

**Institute of Certified  
Bookkeepers  
Software Review**

**August 2010**

**BTCSoftware Limited**

## *Company Background*

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BTCSoftware state:

BTCSoftware was founded in 1999 by Ian Katté, a chartered accountant in practice, and Rob Ellis a successful software engineer. Unhappy with the quality of tax filing software then available to smaller accountancy practices, Ian had been working on his own corporation tax product. Together they developed 'CT Solution' which, with very little formal marketing, went on to gather a loyal following. As an outsider, Rob had rapidly immersed himself in the tax market and soon spotted a greater opportunity in Self Assessment. There followed two years of intense development before the launch of 'SA Solution' in 2009.

BTCSoftware is now a fast expanding specialist in year end compliance solutions focused on the smaller independent practitioner. Committed to supporting their users and involving them in the development process, they believe above all else that quality software need not be expensive.

## *The Product*

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A comprehensive software package which includes the completion of self assessment tax returns and corporation tax returns. The package is designed for practice firms.

O/S support is provided on all versions of Microsoft windows XP, Vista and Windows 7

This review has been carried out on a version SA Solution Express 2010 version 2.3.04 and CT Solution Express version 2.3.03.

Technical support is provided via telephone, e-mail and direct online connection through "logmein.com"

The cost of the package is £195 for SA Solution Express and £195 for CT Solution Express (2010 version just released). For full pricing please click on the link below:

[www.btcsoftware.co.uk/product/purchase.aspx](http://www.btcsoftware.co.uk/product/purchase.aspx).

[www.btcsoftware.co.uk](http://www.btcsoftware.co.uk)

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## Key Benefits

- ✓ Downloadable from internet which means you can use the software instantly.
- ✓ You can download a trial version of the software and if you decide to buy the full version, you will receive a product key and can continue using it as normal saving you the time to redo the work.
- ✓ The SA Solution Express package can be used for 25 Individual Tax Returns, 5 Partnership Tax Returns and 1 Trust Tax Return, CT Solution Express can be used for an unlimited number of companies.
- ✓ No annual subscription fees.
- ✓ Data can be imported from other software packages using Standard Name Format (SNF file) or Clipboard.
- ✓ You are able to easily import individuals and organisations information via Excel CSV files.
- ✓ Includes the Task Schedule which can be used for entering notes, project deadlines etc.

The screenshot displays the 'BTCSoftware SA Solution Express 2010' interface for 'Individual Tax Return Tax year 6 April 2009 to 5 April 2010: Jack Brown'. The main window is divided into several sections:

- Client Details:** Includes fields for Reference (100776), NI Number (N190278A), Title (Mr), Sex (Male), Tax District (765 / 388/HA100), Forename (Jack), UTR (1234512345), Surname (Brown), Telephone (99999999), Date of Birth (29/01/1978), Spouse's DoB (29/01/1930), Mobile (99999999), and Fax (9999).
- Information:** Includes Return Status (Complete), Submission Count (1), and Submission IRMark (4PIYEMXG3JGAN26204TZEQ4HVQOCLAS).
- Address Details:** Includes fields for Issue Address and New Address, with buttons for 'New Address' and 'Edit Address'.
- What makes up the Tax Return:** A grid of checkboxes for various tax components:
 

Employment	Partnership (full)	Capital Gains Summary
Minister of Religion	Partnership (short)	Residence, Remittance basis etc.
Self-employment (full)	UK Property	Repayment to Charity
Self-employment (short)	Foreign	Additional Information
Lloyd's Underwriter	Trusts etc.	File Attachments

The screenshot displays the 'Individual Tax Return 2010: Self-employment (short) (SA103S): FX trading' interface. The main window shows business details and a list of items. A pop-up window titled 'Box 10. Costs of goods bought for re-sale or goods used' is open, showing a table with columns for Date, Description, A/C No. or Reference, and Amount. The table contains one entry: Date 05/04/2010, Description Jack Brown, A/C No. or Reference, and Amount 0.00. The main window also shows a list of items with columns for Description, Amount, and A/C No. or Reference. The list includes items like 'Repairs and renewals of property and equipment' and 'Total allowable expenses'.

- ✓ Integration of Self Assessment (SA100) and Partnership (SA800) returns.
- ✓ Online submission and history of previous submission and confirmations.

## Strengths

An excellent software package, data entry is simple and less time consuming, making it ideal for practice firms with a cost leadership strategy. The setup is quick and straight forward, no technical knowledge is required.

Transferring from other software packages is made easy by the availability of an import option using Excel CSV files. The Excel template format is provided for you saving time on reconstruction.

