

QuickBooks Desktop is Ending: How to Prepare Your Business for the Switch to QuickBooks Online

Note: So earlier this year, we heard from Intuit, as many folks did, that they were officially going to discontinue issuing the next year or version of their desktop product. And Intuit, of course, is the company that supports QuickBooks, which affects so many business owners across many, many industries, but certainly, certainly, certainly one of the most prevalent products in the veterinary industry, right? Because it's great ease of use, has multi functions, tends to be pretty user-friendly as far as accounting softwares go. But they said that that is not going to be supported and they're not going to issue new versions. They have clarified that they plan to support the 2024 versions for some indefinite period of time, whatever that means. But the seems that this is kind of the start of the death of QuickBooks Desktop, and Intuit really pushing folks to go to their online product.

Andy: That's a good way to put it, you know, if you think back, you know, we've all had instances where we encounter people that have really old versions of QuickBooks Desktop, right? And only, the only way they're ever pushed to upgrade is when they get notification that your 2016 version will no longer be supported, right? And you know, expanding on that, you know, we the encounters are, either you have the old fashioned QuickBooks Desktop, you have the QuickBooks Desktop hosted in the cloud, or you have the preferred QuickBooks Online. And you know, as you know, we've been encouraging clients like this is coming, and they're like, yeah, yeah, we'll believe it when we see it. But this is, I think, going be, what really pushes those remaining to make the upgrade to QuickBooks Online.

Note: I think that's fair. You know, I don't want to speak for Intuit, but I do know, I certainly have had clients affected where I don't know if Intuit made the decision just based on file size, or maybe there's specific attributes about it that they've reached out and said, hey, you know what, this conversion to QuickBooks Online is really easy, and we can help you with it, and we're going to do it in two weeks. Pick your afternoon, and it's not a okay, I'm okay with doing this. It's Intuit saying, No, you're going to do this, and we're going to help you do it. So that's been a very interesting dynamic to see. And I think you're right. I think the time for folks to act is now and try and do it on your own terms with, hopefully the support of your advisor, your tax accountant, your bookkeeper, whomever is all involved in your QuickBooks company file, would be the best folks to be involved with this, this movement and the process is actually pretty simple at its heart, the desktop platform. You've probably been ignoring those prompts that pop down from the top right corner for the last several years of hey, you should convert to QuickBooks Online, but they actually mean something now, and it's going to happen, so addressing it now on your terms to make sure the transitions is as smooth as

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it can be. And payroll comes over, okay, and your bank feeds come over, okay, and all of your data is retained is going to be the best route of action and have the most seamless transition, so you don't have to stop what you're doing for multiple days.

Andy: But what I would say is timing can be very key, because we've all heard horror stories of doing a bad conversion or a not well-timed conversion, and like you said, whether payrolls in there makes a difference. Some people say it's better to do it at the beginning of a new calendar year, so that you retain all of that old data in case something bad happens. Sometimes, Intuit can be very helpful in doing the conversion. Sometimes it's better to use either your advisor or, you know, I know we have a lot of people on staff that that actively help clients make that conversion at the right time. Plan for it. You know, don't do it abruptly. So I think timing and planning is very key.

Note: Absolutely. And, you know, I don't want to, I don't want to sell the product for them, but there are a lot of really nice perks about the online version. One being that it is in the cloud, and if you're in a relationship with your advisor, similar to what we have with our clients, and it's very collaborative in nature. We're looking at multiple times a year, touch and base quarterly, or at least some frequency. It really allows a lot of seamless sharing of data, which you know ultimately achieves the best results from a tax planning perspective, from a practice management perspective. Visibility into your data has never been better, and that product has really improved a lot over the last several years, and they're going to continue to invest in it and improve its capabilities. So the time is kind of now to really think about hopping on board and not to say that QuickBooks Online is necessarily going to be the solution for everybody, but it is a good solution for most, and maybe deciding whether that is the solution or a different solution is out there, and whether or not you need to supplement, then maybe the payroll side of the function, or something like that, to couple with that offering might be advisable too.

Andy: Okay, here's your call to action. If you are still on the old fashioned QuickBooks Desktop, you might want to look into what the future holds, and if now is the time for you to make a choice. Make a change.

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