

SOURCE >

EDITION 15

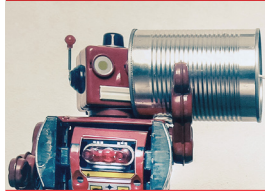
Inside this issue

> PAGE 2



Scan Document Archive

> PAGE 2



New Cloud based CRM System

> PAGE 3



Making Tax Digital for VAT

> PAGE 4



It's the 1980's...

Latest Versions

>	Accounts:	3.08.6
>	CRM:	2.05
>	Payroll:	4.15
>	CIS:	1.08
>	Tablet:	1.28

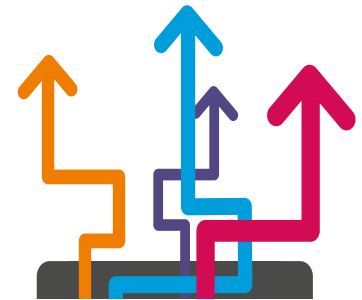
For an update to the latest version call software support on: +44 (0)1458 44014

Making Tax Digital for VAT

Benchmark's accounting software will be fully compatible with the new 'Making Tax Digital for VAT' regulations.

A new HMRC approved version of Benchmark's accounting software will be available in early 2019 for initial installation by customers, although the functionality is not required until the 1st of April 2019 start date.

> See Page 3 for more information



New Web Design Service

We now offer a full website design service, including graphic design, content writing and search engine optimisation (SEO).

As you would expect given our experience in accounting, we concentrate on what your business objectives are rather than being focussed on creative design.

We'll make sure that your website looks professional, is easy to navigate, and is designed to get users to contact and do business with you.

All of our sites are 'responsive', meaning that they work perfectly on PCs, mobiles and tablets.

Brochure Sites:

A site that conveys the key elements of your business and is designed to look professional and encourage people to do business with you.

Standalone eCommerce Sites:

Sites that enable customers to browse your products, place orders and process payments.

Integrated eCommerce Sites:

An advanced eCommerce site that links with your sales order process, sales ledger and stock control within our accounting package.

We can also help you with:



- > Graphic design
- > Print and document design
- > Google AdWords campaigns
- > Email marketing campaigns
- > Social Media advice and campaigns
- > Copywriting
- > Content marketing
- > Promotional videos



**WEB
DESIGN**

View some of our sites at benchmarkwebdesign.co.uk

Scan Document Archive

The Scan Document Archive (SDA) program allows you to store and retrieve documents either generated directly from our accounting software (for example, invoices and sales orders), or by scanning external documents such as signed delivery notes.

How SDA Works

By using a sheet-fed scanner, you can feed multiple documents and scan them into the software.

These are then stored electronically on your PC or a central network location. They can then be recalled quickly and efficiently without you having to go through files and folders to find the document you need.



Scanning Job Sheets

The software allows job sheets to be printed with the job number on them as a barcode. The sheets can then be filled in by on-site engineers, with an acceptance signature obtained from the customer. Once the completed job sheet has been returned to the office, it can immediately be scanned and read by the software. This will then automatically save into the SDA program under the job number, using the barcode.

This can be amended to suit other applications.

Barcodes in SDA

Barcodes can be printed on the documents when an order is placed, such as acknowledgments and Delivery Notes. Once the order has been completed, signed Delivery Notes can then be scanned and automatically associated with an order in the SDA software.

Scanning Supplier Invoices

Rather than having to file supplier invoices away and look them up, you can simply scan them as soon as they come in and allocate them to a supplier. If you need to look the document up later, you can either go into the SDA program or simply go to the supplier maintenance program within the accounts software and find it from a list of documents linked to the supplier.

Key features:

- > Scan documents
- > Batch scanning
- > Associate files
- > View documents
- > Detailed reports
- > Scan supplier invoices

Cloud-based CRM Software



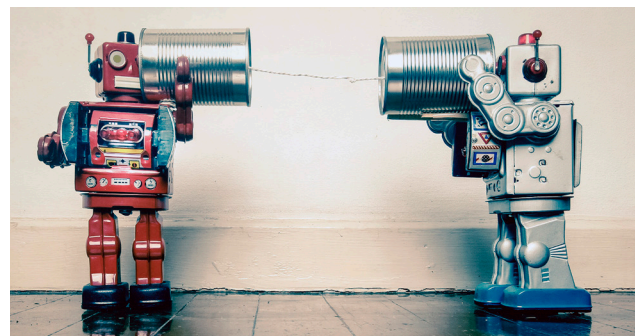
We now have a web-based, or 'Cloud', Customer Relationship Management (CRM) package available that gives you access to all of your customer information from your office, home, mobile phone or tablet.

The software can be integrated with your website or accounting software to give you essential sales and contact information. So, it's ideal for sales reps or engineers that visit customers, or anyone involved in the business that needs to get instant access to information on their customers whenever and wherever they need it.

The system will continue to be developed as a result of customer feedback and requirements, and of course based on the features in our long-established Cream CRM software.

Key features of the software:

- > Customer details with multiple contacts
- > Multi-level classification of each record
- > History section to record information about your customer
- > A customisable section that allows you to create and complete forms for customers



If you would like to know more about the software and how it can help you do business, please get in touch and we can arrange a demo with you.

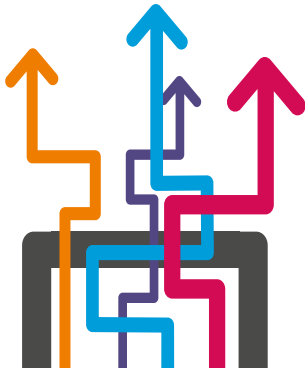
Making Tax Digital for VAT - Continued

The regulations apply to whole VAT periods that start ON or AFTER 1st April 2019.

