

Quicken 2018 Review

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Having gone through a lot of issues with Quicken over the course of the last year, I thought I'd bring you my "report."

The first thing to know is that Quicken is no longer owned by Intuit. Intuit has other financial products but Quicken was sold to a group of investors. Those investors have, IMHO, made sizeable and mostly welcome changes to Quicken—some things Intuit should have done years ago, but didn't.

Quicken 2018, unlike previous versions is a "subscription" product (like Microsoft Office 365), and Quicken, the company, is trying to get everyone to move to it, which makes sense. If you're a Quicken 2015 user, it's time to update, as support ends on 4/30/18. Likewise, Quicken 2016 will go out of support on 4/30/2019 and Quicken 2017, will go out of support on 4/30/2020.

One of the new things is that there is now Mac version equivalents to the Windows versions, which can only be a good thing for Mac users.

There are 4 versions of the Windows product. I'm not going to rehash all their features here. You can read about them on Quicken's web page at www.quicken.com: The first is the Starter edition, which is the simplest and least expensive of the 4. But in my view, it doesn't do much, and barely scratches the surface of what Quicken is capable of. Each version after the Starter edition adds more features based on the "product ladder". Check out the web page for specific details to the different packages.

What I will clue you in on, is that if you want to pay your bills electronically, you can. Quicken will work with some banks nicely, but not all—don't ask me how I know. If your bank doesn't support direct bill payment (such as Capital One Bank), you can sign up with Quicken Bill Pay (QBP).

Even though the QBP web site (www.quickenbillpay.com) says it only takes a few days to get signed up, that isn't (based on personal experience and comments from the folks I'm in contact with at Quicken) correct. It can take 2 weeks or more, and you must stay on top of them. That is, if you haven't seen 2 small deposits in your bank account within 2 weeks you need to follow up with them. For some reason, when I attempted to do it, the emails they were sending me were getting lost in the Ether. It took the intervention of QBP Support to get things squared away.

While Deluxe is the most popular version, according to Quicken's web site, if you plan to use QBP, you should opt for either the Premier or Home & Business edition. Those

2 editions include Bill Payment for free, which is a very substantial savings over the course of a year.

Quicken does run sales of its products from time to time or you can often find it less expensively on line. My favorite shopping bot is www.google.com/shopping. Another good place to check for lower prices is eBay.

Following up with some additional info about Quicken Bill Pay: It turns out that once the first account has been registered with Quicken Bill Pay, subsequent accounts (even from different data sets) are approved immediately upon registration. The 2nd account I registered was at the same bank as the first one, and perhaps that's why it was instantaneously approved. I suspect that if one were to try and set up a 2nd account at a different bank, then it'll take at least 2 weeks for the required "monkey business" to be done.

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