

**Institute of Certified  
Bookkeepers  
Software Review**

**August 2011**

**FreePlus**

## *Company Background*

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FreePlus Accounts began as an in-house accounting system for Corunna Systems Ltd. The company is based in Cambridgeshire and has been trading for 14 years, although the accounts service is a relatively new development. Managing director, Doug Conran, having tried many accounting packages, from the market leading applications to the Open Source freebies, and finding them all either too difficult to use or too complex for the requirements of a small business, decided to produce his own.

FreePlus Accounts is an accounting package designed for start-ups, micro businesses and sole traders. The system is designed and created from the perspective of the business manager. It uses the terminology that any business owner might use, not necessarily that of an accountant, and the functionality is designed specifically to match the needs of the business.

## *The Product*

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FreePlus Accounts provides a fully functional, totally free, online accounting system for any small business. There is no time or usage limit.

There are some optional additional features available, and there is a modest charge for each of these. However, the system is completely usable in its core form. There is no requirement to make a subscription to any of the extra services and there are no automatic renewals.

The idea behind FreePlus Accounts is to help smaller businesses and start-ups by providing a service that meets their needs without a huge price tag.

### Contact Details

**Web contact form:** <http://www.freeplusaccounts.co.uk/contact-us/>

**Address:**

Corunna Systems Ltd  
Sheraton House  
Castle Park  
Cambridge CB3 0AX

**Phone:** 01223 462244

**Web:** <http://www.freeplusaccounts.co.uk>

## Key Benefits

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- ✓ Free to use
- ✓ Easy to use and intuitive – jargon free
- ✓ Unlimited access for a single user from anywhere
- ✓ Unlimited Email support (response normally within 2 working days)
- ✓ Safe and secure both at access level and data storage
- ✓ Audit Trail of all financial changes
- ✓ All records held for at least 2 years
- ✓ Export core records to flat files

## Strengths

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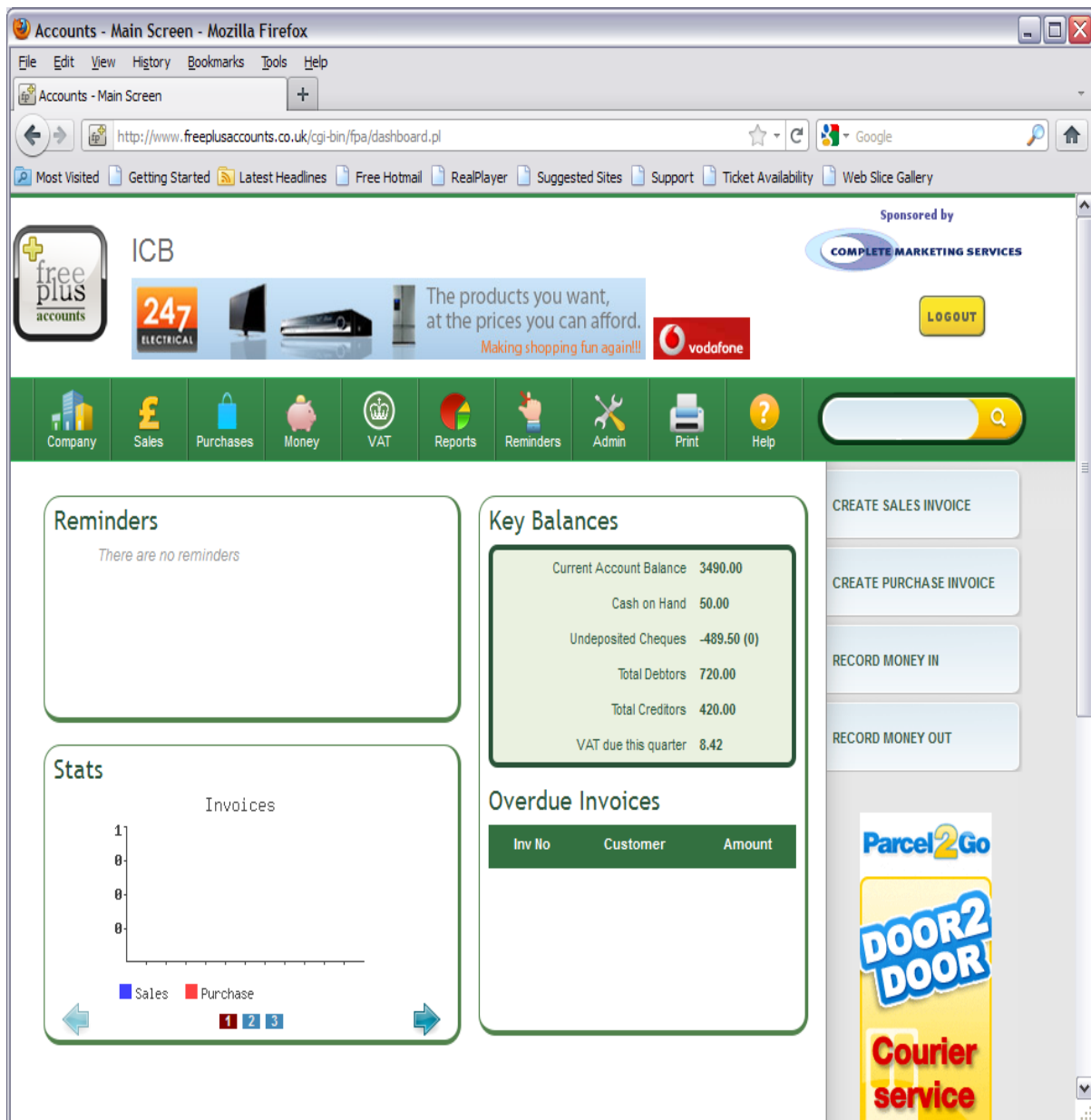
The main strength of this free service is in its simplicity. It is not complicated by financial functionality and jargon that is more of use to bookkeepers and accountants. Instead it presents a clear view of day-to-day financial transactions that is practical and intuitive to use, but underneath the covers it is still adhering to the standard double-entry rules. So, by making it easy, its use

