

When you start any business the most important part is payment. Part of this is also managing your books.

Here we have gathered a list checklist/software options/comparison list of the best accounting/payment platforms out there for both Small and Mid-Sized businesses.

Here's what you want to look for when trying to find the best accounting platform for your business.

✔ Accounting Platform Selection Checklist

1. Core Accounting Features

- General ledger, accounts payable (AP), and accounts receivable (AR).
- Bank reconciliation and cash flow tracking.
- Automated expense categorization.

2. Invoicing & Billing

- Ability to create and send branded invoices.
- Recurring billing and payment reminders.
- Integration with payment gateways (Stripe, PayPal, etc.).

3. Integration Capabilities

- Syncs with **CRM, payment platforms, and project management tools.**
- Connects with **tax software** and **payroll systems.**
- API availability for custom integrations. This would be a question your web designer may ask you when working to pull this all together for your business.

4. Reporting & Analytics

- Real-time financial dashboards.
- Profit & loss, balance sheet, and cash flow reports.
- Customizable reporting for decision-making.



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5. Tax Compliance

- Automated tax calculations.
- Sales tax tracking and filing support.
- Multi-jurisdiction compliance if operating in different states/countries.

6. Scalability

- Handles growth from small to mid-sized operations.
- Multi-user access with role-based permissions.
- Support for multiple entities or locations.

7. Ease of Use

- Intuitive interface for non-accountants.
- Mobile app for on-the-go access.
- Simple onboarding and training resources.

8. Security

- Data encryption and secure backups.
- Compliance with financial data regulations.
- Two-factor authentication for user accounts.

9. Cost Structure

- Transparent pricing (monthly vs annual plans).
- Check for hidden fees (extra users, integrations).
- Compare tiered plans for features you need.

10. Customer Support

- Availability of live chat, phone, and email support.
- Knowledge base and tutorials.
- Reputation for quick issue resolution.



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Here is a list of the **best accounting platforms for small to mid-sized businesses** that can handle **payment capture** and **financial management**:

(Please note that most of these options are based on a list from PC Magazine noted for their key investigating. However, we have also noted an (*) next to those we have or are currently using for our business.)

✓ Top Picks for Small Businesses

1. [QuickBooks Online](#) *

- Excellent for invoicing, expense tracking, and payment processing.
- Integrates with payment gateways and offers payroll add-ons.
- Scalable for growing businesses.

2. [FreshBooks](#) *

- Great for service-based businesses.
- Simple invoicing, time tracking, and online payment collection.
- Strong customer support and mobile-friendly.

3. [Xero](#)

- Cloud-based, easy to use, and supports multiple users.
- Handles invoicing, bank reconciliation, and payment integrations.
- Good for businesses needing strong expense management.

4. [Dubsado](#)*

- Ideal for service-based businesses that need **client onboarding, contracts, proposals, and automated workflows** alongside payment collection.
- Not a full accounting system like QuickBooks or Xero; best used in combination with an accounting tool for complete financial reporting.

5. [Wave](#)

- Free option for microbusinesses.
- Includes invoicing and payment processing features.



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- Ideal for startups with tight budgets.
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✓ Top Picks for Mid-Sized Businesses

1. [NetSuite ERP](#)

- Best overall for mid-sized companies.
- Handles global operations, multi-currency transactions, and advanced reporting.
- Integrates finance, operations, and sales in one platform.

2. [Sage Intacct](#)

- Excellent for GAAP compliance and multi-dimensional reporting.
- Scalable for multi-entity businesses.
- Cloud-based and integrates with other business tools.

3. [Acumatica Cloud ERP](#)

- Great for manufacturing and businesses needing inventory management.
- Mobile-friendly and supports multi-warehouse operations.

4. [Tipalti](#)

- Specializes in AP automation and mass payments.
 - Ideal for businesses with global vendor payments.
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✓ Other Notable Options

- [Zoho Books](#) (affordable and feature-rich for SMBs)
 - [SAP Business One](#) (highly scalable for complex operations)
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Recommendation:

- For **small businesses**, start with **QuickBooks Online** or **FreshBooks** for simplicity and affordability.



