

Should I Convert from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online?

Important: QuickBooks Online Simple Start is not the right fit for most long-time users of QuickBooks Desktop. Advanced features in QuickBooks Enterprise Desktop, such as Advanced Inventory or Advanced Reports, are not available in QuickBooks Online.

Today, I use QuickBooks Desktop to...		Can be done in QuickBooks Online	Can be done in QuickBooks Desktop
		<small>*Some features below not available in all editions or require subscription to additional service</small>	<small>*Some features below not available in all editions or require subscription to additional service</small>
Access my company file and manage my data	Back up my data.	No need! QuickBooks Online automatically backs up your data.	All Editions *Online backups require a subscription to Intuit Data Protect
	Revert to prior version of my company file	Not available	All editions *Requires a working backup file
	Send an Accountant's Copy to my Accountant.	No need! Invite your Accountant to view your books without using an Accountant's Copy.	All editions
	Access my company file remotely from an Internet connected device.	All editions	All editions *Requires remote desktop application, terminal server setup, or hosting provider
	Allow multiple users to access my company file, including some view-only users.	Essentials & Plus	All editions
	Maintain multiple company files.	*Requires a separate subscription for each company file	All editions
	Work with multiple QuickBooks windows open at once.	*Available when using multiple browser tabs or the desktop app	All editions
Work with my customers	Create and manage my invoices and bill my customers.	All editions *Essentials and Plus include automation to create invoices from unbilled activity	All editions
	Create and manage my estimates, send them to my customers, convert them into invoices, and use progress invoicing to bill my customers.	All editions (Progress Invoicing is in Plus Only)	All editions
	Track my sales, accept payments, and calculate sales tax.	All editions (requires QuickBooks Payments subscription)	All editions (requires QuickBooks Payments subscription)
	Track international sales and expenses in multiple currencies.	Essentials & Plus	All editions
	Track my projects including time expenses, pending payments, and unbilled work. Invoice multiple customers at once with batch invoicing. Prevent sales to customers with overdue invoices.	Plus Not available Not available	All editions All editions Enterprise
Work with my vendors	Manage my bills so that I can pay my vendors.	Essentials & Plus	All editions
	Billable expenses	Plus	All editions
	Track and manage my 1099 contractors.	All editions	All editions
Manage my employee data	Track my employees' time, including billable hours by client or employee.	Essentials & Plus *Third-party applications can provide additional time-tracking functionality	All editions
	Pay my employees, e-file federal and state payroll taxes, and print/file W2s.	All editions *Requires additional subscription to Enhanced Payroll	All editions *Requires additional subscription to payroll service
	Get help setting up my payroll and filing my payroll taxes.	All editions *Requires subscription to Full Service Payroll	All editions *Requires subscription to payroll service
Use online banking	Connect to my bank, download transactions, and reconcile.	All editions	All editions *Your bank may charge a fee for services related to directly connecting your bank account to QuickBooks Desktop
	Undo previous bank reconciliations.	Only by an accountant with QBOA	All editions
Manage my inventory	Use the first in, first out (FIFO) inventory method to track quantities, sales revenue, and the cost of goods sold.	Plus *Third-party applications can provide more advanced inventory functionality	Enterprise with subscription to Advanced Inventory
	Use Average Costing inventory method to track your inventory.	Not available	All editions
	Set and manage inventory reorder points	All editions	All editions
	Use advanced inventory functionality such as mobile inventory scanning, bin location tracking, bar code scanning, serial number or lot tracking, multiple location management, FIFO costing, customized and automated pricing.	Not available	Enterprise with subscription to Advanced Inventory
Create and run reports that help me understand my business	Track my income and expenses and organize them according to tax categories so that I know what tax I will owe.	All editions	All editions
	Run P&L, expense, and balance sheet reports and create customized reports.	All editions	All editions
	Manage fixed assets.	Not available *You can track depreciation in the Chart of Accounts	Enterprise with Fixed Asset Manager
	Forecast my sales and expenses to create a business plan.	Plus (Budgeting Tool)	Premier & Enterprise
	Use Intuit Statement Writer to create custom reports.	Not available	Enterprise
	Use Advanced Reporting to create custom reports, consolidate reports from multiple company files, and/or directly connect my ODBC-compliant application to the QuickBooks database.	Not available	Enterprise
Use industry-specific features including separate billing rates; track changes on estimates and orders; review current availability for inventory items; manage sales orders; print pick lists and packing slips; run industry specific reports.		Plus (Price Rules)	Premier (Industry-Specific) & Enterprise