

So You Want To Know About ... Tax Software

It is almost that time of year again; time to start thinking about your tax situation. Several resources for tax software can be found on the Internet, and some of it for free.

You will want to find the tax software package that provides you with the features most suitable for your business. The multitude of tax-related products available to the self-employed business owner includes the IRS's Introduction To Federal Taxes for Small Business/Self-Employed course. It is available in both video streaming or CD format. The course teaches the basics of compliance to IRS rules and regulations. It also professes to introduce entrepreneurs to tax laws in easy-to-understand language. Additionally, the IRS offers the Small Business Tax Workshop. It is an interactive online workshop explaining the basic tax aspects of operating a small business. Either course is free and can be obtained by requesting it online at <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=97726.00.html>.

With the latest tax software tax filing can be easy and low-cost. Most have electronic filing options as well. TaxAct offers free 2004 tax software for download or processing online. They claim to simplify doing your taxes in three easy steps. For more information go to <http://taxact.com/>.

For as little as \$19.95, TaxBrain Online Tax Center can help you prepare your tax returns. They provide state tax filing for an additional fee. They also offer instant assistance and the fast refunds. See them at <http://taxbrain.com/>.

For those more comfortable with a tried and true tax service, H&R Block offers three packages of their popular TaxCut tax software. The Standard package sells for \$34.95 and includes e-filing, accurate calculations and state filing. For \$10 more, the Premium package offers Virtual Assistant services to help you get the most refund possible. It comes with an interactive video and a free consultation with a tax advisor. The top-of-the-line Signature package includes everything the previous packages offer as well as having a tax professional review your return. Go online to see what is available, <http://www.hrblock.com/taxes/products/product.jsp?productId=31>.

The ever-popular TurboTax software also has three packages available: Basic, Deluxe and Premier. All three include e-filing (after mail-in rebate), double-checking for errors or missed deductions and it works with the most popular accounting software. With the latter two packages, you get a free state download and extra help with mortgages and other deductibles as well. Available online at http://turbotax.com/ts/products/learn_more_software_products.html or at most retail stores.

So don't worry this year about all those tax considerations, just look online for the many different options available to you. With the latest tax software, tax filing is easy, accurate and even affordable.