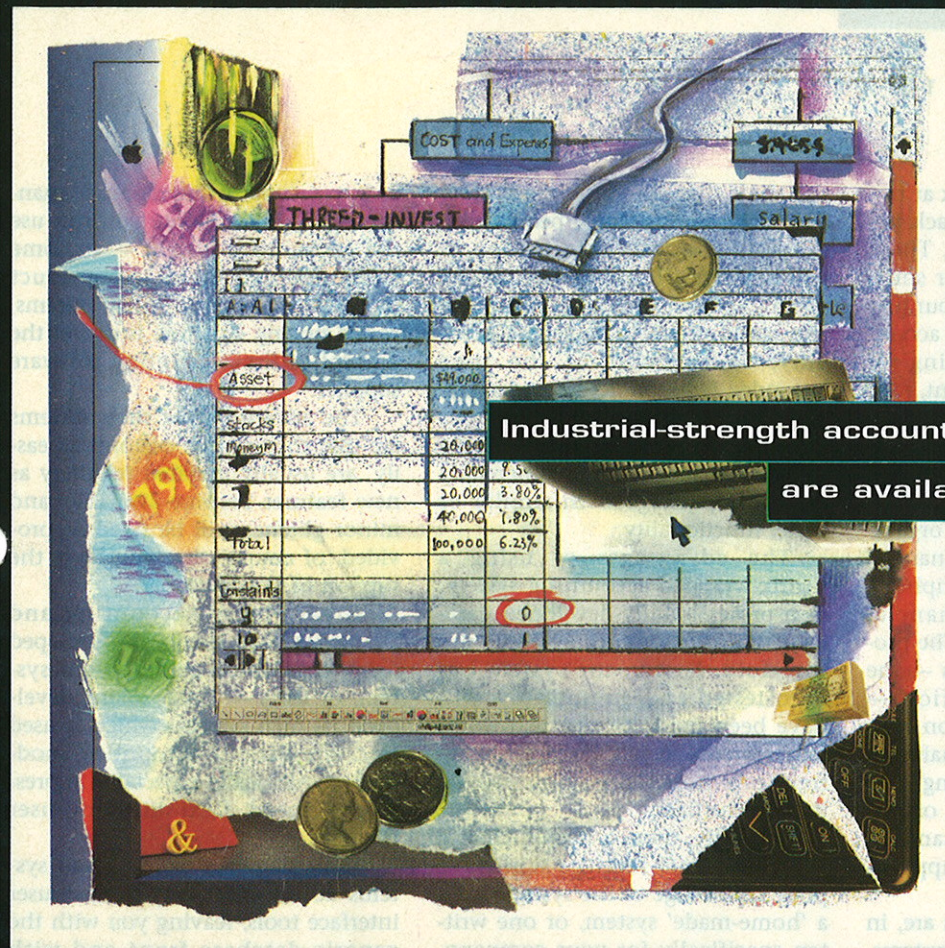


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IN THE DISTANT PAST THERE WEREN'T MANY CHOICES IF YOU WANTED

TO DO YOUR ACCOUNTING ON THE MACINTOSH. ITS GRAPHICAL INTERFACE AND EASE OF USE BELIED THE TRADITIONAL CHARACTER-BASED ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS THAT PREACHED CONSERVATISM AND INFLEXIBILITY. ACCOUNTING RELIES ON A PROCEDURAL ROUTE OF CHECKS AND COUNTER-CHECKS — THE AUDIT

DAVID TURNEDGE

HARD COPY IS REFERRED AND, THROUGH TRADITION, ELECTRONIC DATA IS TO BE MISTRUSTED. OF COURSE, THINGS ARE CHANGING. THE RISING POPULARITY OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS IN THE ROLE OF COMPANY ACCOUNTING — REPLACING THE MANUAL SYSTEMS AND MINI AND MAINFRAME COMPUTER SYSTEMS OF

OLD — IS ENCOURAGING THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION TO ADOPT NEW, MORE FLEXIBLE WAYS OF ACCOUNTING FOR BUSINESS FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

DESPITE THE ADVANCES OF COMPUTERISED ACCOUNTING ON THE MACINTOSH IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE MACINTOSH IS STILL THE PROVERBIAL NEW KID ON THE BLOCK. ITS ACCEPTANCE INTO THE CORPORATE WORLD (AS OPPOSED TO THE SMALL BUSINESS WORLD) HAS PROMPTED NEW AND ESTABLISHED ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

TO USE THE MAC'S SUPERIOR USER INTERFACE. MAINFRAME LINKS USING STRUCTURED QUERY LANGUAGE AND DATA ACCESS LANGUAGE ARE LESS OF A NOVELTY IN TODAY'S CORPORATE GIANTS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES ARE NOW SEEING THE EASE WITH WHICH THEY CAN 'GO ELECTRONIC.'

Truly modular systems, such as DataCare, come as a set of applications, each of which addresses a particular task of the accounting system: accounts receivable management, sales order entry, and so on. Such a suite of applications that work together, rather than a set of modules, is my personal choice for accounting systems. This approach usually takes up a lot less memory (both on disk and while it is running) and, if written correctly, it will still integrate with the data files of the other accounting applications in the set, making up the complete accounting system. DataCare is excellent in this regard.

The second type of modular accounting system also comes as separate modules, but the system integrates them into the main application during run time, creating a much larger and more complex system. Great Plains Accounting and Dynamics both operate this way — the modules are actually code libraries for the accounting system, so that when you run the system, these libraries are integrated into the system, creating a larger, more functional system.

Integrated systems, on the other hand, are buy-once, all-singing, all-dancing accounting programs that promise to do all things.

Buying modular systems can often work out to be more expensive than integrated systems, despite the 'no need to buy bits you don't require' sales pitch. Chances are that you will want to end up with a complete accounting system anyway, and therefore you won't benefit from being able to buy only one or two modules.

