



WHY ARE ACCOUNTING & FINANCE IMPORTANT?

SLOW DOWN!

This is an elementary introduction to the subject. Focus on understanding the concepts.

A QUICK TIP

Whether you do the accounting and finance in your business yourself, have an employee that handles these functions, or outsource them, you need to be very familiar with the basic principles.

"War is ninety percent information."

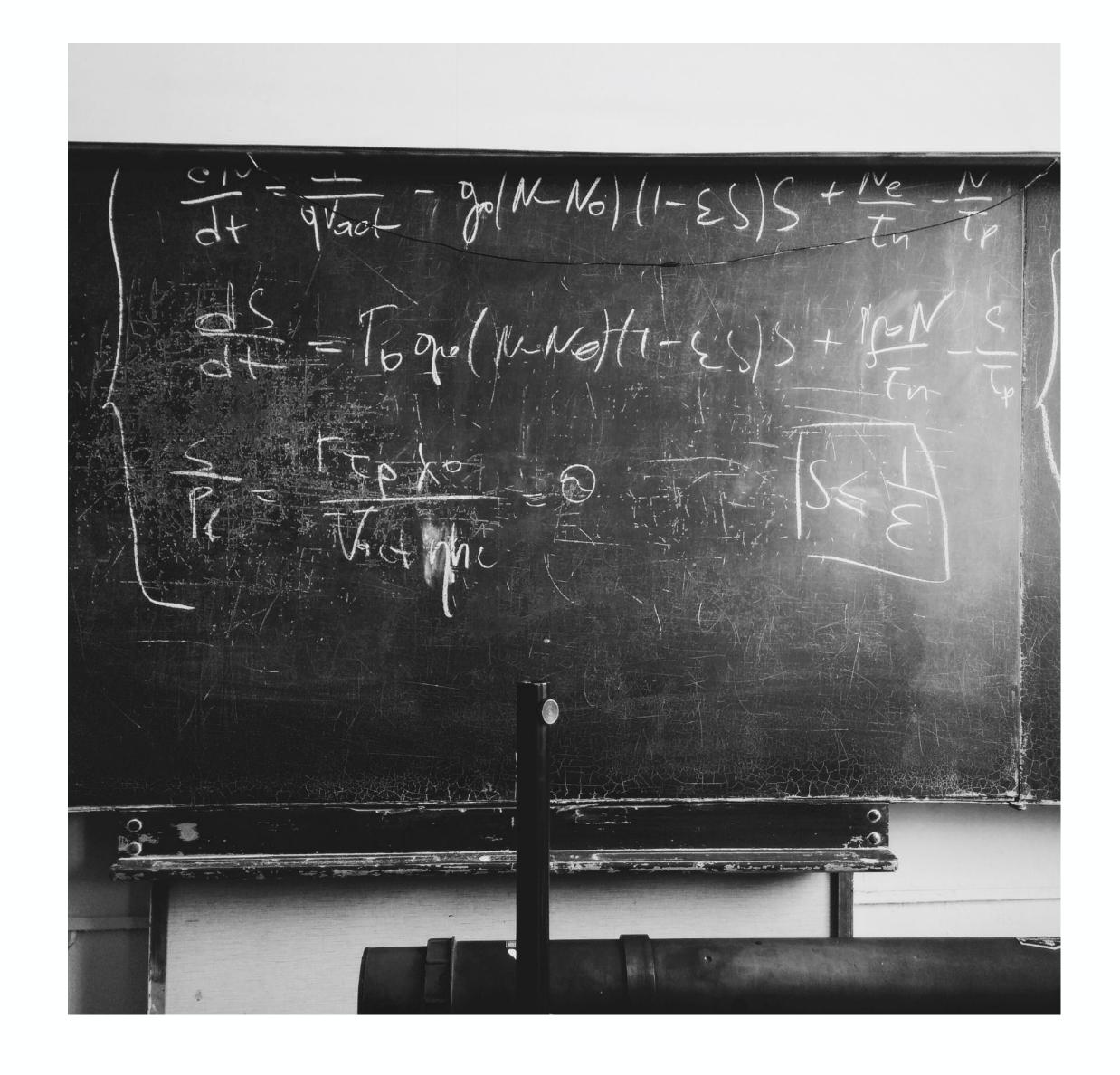
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WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN

- Reviewing the basic principles and functions of accounting and finance
- Exploring the relationship between accounting and finance and how they rely on each other
- Understanding the attributes of a good accounting and finance person
- Understanding the importance of the 'Chart of Accounts' and how it can help you manage your business better
- Learning the role and function of the three key documents included in a financial statement

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE Objectives

When you strip away all the accounting and finance jargon, you're left with SIMPLE MATH.





