Contractors Benefit from Web-Based Cloud Technology

By David Coggins

Since most contracting tasks generally occur in the field rather than in an office behind a computer, cloud technology solutions can dramatically streamline interactions between the jobsite and the home office. With the wide availability and usage of Internet-accessible wireless and mobile devices, businesses can maximize real time communications and data sharing through the use of Internet-based software applications, also known as cloud technology. These applications are commonly offered as a subscription (Software as a Service) that can dramatically reduce a company's costs by eliminating the need to buy in-house computer resources.

Deneb, Inc. has been developing cutting-edge software solutions for the construction industry since 1985. Hundreds of construction and contracting businesses rely on Deneb technology for accounting, estimating, job costing, payroll, project management, and more. Its newest release, eDeneb, is the third generation of its proven construction accounting software, combining state of the art cloud technology with years of construction, contracting, and application design experience.

"We have been continually improving our flagship software, Deneb Construction Accounting & Estimating, for over 25 years," says owner Ken Lykins. "With the launch of eDeneb, we have taken the technology for contractors to manage their financial and project information to an entirely new level."

Using cloud technology, eDeneb allows managers and employees to work from the home, office, jobsite, or anywhere in the field using the web-browser interface of their computer, iPhone, PDA, tablet PC, or other web-connected device. Cloud computing allows contractors to immediately realize the full benefits of eDeneb's powerful technology without the need to buy expensive software, servers, or networking equipment. There are no individual software licenses or costly upgrades to buy when using eDeneb. Contractors simply pay a monthly per user fee, and data is stored and maintained by Deneb.

Extensive Job Cost Capabilities — Job cost management reporting and project review are available in real time without any of the constraints inherent in generic accounting systems that drive reporting based on general ledger accounts. Job Cost is in fact the primary reporting tool in eDeneb. There are 10 Cost Category fields that may be used for labor, material, subcontractors, equipment, permits, travel, overhead, billings, percent units complete, and miscellaneous.

Built-in reports for labor analysis, profit and loss, project analysis, work-in-process, and more allow easy access to the latest data. A powerful query tool allows users to quickly search for information using keywords and filters. Reports are easily converted to PDF for printing or e-mailing. The Job Cost module also makes it easy to set up a new business entity for a specific project, with its own unique data fields.

Comprehensive Payroll — eDeneb's payroll software has a long-standing and well-deserved reputation as one of the most powerful and comprehensive solutions for general and specialty contracting firms that employ their own workforce. Payroll can be a complicated process, but eDeneb makes it simple to streamline this workflow, save time, and control costs. The eDeneb Payroll offers certified payroll reporting and supports EEO reports. Contractors have immediate access to the most current tax and withholding information for all states and localities; Wide flexibility for worker's compensation options, easy management of payroll deductions, 401k calculations, fringe benefits, and reimbursements; Comprehensive and customizable HR interface; Remote time card information can be entered at the jobsite in one session or throughout the week. The Payroll application also supports text messaging to mobile devices, making it easy for administrators to ask questions or clarify time card entry; full support of direct deposit.

Moving to the Cloud — You no longer have to imagine communications and data shared between the field and office in real time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Deneb, Inc. makes it easy to get started. A single low, monthly fee, based on your usage, covers everything you need: access to eDeneb on the Internet, data backups, training, and support. A free trial period of up to 90 days is available.

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