Adjustment of Profits Computation			
Turnover			1,000,000
Profit / (Loss) Per Accounts			350,000
Addback:			
Disallowable Expenditure			
Entertainment	4,000		
VAT penalty	2,000		
Legal costs	2,000		
Depreciation	3,000		
Sundry	4,999		
Provision for Bad debts	2,000		
			17,999
Deduct:			
Allowances and Other Deductions			
Capital Allowances	10,000		
Bank, Building Society or Other Interest	-		
	-		
			(10,000)
Adjusted Case I Profit/(Loss)			357,999
Trading Losses			
Brought Forward	2,000		
Used in this Computation	2,000		
Current Losses Not Used	-		
Losses Available	-		
Trading Losses Carried Back	-		
Trading Losses Carried Forward	-		
			(2,000)
Bank, Building Society or Other Interest			
Gross Chargeable Gains			
Allowable Losses (Including Losses Brought Forward)			
Net Chargeable Gains			
Profits Chargeable to Corporation Tax			355,999

The software has passed HMRC testing criteria. The software has inbuilt checking facilities, which means that returns will be checked for accuracy before submission.

Response time for support is within 3 hours and support can be provided through remote access if required using the "logmein" system.

The support team have hands on knowledge of the product.

When using SNF for importing accounts into SA100, the software package has a feature which will pick up disallowable expenses and will appear on tax computations as add back.

The software also saves time by bringing forward previous year's figures such as WDV and carried forward losses.

There is an option to select tax return schedules relevant to your client's situation.

## CT Solution Express

The software downloads straight into Excel and no further adjustments are necessary to begin working. This package provides you with a simple tax computation which includes capital allowance and marginal tax relief.

Information is easily accessible as you can save to any folder you want on the computer.

Online submission is also available when using the CT Solution Express in Excel.

Corporation Tax Payable Calculation			
Financial Years beginning 1 April:	Profit	Tax Rates	
2008	87,781	28%	24,578.68
2009	268,218	28%	75,101.04
			99,679.72
		Marginal Small Companies Relief	(20,020.01)
		Corporation Tax Net of Marginal Rate Relief	79,659.71

  

Capital Allowances Calculation					
	Main Pool	Special Rate Pool	Expensive Car 1	Expensive Car 2	Expensive Car 3
WDV Brought Forward	20,000	-	35,000	-	-
Additions [Non-FYA] (Expensive cars up to 31/03/2009 only)	-	-	-	35,000	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	20,000	-	35,000	35,000	-
Writing Down Allowances	Annual Rate	20.00%	-	20.00%	20.00%
	Allowance	(4,000)	-	(3,000)	(3,000)
	Waived	-	-	-	-
	(4,000)	-	(3,000)	(3,000)	-
Balancing Allowance	-	-	-	-	-
Balancing Charge	-	-	-	-	-
	16,000	-	32,000	32,000	-

  

Summary of Allowances		Capital Allowances Balancing Charges	
Annual Investment Allowance	-	-	-
Machinery and Plant - special rate pool	-	-	-
Machinery and Plant - main pool	4,000	-	-
Cars	6,000	-	-

  

Qualifying Expenditure		Expenditure	
Machinery & plant on which a first year allowance is claimed	-	-	-
Designated environmentally friendly machinery and plant	-	-	-

Although the introduction video is not sound enabled, it clearly shows how to start using the software within minutes, although full training is required to be able to prepare tax returns.

## ***Weaknesses***

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For CT Solution Express, Excel is required which means that if you do not have the Microsoft package, you will have to buy it. The following versions of Excel are supported 2000, XP, 2003, 2007 & 2010.

The use of SNF is limited to software packages such as Sage, VT, Compac, Proacc system, and a few other packages: BTC have stated that they are working on developing links between their software and other major software packages such as Iris and QuickBooks using Excel CSV files. They hope to have a link completed by August 2010 for Iris and are actively working on the development of a link to Quick Books.

## ***Value for Money***

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The package offers value for money, being able to prepare 25 SA100 and 5 SA800 and the integration between SA100 and SA800 is very cost effective. Both SA Solution Express and CT Solutions are also available for use with unlimited companies.

## ***Testimonials***

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BTCSoftware website carries a number of favourable testimonials of the package; these are from Accountants and Accountancy firms. The testimonials demonstrate

- How easy it is to submit online using this software.
- Time and cost saved from using this software.
- The excellent support provided by the software company.

## *Summary of Review*

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BTC Software offers a cost-effective and invaluable time-saving tool to any user filing Self Assessment and Corporation Tax Returns. This software is not only ideal for those already in practice, but also those who want to start new practice and want a hassle free software package.



## *Disclaimer*

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The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers having reviewed SA Solution Express 2010 version 2.3.04 and version 2.3.03 cannot be held responsible in any way for the actions of the company BTCSoftware Limited or their software. This review is merely an unbiased overview of the software package. Any enquiries should be directed to BTCSoftware Ltd.