

Absolute Business Solutions, Inc.

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A Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisorSM

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Tips and Tricks

Speed up your multi-user version within QuickBooks

On a peer-to-peer network

If you have a peer-to-peer network, your company file can be on any connected computer on which you installed QuickBooks Pro or Premier. We suggest putting the file on the fastest, most powerful computer. This helps when users have other applications open while working in QuickBooks. It also helps for running or printing large reports, reconciling accounts, or paying tax-related liabilities. When you do any of these tasks, you get the best performance if you do them from the computer that has the company file.

On a client-server network

If you have a client-server network, your company file typically resides on the network file server. When you need to run or print large reports, reconcile accounts, or pay tax-related liabilities, use the fastest, most powerful computer connected to the server.

Performance tips for day-to-day operations

You can do most day-to-day tasks in multi-user mode without noticing much difference in performance.

A few tasks do affect performance significantly. These are: reconciling accounts, running large reports, printing large reports, paying payroll liabilities, and paying sales tax. We suggest that you do these tasks when other users are not working in the company file. For the best performance, use the computer where you store your company file. If the file is on a network server that is unavailable to you, use the fastest computer connected to the server.

If you have a large company file, we suggest you turn off all warnings for duplicate transaction numbers. The settings that turn the warnings on or off are in the Preferences window under Sales & Customers, Purchases & Vendors, Jobs & Estimates (if you have QuickBooks Pro or Premier), and Checking. For example, to turn off the warnings for duplicate check numbers, select Checking in the Preferences window and then clear the "Warn about duplicate check numbers" checkbox on the Company Preferences tab. This speeds up performance each time you record a check.

Performance tips for reports

Running a very large report can prevent other users from

This newsletter is intended to educate QuickBooks users. I will update all subscribers with news from Intuit. I am hoping for a monthly issue, time and content permitting. An archive will be added to my web site at www.absolutebusinesssolutions.us.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Increasing QuickBooks Network Speed as Your File Size Increases - Scott Cummings, President, Excalibur Technology Corp

Have you noticed that your QuickBooks software seems to be running slower and slower each week? Do searches seem to take forever and reports make you want to snooze while staring at your screen as the temperature bar crawls to 100%? As you add more data to QuickBooks, the database quickly grows to become a huge file. QuickBooks was never designed to work with such large file sizes and will gradually lose performance over time. If you wish to pump new speed into your QuickBooks activities, there are some network upgrades that you can perform to keep things running as smoothly as possible. First, to understand why the software slows down, it is important to understand how QuickBooks processes your requests. When you perform any search function, your PC sends your request to your server. The server then searches the entire data file for the information you have requested and sends most of this information across your network to your PC. This puts a heavy burden on your server and your network infrastructure. With this in mind, here are the best upgrades you can perform to run QuickBooks at lightning fast speeds:

1. Replace any network hubs with higher speed switches. Many small businesses still run older and slower hubs (the device with all of the lights in your server closet that connects the PC's together) and should upgrade to much faster switches. This will have an immediate impact on your network by allowing your networked PC's to communicate at faster speeds. Average cost \$55 - \$195.
2. If you already run a switch and want even more speed, replace your switch with a newer switch that accepts 1000 Mbps connections. Add a 1000 Mbps network adapter to your server and any PC's that run QuickBooks. This will have an astonishing effect on your QuickBooks speed by allowing your networked PC's to communicate at the fastest speeds available. Average cost \$475 - \$695.
3. Run a disk defragmenter your file server. This will help your file server retrieve files faster. Cost \$0.
4. Copy the QuickBooks data file to your local PC, use it, and then copy it back to the server. This is a useful tip when you have numerous reports to pull or adjustments to make. However, only one person in the company can run in this manner since the file will no longer be shared on the network drive. The downside is that if you forget to copy the file back to the server before the next person uses it, you will have several versions of your QuickBooks file, each with separate unique entries that cannot be recombined. Cost \$0.
5. Upgrade to a RAID 5 hard drive system on your file server. RAID 5 makes several physical drives appear to be one drive to the server. The benefit is that when data is requested, each of the physical drives reads a small part of the data.

working in your company file while QuickBooks creates the report. For large reports, we suggest the following:

Wait until other users have logged out of the company file before you run the reports. For the best performance, run the reports on the computer where you store your company file. If the file is on a network server that is unavailable to you, use the fastest computer connected to the server.

Be aware that some reports require more time to create than others. The slowest reports are journal reports and cash basis transaction reports.

Refresh a report or graph only when you are ready to work with its data. If (Refresh needed) appears in the toolbar of a report or graph and you are not working with the report or graph, leave the report or graph unrefreshed.

More tips on speeding up your multi-user version will follow in June's newsletter.

allowing this to be done much more quickly than a single drive doing all of the reading itself. Since QuickBooks is so data intensive, this will add great performance. Average cost \$295 - \$995.

6. Purchase a faster server. New servers are able to read and process information more quickly than their older predecessors. Newer is always faster and faster is always better, right? Average cost \$1495 - \$4995.
7. Run your QuickBooks through Terminal Server. Windows Server 2000 and 2003 have special modes that allow your workstations to connect to the server similar to the program PCAnywhere with which you might be familiar. Terminal Server keeps all data processing on the server and sends only "screenshots" across the network back to your PC – your PC no longer runs the actual Quickbooks software. In fact, you don't even need to install it on workstations to use this mode! Running your QuickBooks in this mode keeps those huge amounts of data from being transferred across your network. Instead, all data retrieval and report formatting is done right on the server – the PC that is housing all of the information. Only the "answers" are sent to your PC and displayed on your screen. This is one of the most significant changes you can make to improve QuickBooks speed. To implement this mode, ask your network administration company for additional information. Average cost: 1-2 hours setup time.

Implementing some or all of these suggestions can increase your QuickBooks speed up to eight times faster than you are currently experiencing – especially if your data file is over 10 MB (megabytes). Alternatively, you can close out your previous years of your QuickBooks data and "flatten" the file. This will remove much of the details in transactions, but will significantly shrink your file size. Make sure you keep a permanent backup of your data file before performing such a task – this way you'll have the original file and transactions in tact if you ever need to go back to pull up this information.

For more information on QuickBooks software, training and support, call Cheryl Wehofer at Absolute Business Solutions, Inc. in Hoffman Estates, IL, 847-781-0000.

• **Business Service Resources**

Excalibur Technology Corp
Scott Cummings, President
IT & Web Services
847-842-9570

Folisi Samz & Company
Accounting and Tax Planning
John Lackinger, CPA
847-843-8770

CheckMate
Payroll & H/R Services
Joyce Catozza
312-782-7878

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Privacy Policy Changes

This policy was created on March 25, 2004.