DEFINITION: A PROCESS THAT MAKES ALL YOUR TRANSACTIONS ARE RECORDED CORRECTLY.

ACCOUNTING

A GOOD ACCOUNTANT

- Is extremely careful and organized
- Is skillful with numbers and spreadsheets
- Makes sure all transactions are accounted for
- Accurately and consistently keeps a company's books
- Implements a system of financial controls

The complexity of your accounting system is driven by whatever it takes to tell YOUR BUSINESS'S FINANCIAL STORY.



OPTIONS FOR GOOD ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

Excel

Total Liabilities

2009

\$30,930.00

\$14.570.00

\$2,000.00 \$1,000.00

\$45,000.00

\$8,000.00

See All Expenses - Budget vs Actual

Category List & Budget

Reports & Charts

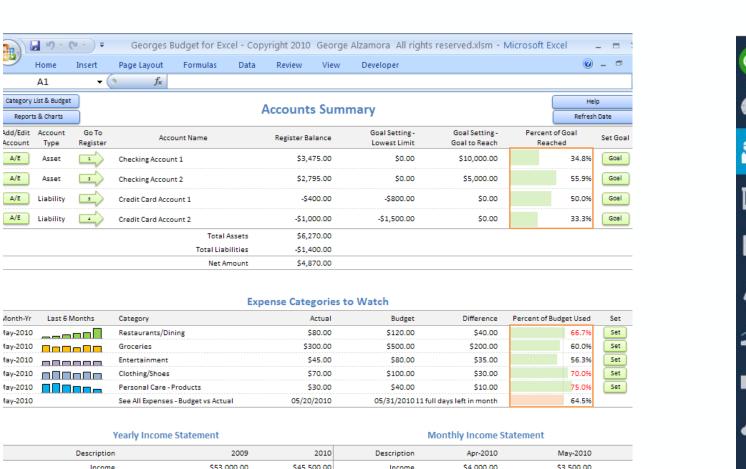
Month-Yr Last 6 Months Category

flay-2010 Clothing/Shoes

Expenses

fay-2010 ____

fay-2010

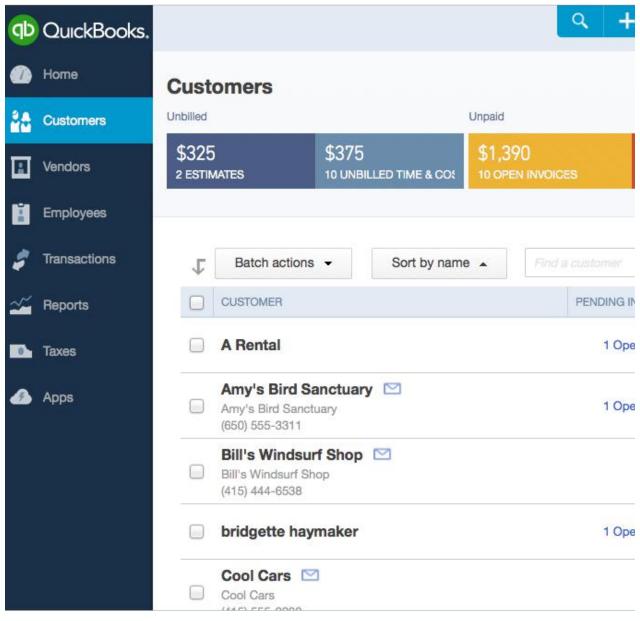


\$1,925.00

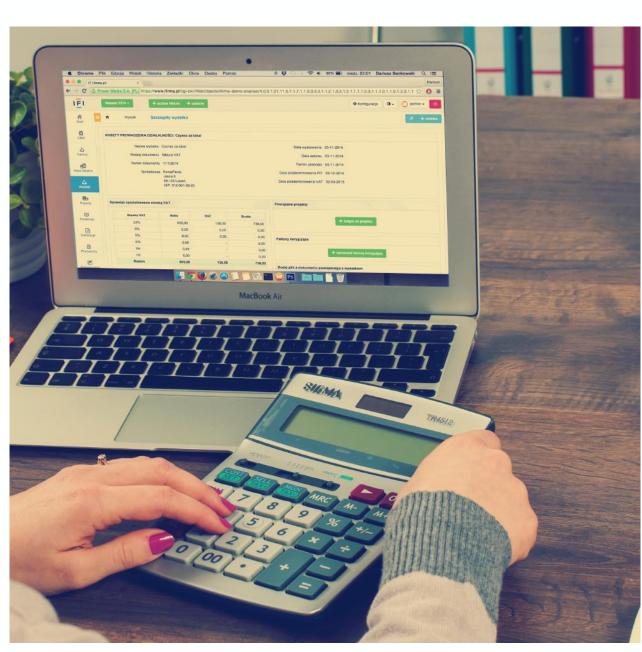
\$1,575.00

\$4,450.00

Quickbooks



Outsource to a bookkeeper or accounting firm





GREAT BUSINESSES DO EVERYTHING WELL



DEFINITION: A STANDARD FRAMEWORK OF GUIDELINES FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRACTICES



WHY DO WE NEED GAAP?

GAAP provides an easily-understood

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

of your business to others.





CASH

- Simpler
- Transactions are recorded as cash comes in
- Revenues are recorded when received
- Expenses are recoded when paid
- More desirable from a tax standpoint

ACCRUAL

- More complex
- Transactions are recorded as they occur
- Revenue is recorded when an order is placed
- Expenses are recorded when things are purchased
- May be less desirable from a tax standpoint

WHICH METHOD IS BETTER FOR MY BUSINESS?

