Institute of Certified Bookkeepers
Software Review

August 2010

BTCSoftware Limited

Company Background

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

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.

www.btcsoftware.co.uk

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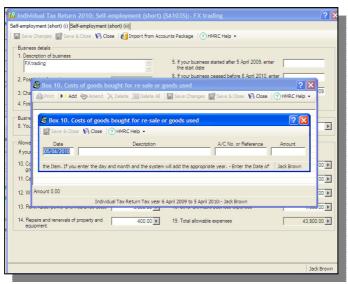
Key Benefits

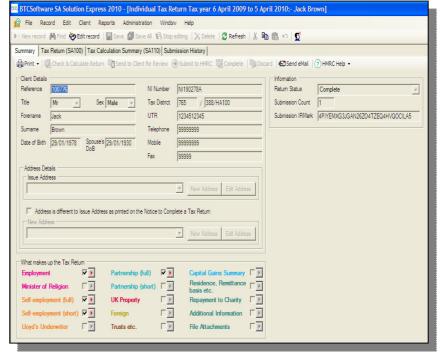
- ✓ Downloadable from internet which means you can use the software instantly.
- ✓ You can download a trial version of the software and if you decide to buy the full version, you will receive a product key and can continue using it as normal saving you the time to redo the work.

✓ 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.



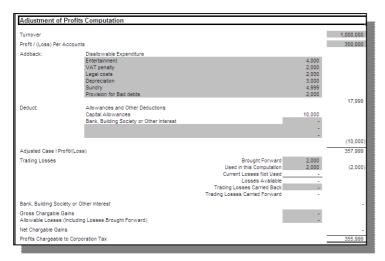


- ✓ Integration of Self Assessment (SA100) and Partnership (SA800) returns.
- Online submission and history of previous submission and confirmations.

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.



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.

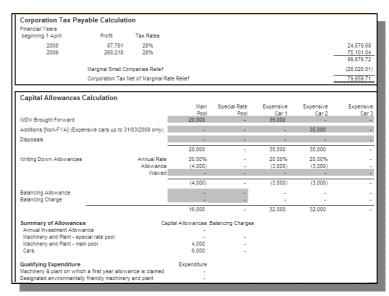
There is an option to select tax return schedules relevant to your client's situation.

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.



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

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

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

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

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

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.