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- For **mid-sized businesses**, consider **NetSuite ERP** or **Sage Intacct** for advanced features and scalability.

Here's a **comparison table** of the best accounting platforms for small to mid-sized businesses:

✓ Accounting & Client Management Platforms Comparison

| <u>Platform</u> | <u>Best For</u> | <u>Key Features</u> | <u>Pricing</u> | <u>Scalability</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| QuickBooks Online * | Small businesses | Invoicing, expense tracking, payment processing, payroll add-ons | Starts at \$30/month | High (multiple tiers) |
| FreshBooks * | Service-based businesses | Simple invoicing, time tracking, online payments, mobile-friendly | Starts at \$19/month | Moderate |
| Xero | Growing businesses | Cloud-based, multi-user access, invoicing, bank reconciliation | Starts at \$15/month | High |
| Wave | Microbusinesses/startups | Free invoicing, payment processing, basic accounting | Free (payments extra) | Low |
| Zoho Books * | Affordable SMB solution | Invoicing, automation, integrations with Zoho suite | Starts at \$15/month | Moderate |
| Dubsado * | Service-based professionals | CRM + invoicing, proposals, contracts, workflows, payment collection | Starts at \$35/month | Moderate |
| NetSuite ERP | Mid-sized/global firms | Advanced financials, multi-currency, inventory, integrated ERP | Custom pricing | Very High |
| Sage Intacct | Mid-sized businesses | GAAP compliance, advanced reporting, multi-entity support | Custom pricing | Very High |



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| <u>Platform</u> | <u>Best For</u> | <u>Key Features</u> | <u>Pricing</u> | <u>Scalability</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------|--------------------|
| Acumatica Cloud ERP | Manufacturing & inventory | Inventory management, mobile access, multi-warehouse support | Custom pricing | Very High |
| Tipalti | Global vendor payments | AP automation, mass payments, compliance | Custom pricing | High |

✔ Quick Summary:

- **Small businesses** → QuickBooks, FreshBooks, Xero, Wave, Zoho Books, Dubsado.
- **Mid-sized businesses** → NetSuite ERP, Sage Intacct, Acumatica, Tipalti.

One of the most important parts of running a business is taking payment. But with so many out there what is the best platform for your business? First you have to start with the why and what when looking for the right fit for you and your business.

Here's a **checklist of what to look for when choosing payment software for a small to mid-sized business:**

✔ Payment Software Selection Checklist

1. Core Payment Features

- Ability to accept **credit/debit cards**, ACH, and digital wallets (Apple Pay, Google Pay).
- Support for **recurring billing** and **subscriptions** if needed.
- **Invoice generation** and easy payment links.

2. Integration Capabilities

- Works with your **accounting software** (QuickBooks, Xero, etc.).
- Integrates with **CRM or project management tools** (e.g., Dubsado, Zoho).
- API availability for custom workflows. This is information you would provide your web designer when building your website.



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3. Security & Compliance

- **PCI DSS compliance** for secure transactions.
- Built-in **fraud detection** and risk management tools.
- Data encryption and tokenization.

4. User Experience

- Simple checkout process for customers.
- Mobile-friendly payment options.
- Ability to customize branding on invoices and payment pages.

5. Global & Multi-Currency Support

- Accepts payments in multiple currencies.
- Handles international transactions and tax compliance.

6. Cost Structure

- Transparent pricing (transaction fees, monthly fees, setup costs).
- Compare **flat-rate vs interchange-plus** pricing models.
- No hidden fees for refunds or chargebacks.

7. Reporting & Analytics

- Real-time transaction tracking.
- Detailed financial reports for reconciliation.
- Dashboard for monitoring revenue and trends.

8. Customer Support

- 24/7 support availability.
- Multiple channels (chat, phone, email).
- Reputation for quick issue resolution.

9. Scalability

- Can handle increased transaction volume as your business grows.



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- Offers advanced features for mid-sized businesses (e.g., multi-location support).

10. Additional Features

- **Recurring payment reminders.**
- **Payment plans or installment options.**
- Integration with **tax calculation tools** and accounting platforms.

