

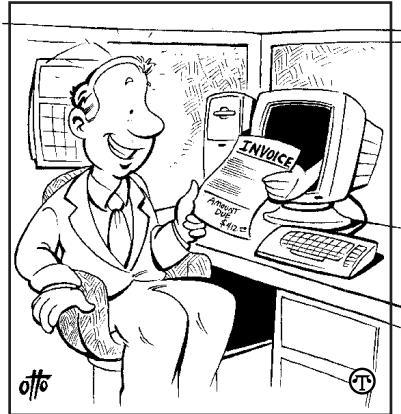
Small Business Technology Report

Simplified Billing Process Helps Businesses Get Paid Faster

(NAPSA)—“The check is in the mail” is a phrase that may soon be phased out by a process that allows invoices to be e-mailed to customers. QuickBooks online billing is a new capability offered in Intuit’s QuickBooks 2001 financial software. As a consumer, you may soon receive invoices via e-mail from your gardener, accountant, contractor or day care provider, and it may be easier for you to pay these invoices by clicking on a link and authorizing payment. No more paperwork and no more big pile of bills waiting for you at the end of the month. For a local business, it’s a godsend. There is far less paperwork and the business could get paid faster because there is no waiting for that check in the mail. According to Intuit, some businesses have cut the amount of time it took to get paid to an hour!

The average small business spends a substantial amount of time and effort manually billing customers and collecting payments. This can require printing multiple invoices, typing cover letters, addressing envelopes, affixing postage and dropping the invoices off at the post office. A recent study by Intuit, a leader in e-finance and financial software, shows that on average 94 percent of small business customers still use the mail to manage their invoicing.

Intuit’s study also showed the average customer sends almost 700 invoices each year. If businesses could save even five minutes on each invoice by sending it via e-mail and enabling online payments, the result would be a savings to the business of approximately 58 hours of time each year.



Sending invoices via e-mail and enabling online payments would be a savings of about 58 hours of time each year.

QuickBooks Online Billing enables small businesses to e-mail professional looking electronic invoices directly to customers from within QuickBooks 2001, Intuit’s newest version of their number one selling financial management software. Through a relationship with PayPal users can payment-enable invoices sent by e-mail, giving customers the option to pay with a credit card or transfer funds directly from their bank account. Once the payment is made, it can be automatically downloaded and recorded in QuickBooks. In addition, those who use QuickBooks for the Web, Intuit’s online accounting service, can also take advantage of this service.

QuickBooks 2001 is an easy-to-use accounting and financial management solution for product or service-based small businesses with simple to sophisticated needs. More information is available by visiting www.quickbooks.com.