

MONEY 2002, Deluxe

Product review by Sue McBride

Microsoft Corporation

Redmond, Washington

Can be found at Staples for \$59.95 w/\$20.00 upgrade rebate

Also egghead.com. for \$49.99

Product Information

This program is for those who would like to keep all their financial records on the computer. It organizes finances, pays bills, balances your checkbook, etc.

System Requirements – Minimum

Windows 95, 98, NT 4.0, 2000, ME, XP

Pentium 133 or higher.

32 mgs Ram, 64 Ram recommended

85-165 MB HDD space

Internet accessibility required

CD Rom Drive

Super VG Graphic card

Super VGA Color Monitor

Mouse

28.8 Kbps or higher baud modem

Speakers

Installation

The installation went without a glitz. Took about 8 minutes then had to reboot. It transferred all my 2000 and 2001 financial information from Money 2000 to Money 2002 Deluxe without a problem.

Features.

If you have existing Quicken files (version 2001 or earlier, it creates a copy of your original Quicken file, leaving the original file intact. Money then converts the copy to a new Money 2002 file. If you have never used a money management software Money has a Setup Assistant that walks you through every step. It is very helpful if you are new to financial software. If you have done this before then you can bypass the Assistant and continue. You can keep separate checking accounts and generate reports for each account or combine them for tax purposes. I find the ability to download my bank accounts from the Internet and having the software balance my checkbook is a great timesaver.

If you have an entry in your checkbook that you are unsure of as to what it is for, you can point to it and a dropdown menu pops up and explains the amount. This is particularly handy when you may buy food and pay for a prescription at the same time. This ability was not available in the former versions.

You can design a budget that lets you keep a running total as to how you are doing on a particular expense, such as food.

I had some problems learning the Report Generator but I now have it under control. You can ask for any parameters you want and your report is generated..

It transfers all your information into any tax report software if you are so inclined to do your own 1040 report.

I would like to have the ability to combine two separate payees into one account. At this time I don't think this is possible. Such as combining Citizens Communication and Frontier, our phone company, that has changed its' name.

Documentation

A124 page manual came with it that explained fairly well. You also have verbal help from the CD.

Product Support

I did not need help. Support is not a free call from what I can tell.

I have enjoyed using Money for the last two years and each version seems to add more abilities. There is so much more to tell but I have attempted to keep it short. When it is time for me to collect all our financial records and make them available for the CPA it is so much easier to generate a report than to have to dig for paper documentation. I am sure our CPA appreciates the information in generated reports rather than many pieces of paper in a shoebox.