encourages the small business owner to keep his accounts in order from the very beginning, so that when his business expands and he is in need of a bookkeeper, he can hand over a valid set of accounts.

The layout of the screens and location of available functions and reports is intuitive, but if help is needed, there is an extremely well written user manual available to view online or to download.

Here are a few examples of the product's look and feel.

On login, a dashboard of current finances is displayed, including statistics on invoices, receipts and payments and cashflow/reserves. An example dashboard is shown below:



The following example shows how easy it is to record payment of a utility bill:

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Accounts - Main Screen - Mozilla Firefox" displaying the "Pay Money Out" form. The form is a modal dialog box with a light green background and a dark green border. It contains the following fields and options:

- Paid To:** British Telecom
- Payment Method:** Bank Transfer (dropdown menu)
- Total Amount Paid:** 428.20
- VAT Rate:** Standard (20%) (dropdown menu)
- VAT Amount:** 71.37 (Net = 356.83)
- Allocate to:** Fixed Overheads (dropdown menu)
- Transaction Date:** 31-Aug-11 (calendar icon)
- Supplier Reference:** 2011030506
- Description:** Telephone bill

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Record Payment" and "Cancel".

The background of the web application shows a sidebar with "Reminders" (stating "There are no reminders") and "Stats" (a bar chart for Sales and Purchases). The main content area has buttons for "CREATE SALES INVOICE", "CREATE PURCHASE INVOICE", "RECORD MONEY IN", and "RECORD MONEY OUT". A "Logout" button is in the top right. A banner at the bottom right says "All available now on our dependable network" with images of mobile phones and an Android robot.

Finally, an example of a new sales invoice:

Accounts - Customers - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Accounts - Customers

http://www.freeplusaccounts.co.uk/cgi-bin/fpa/new\_invoice.pl?28#

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines Free Hotmail RealPlayer Suggested Sites Support Ticket Availability

Company Sales Purchases Money VAT Reports Reminders Admin Print Help

### New Invoice

Company Name \* Mrs J Fraser Invoice Type Sales Invoice

Address 22 Richmond Park Easingwold Invoice Date 31-Aug-11

Post Code NR51 5WS Invoice Number (System Generated)

Region UK Customer Reference

Contact Name Terms 30 Days

Email

Paid in Full? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Description	Price	Quantity	VAT Rate
			Standard (20%)

Category

Description	Unit Price	Qty	Sub Total	VAT Rate	VAT Amt	Total	Edit
Example Invoice line	100.00	2	200.00	20%	40.00	240.00	Amd Del

Remarks

Sub Total : 200.00

VAT : 40.00

Invoice Total : 240.00

FINALISE INVOICE

PRINT AS QUOTATION

PREVIEW / SAVE DRAFT

START AGAIN

CUSTOMER INVOICE LIST

**80 FREE Business Cards!**

Order in minutes! Receive in days!

Plus a...

## *Weaknesses*

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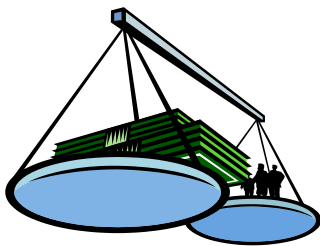


Although it is being used in-house by Corunna Systems itself, the publicly available version of this product is very new and is still considered as a work in progress. However, it has been developed using sound principles and a specific target audience. It is not designed for bookkeepers but as a simple tool for their potential clients. Consequently, in its current form, it would not be suitable for use by students completing bookkeeping examinations.

To maintain its simplicity, customisation and less common business requirements, such as foreign currency support, are not available. However it should be stressed that such limitations improve the usability of the service for straightforward businesses.

## *Value for Money*

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This is the first product to be reviewed that is completely free to use in its standard form with no hidden costs and no time limitation.

## *Summary of Review*

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Unlike other products that we have reviewed, this is not aimed at bookkeepers, and as such cannot be recommended for use by our members. However, it will provide a valuable stepping-stone for those small businesses that want to maintain their own accounts in a simple, but professional manner, with a view to possibly handing them over to a bookkeeper in the future.

## *Disclaimer*

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The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers, having reviewed the FreePlus service, cannot be held responsible in any way for the actions of the company Corunna Systems Ltd or their service. This review is merely an unbiased overview of the software package. Any enquiries should be directed to <http://www.freeplusaccounts.co.uk/contact-us/>.