

Institute of Certified
Bookkeepers Software
Review

May 2009

Clear Books



Company background

Clear Books was founded by Tim Fouracre and Fubra Limited in July 2008 and work began developing the accounting system in August 2008.

Managing Director: Tim Fouracre

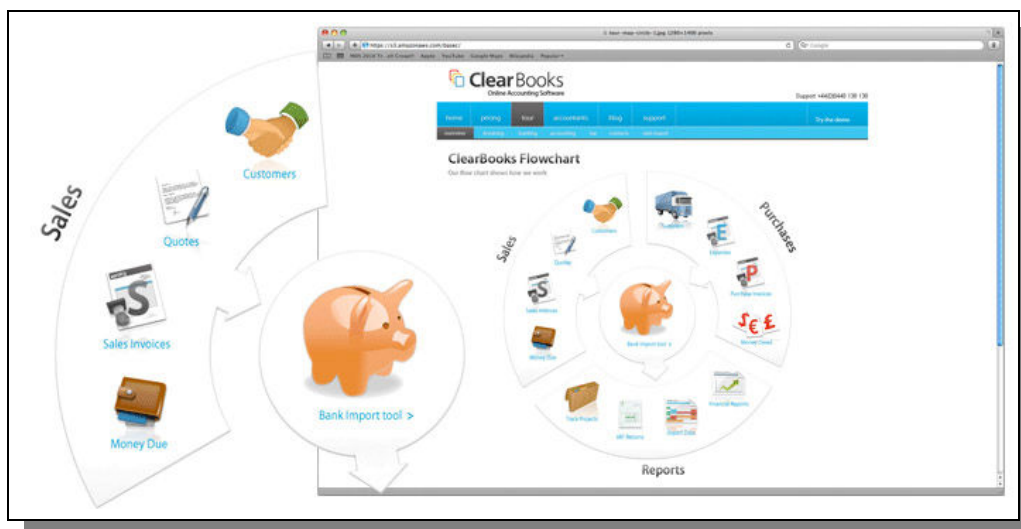
Tim Fouracre qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 2007 and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Tim trained at KPMG where he worked in audit, transaction services and forensics with an industry focus on Information, Communications and Entertainment.

Fubra Limited

Fubra Limited was founded by Brendan McLoughlin in 2000. With the support of fellow directors Paul Maunders and Joe McLoughlin Fubra has grown from a web design company with a couple of computers in an attic to an established Internet media company with 100+websites, 3 million subscribers, 6.1 million monthly visitors, generating over 80 million impressions (as at February 2009).

The product

Clear Books is a comprehensive online accounting system aimed at small business owners, developed to be easy to use with a simple but professional design.



A no obligation 30 day free trial is offered, so you can try before you buy. There are also a number of options for Business start-ups through to Premium users all offering free updates.

There is a comprehensive help system and customer support community where you can e-mail your ideas and suggestions or pose any questions to Clear Books Ltd.

The online system uses the same level of data encryption as online banking. Clear Books is hosted in a state-of-the-art facility with UPS and generator-backed power supply, redundant cooling system and multiple Internet connections.

Present cost of the software ranges from FREE for start-ups to £5 per month for light use to £15 month for heavy use. Terms and conditions apply to the number of transactions applied to the software.

Contact details for ClearBooks Limited:

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Web:	www.clearbooks.co.uk	

Key benefits

- ✓ Try before you buy free trial and free start-up use (refer to terms and conditions)
- ✓ Monthly payment plan depending on usage
- ✓ Secure system you can access anytime anywhere
- ✓ Facility to import credit card statements and internet payment accounts such as Paypal.
- ✓ Free automatic updates
- ✓ Use on Mac or PC
- ✓ Supports different VAT schemes
- ✓ System generated VAT Returns
- ✓ Customer support community online

Strengths

A very user friendly online package with comprehensive dashboards for navigation. This provides a professional look for the user.

The set up is designed to be easy to use and the account codes are clearly referenced to the chart of accounts. There is an opening balance sheet facility also.

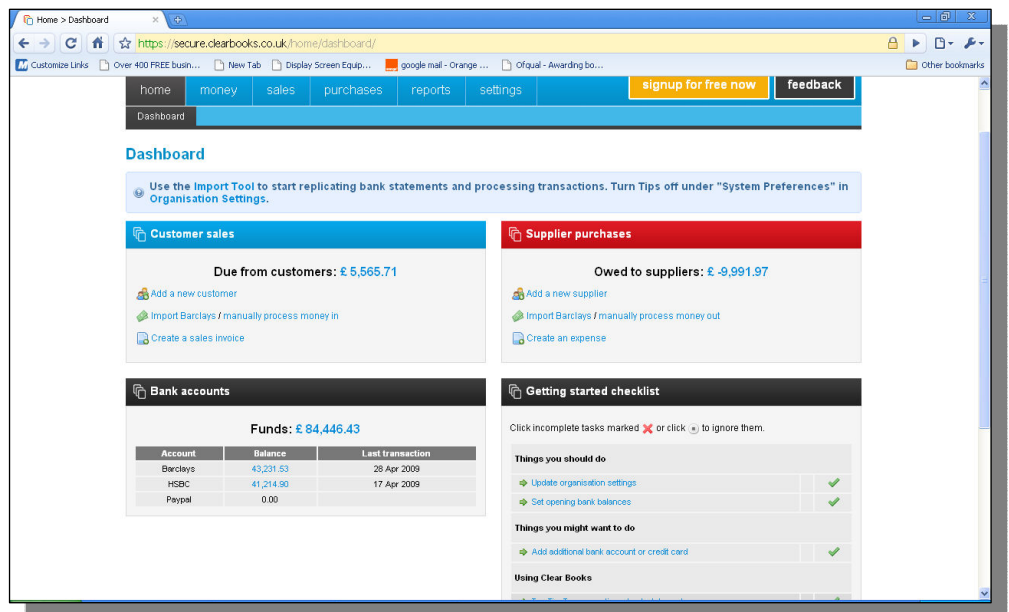
The banking facility allows the user to import bank statements and PayPal statements into the system.

There is also facility for recurring invoices and options for Construction Industry invoicing.

Reporting is comprehensive and allows the user to view profit and loss reports with year by year comparison, and a separate cash flow facility.

Reports are provided in various formats giving flexibility to export or e-mail and financial reports can be converted to graph format as part of a management tool.

The package that you purchase can grow according to your needs and the premium package offers unlimited transactions and unlimited users



Weaknesses

There is no VAT reporting facility on the light use facility, but this may not always be applicable.

Feedback has suggested that there could be more flexibility regarding the customising of invoices ie: footer text

Value for money

Clear Books offer packages that can grow with your needs and the fact that you can try before you go onto a payment plan means that these packages do offer value for money. Clear Books also offers free updates to the software, which a lot of major accounting packages do not.

Testimonials

There are a number of favourable testimonials on the Clear Books website ranging from Start-up Businesses to Small Business to the Construction Industry.

Summary

A clear comprehensive package, representing value for money for small business owners and bookkeepers starting out. Clear Books seem to be improving the software constantly via customer feedback and suggestions.



Disclaimer

The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers having reviewed Clear Books software package, cannot be held responsible in anyway for the actions of the company Clear Books Limited or their software. This review is merely an unbiased overview of the software package.