Accounting systems available in several different countries benefit from being modular by allowing them to sell country-specific modules (such as payroll and tax modules).

If you are in the market for an accounting system, as opposed to a general ledger package, an accounts receivable package, or a payroll package for example, then whether or not your system is modular isn't really an issue at the end of the day. Just make

### ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE

Electronic Data Interchange, or EDI, is fast becoming the '90s way of doing business. No longer do you need to wait for your customer to mail you their latest purchase order for stock — simply log into your EDI provider's system, check your electronic mailbox, and download any orders that may be waiting for you. At the same time, you can send your purchase orders to your suppliers, and send credit claims and direct payments, removing the need for cheques. Sounds wonderful?

EDI is gaining widespread acceptance by the major businesses in Australia, especially by the large retail chain stores, whose business administration costs can be substantially reduced by utilising EDI, and companies who deal with sizable customers are often encouraged to go down the EDI road.

Like any other remote computer service, EDI systems require EDI communications software on your computer. This software not only enables you to call and receive information from your EDI provider, it also converts the information received into the format required by your accounting system. You need the right software to utilise EDI seamlessly, otherwise you will end up having to rekey the electronic orders once you have received them. This would remove any advantage EDI may have offered your business.

Unfortunately, EDI is poorly supported by Macintosh accounting systems. Sapphire, Jewel, DataCare and Great Plains do not offer any form of EDI support. Dynamics has an EDI module, but it is not yet available here.

Where does that leave you? Many EDI providers offer generic EDI packages for several platforms, including Macintosh. This software will communicate successfully with your EDI provider, receiving and sending information in your chosen EDI format. This information is often saved in standard ASCII (text) files — they can be imported into your accounting system; most accounting systems feature some type of text-import feature.

The reliance on generic EDI software should not be encouraged. Whatever your chosen accounting system is, if you wish to use EDI in the future (and you will), ensure that you make your need known. The more people request it, the sooner an integrated EDI system will appear for your accounting system, providing seamless electronic trading that will increase office efficiency and reduce the possibility of error during manual data entry.

sure that the system will offer everything you need, and that it can run on your available hardware.

### Accounting Features

The basic foundation for accounting is, of course, the general ledger. Each of the systems I have mentioned here has a stable general ledger, providing the basic double-entry journal entry posting to a set of coded general ledger accounts.

When you create a new company chart of accounts, DataCare, Dynamics and Great Plains Accounting give you optional charts of accounts, or you can create your own from scratch. Sapphire and Jewel each feature only one chart of accounts with which to build your general ledger structure. If you are

converting from an older system, chances are that you will want to replicate your old chart of accounts. Sapphire and Dynamics offer the most flexibility in defining your account numbers, and the largest field lengths for account titles. This is extremely important when converting from older systems, especially on mainframe or mini systems, where account numbers and names can be very long indeed.

The general ledger is the end of the road for all accounting data — the place where accounting transactions are ultimately stored, either in summary or detailed form, and are processed to calculate your profit and loss. Dynamics, Great Plains, Sapphire and DataCare all feature seamless data transfer to the general ledger, which means there is no need



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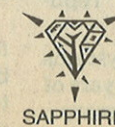
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Looking for a Macintosh accounting program to meet your every need? The good news is that with Macintosh the choice is vast. It's going to be a case of identifying your precise requirements and selecting software with the most complementary features.

Solutions range from entry level programs for self-employed small business people through to 'high-end' solutions for the management of a high volume of transactions in an environment with stringent reporting requirements. You may find what you're looking for in this short selection. Contact your local Authorised Apple Reseller for demonstrations and more information.

**M.Y.O.B.**

Mind Your Own Business is a fully integrated accounting package designed specifically for small business. M.Y.O.B. provides automated accounting management for debtors, creditors, stock control, cash book, general ledger, profit centres and card file. Modified for Australian accounting standards, M.Y.O.B. offers a variety of management reports and gives all the information needed by external accountants to prepare annual statutory returns. RRP \$495.

**DataCare****DataCare**

In the mid-range, the Australian developed DataCare package offers a comprehensive business accounting solution including a powerful ledger system, as well as debtors, creditors, stock, payroll and costing systems. For increased flexibility, modules can either be integrated or used independently. Strict double entry accounting procedures are followed throughout, although this process is transparent to the user. Comprehensive audit trails are provided. Multi-user DataCare supports up to 50 users via AppleTalk (included with every Macintosh) requiring no extra hardware or software. The pricing system is on a sliding scale. The first module is available for RRP \$795, while the final module will cost RRP \$395. There is a limited license edition available (three month life) containing all modules for RRP \$95.



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**Great Plains**

Great Plains is a powerful, flexible accounting system with advanced reporting and analysis capabilities. Great Plains supports management of unlimited historical information, built-in graphics, and full audit trails. Separately purchased modules are

available for everything from general ledger to job costing. The comprehensive cash management system controls all cash transactions entered into any module. A new module, ClearAccess, will allow users and developers to create custom accounting solutions with Great Plains information that can then be exchanged with other Macintosh applications such as 4th Dimension, HyperCard and Resolve. For pricing, contact Tim Fahey on (02) 930 3993.

**Sapphire**

Written in 4th Dimension, Sapphire offers a complete business and accounting application for small and large users. Inventory and project modules are available at different levels giving the end-user the flexibility to determine the necessary level of configuration. Projects range from simple cost tracking to timesheets and general ledger budgeting with full financial analysis. Sapphire also offers the ability to incorporate 4D Calc, a spreadsheet program, or 4D Write, a word processing program, and fully link these to the accounting database giving the user endless possibilities and a complete business solution. Priced from \$220.

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