Here's a list of the **best payment platforms for small to mid-sized businesses**, including **Stripe** and **Authorize.Net**, along with their key features:

Please keep in mind that we have noted an () next to those we have either used or are currently using for our business.*

✓ Top Payment Platforms

| <u>Platform</u> | <u>Best For</u> | <u>Key Features</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>Stripe</u> * | Online businesses, SaaS | Global payments, recurring billing, subscription management, API integrations |
| <u>Authorize.Net</u> * | SMBs needing reliability | Credit card & ACH payments, fraud detection, recurring billing |
| <u>Square</u> | Retail & service businesses | POS systems, online payments, invoicing, inventory management |
| <u>PayPal</u> * | E-commerce & freelancers | Easy setup, global reach, buyer protection, invoicing |
| <u>Braintree</u> | Advanced e-commerce | Owned by PayPal, supports multiple payment types, strong API |
| <u>Adyen</u> | Global enterprises | Multi-currency, omnichannel payments, advanced fraud protection |



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| <u>Platform</u> | <u>Best For</u> | <u>Key Features</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Stax | Subscription-based pricing | Flat-rate pricing, integrated invoicing, analytics |
| Helcim | Transparent pricing | Interchange-plus pricing, invoicing, recurring billing |
| WePay (by JPMorgan) | Platforms & marketplaces | Integrated payments for SaaS and marketplaces |
| 2Checkout (Verifone) | Global digital goods sellers | Supports multiple currencies, subscription billing |

✔ Key Considerations

- **Stripe** → Best for developers and businesses needing customization.
- **Authorize.Net** → Great for traditional SMBs with recurring billing needs.
- **Square** → Ideal for businesses with physical locations and POS needs.
- **PayPal/Braintree** → Easy for quick setup and global reach.
- **Adyen** → Best for scaling internationally.

Here's a **comparison chart of the best payment platforms for small to mid-sized businesses**, including **pricing and key features**:

✔ Payment Platform Comparison

| <u>Platform</u> | <u>Best For</u> | <u>Key Features</u> | <u>Pricing</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Stripe* | Online businesses, SaaS | Global payments, recurring billing, subscription management, API integrations | 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction |
| Authorize.Net * | SMBs needing reliability | Credit card & ACH payments, fraud detection, recurring billing | \$25/month + 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction |



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| Platform | Best For | Key Features | Pricing |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| Square | Retail & service businesses | POS systems, online payments, invoicing, inventory management | 2.6% + \$0.10 per transaction (in-person) |
| PayPal * | E-commerce & freelancers | Easy setup, global reach, buyer protection, invoicing | 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction |
| Braintree | Advanced e-commerce | Multiple payment types, strong API, owned by PayPal | Same as PayPal (2.9% + \$0.30) |
| Adyen | Global enterprises | Multi-currency, omnichannel payments, advanced fraud protection | Custom pricing (usually ~2.9%) |
| Stax | Subscription-based pricing | Flat-rate pricing, integrated invoicing, analytics | Starts at \$99/month + interchange fees |
| Helcim | Transparent pricing | Interchange-plus pricing, invoicing, recurring billing | Interchange + 0.3% + \$0.08 per transaction |
| WePay | Platforms & marketplaces | Integrated payments for SaaS and marketplaces | Custom pricing |
| 2Checkout (Verifone) | Global digital goods sellers | Supports multiple currencies, subscription billing | Starts at 3.5% + \$0.35 per transaction |

✔ Quick Recommendations

- **Stripe** → Best for tech-savvy businesses needing customization.
- **Authorize.Net** → Great for traditional SMBs with recurring billing.
- **Square** → Ideal for businesses with physical locations and POS needs.
- **PayPal/Braintree** → Easy for quick setup and global reach.
- **Helcim** → Best for transparent pricing and lower fees at scale.



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As you can see there is a lot to think about when choosing the right platform for you, your business, and most importantly for your clients.

With any platform you choose, remember that it should be easy and affordable for both you and your clients to utilize. Also, these platforms should play nicely with all the other platforms you have in place to run your business.



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