

"Accounting Today Software Review: Time and Billing -- still an important task" **ImagineTime 3.94 Both Worlds Software**

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Many time & billing systems were written for (and sometimes by) lawyers, since the law profession was the first to automate this application en masse. That's fine, and there are enough similarities between the way lawyers, accountants and consultants work and bill to make most T&B applications work well regardless of the specific profession they are being used by.

Still, it's always nice when an application is designed by the same kind of people who will be using it. ImagineTime was designed by CPAs for accountants and consultants. The difference in the feature set and use is slight, but there is a difference.

When we looked at ImagineTime last year, we were impressed with its ease of set-up and use. The graphical interface hasn't changed (at least not so we noticed), and it still incorporates a central menu and logical task grouping. The Due Date Monitor that we liked so much is still there, and it's a terrific feature considering ImagineTime's low cost.

Both Worlds Software has also added some very usable calendaring and contact management capabilities, though this is optional, and will set you back as much as the program itself. Spend the money — it's worth it. You can synchronize the internal calendar with Microsoft Outlook, and accumulate staff calendars and schedules side by side for better staff management.

An optional \$99 PDA support module is also available. As with last year, this is only available for the Palm OS. If you go for the Calendaring and Scheduling add-in, you can synchronize with Outlook on your PC, then Hot Sync with a PocketPC-based PDA.

Both Worlds Software has also increased the options in filtering and printing reports, one of our minor criticisms the last time we looked at the software. A new Report Wizard lets you really target just the data you need, though again, we found the standard reports very much to our liking. Some of the other products still give you a bit more capability in the area of form design, moving and eliminating fields or printing in PDF format. Those products, however, are usually considerably more expensive than ImagineTime, as well as needing a different level of expertise to actually make use of many of the customizing features.

It's somewhat unfair to categorize ImagineTime as a time & billing application. The base system right out of the box has many of the attributes of a full-blown practice management application, and this is amplified if you add the Calendaring and Scheduling add-in. Regardless of how much you jazz it up, ImagineTime is simply a pleasure to use.