From the 1st of April 2019, businesses whose taxable turnover exceeds the VAT registration threshold will no longer be able to use manual records to record and submit their VAT returns.

Instead, they will now need to keep their records digitally, using what HMRC describes as "functional compatible software". Put simply, businesses will need to use accounting software that handles the 'Making Tax Digital for VAT' regulations in order to submit their VAT returns to HMRC.

The compatible software has to be able to connect to HMRC's systems via an Application Programming Interface, or "API", which allows the two programs to 'talk' to each other.



Compatible software must be able to:

- > Keep the required records in a digital form
- > Preserve those records in digital form for up to 6 years
- > Create a VAT return using the digital records
- > Provide HMRC with this information digitally
- > Provide HMRC with additional data on a voluntary basis
- > Recieve information from HMRC about your compliance



Auto Enrolment Tri Annual Re-enrolment

Well, we all managed to somehow survive Auto Enrolment and the World is still going around. (That doesn't mean that it wasn't a lot of hassle for everyone concerned though!)

However, the next ordeal is looming for some companies, and that is the Tri-Annual Re-enrolment of Eligible Jobholders who decided to opt out. It shouldn't actually be that complicated but you will need to ensure that staff understand what is going on.



If you are interested in our Payroll and Auto Enrolment software, please get in touch and we'll arrange a demo.

New Cloud Accounts System

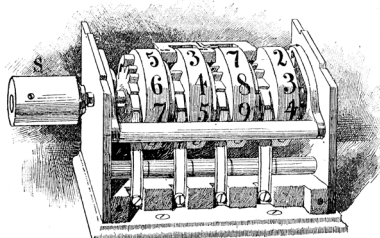


Benchmark is in the process of writing a brand new cloud based accounting system.

The system will be built using SQL Server technology, which is faster and more 'scalable'.

Writing this program from scratch is a big task and therefore we anticipate the release of a core package within the next couple of years. However, for anyone interested we should have a simple demo available for customers to view and use towards the end of 2019.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE SOME IDEAS FOR THE NEW ACCOUNTS SYSTEM



Point-of-sale Card Machines



Paymentsense are a UK-based company that provide various payment solutions including card machines and online payment processing. They are the card machine providers that we currently integrate with on our point-of-sale (EPOS) system.

We have found that they are very competitive on rates and often have good deals available for new customers, such as free card machines when you transfer from an alternative supplier.

Paymentsense also provide a service which will allow you to take payments online, which can be part of your ecommerce website.



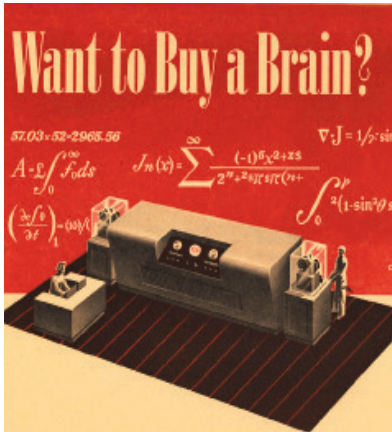
Free Benchmark Auto Backup program



You can never have too many backups...

We all know that but sometimes doing them can be a pain. So, we have developed a free backup program that allows for Benchmark database files to be automatically backed-up at a specific time of any day, week or month.

Backups can be made either locally or to the Cloud for extra off-site security. A log is continually updated with every backup attempt, with the option to automatically email the details of backup success, warnings or failure to up to two email accounts. This should not replace your existing backup procedures but provide additional security.



Programs were developed and shared by enthusiasts and magazines, although you usually had to copy the code manually. There was even a dedicated Sinclair magazine, called 'Sync'.

More from the Benchmark Museum of Vintage Computing..

Sinclair ZX80

The Sinclair ZX80 was a computing revolution. It was developed by the British inventor Sir Clive Sinclair and the company Science of Cambridge, which later became Sinclair Research Ltd.

It was heralded as the first complete computer available for less than £100. It was also one of the first aimed at the home user, as opposed to the hobbyist or professional. In 1979, computing was either very complex, very expensive, or both.

The ZX80 turned the market on its head. Its design, like all of the Sinclair computers, was driven by price and simplicity. It was supplied in kit form to home electronics enthusiasts for just £79.95 or you could buy it pre-built for £99.95.

The display was black and white and there was no sound. The keyboard was a touch sensitive membrane layer, which was not great. However, it included the ability to enter specific Basic commands into the computer by just pressing a single key (or combination of keys), rather than typing every command manually.



The ZX80 used the Zilog Z80 processor that was used by many computers of the time. (Zilog was the company name.)

The ZX80's name probably came from the use of this processor, with the 'X' added to make it more interesting. However, it was also released in the year 1980.

Before production ceased in 1981 (when the ZX81 was launched), the ZX80 had sold over 50,000 units globally making it a substantial commercial success for the company.

While its successor, the ZX81, sold over 1.5 million copies, the ZX80 paved the way, and its real significance was that it introduced a whole generation of future programmers to computing.

Second hand prices for the Sinclair ZX80 are high, with mint examples fetching over £500.

Specifications:

3.25 MHz NEC 780-C XPU
(A copy of the Zilog Z80A processor)

4K ROM, 1K RAM (expandable to 16K)

24 lines x 32 char. mono text display

250 baud cassette interface

RF television out