Small businesses

ALMOST ALWAYS START WITH THE CASH SYSTEM

As your business grows
YOU MAY SWITCH TO

THE ACCRUAL SYSTEM



DOUBLE-ENTRY BOOKKEEPING

- Makes sure your accounting is accurate
- Invented in the 1400's in Venice
- Records a credit and a debit at the same time

The wonderful byproduct of DOUBLE-ENTRY BOOKKEEPING

is that everything always adds up to zero.





ASSESSES IF THERE IS ENOUGH MONEY IN THE BANK FOR BOTH TODAY AND TOMORROW.

FINANCE

A GOOD FINANCE PERSON

- Is always looking forward
- Looks at the big picture
- Asks "What If...?" questions about the finances of the business and then models the answers to those questions
- Maintains relationships with banks and other lending institutions
- Makes sure the business doesn't run out of cash



Accounting and finance are both

INTERTWINED

and critical to the success of a business.



ACCOUNTING

BOTH

FINANCE

Today looking backwards

Today

Today looking forward

- Accuracy is key
- The goal is a correct set of books
- Highly organized

- Strong math skills
- Need accurate information
- Rely on each other

- Imagination is key
- The goal is to model the possible future
- Highly creative





ACCOUNTING & FINANCE For example...

Accounting

IS MORE EASILY OUTSOURCED

Finance

IS LESS EASILY OUTSOURCED



DEFINITION: A COMPLETE LIST OF EVERY ACCOUNT IN YOUR BUSINESS.

CHART OF ACCOUNTS

DEFINITION: A UNIQUE RECORD FOR EACH TYPE OF TRANSACTION IN YOUR BUSINESS.

ACCOUNT

BIG IDEA

EVERYTHING NEEDS A HOME

Your Chart of Accounts PROVIDES

for every dollar that enters or leaves your business.



A GOOD CHART OF ACCOUNTS

- Provides valuable information to run your business
- Can tell you exactly how much items cost or how much revenue a product is generating
- Relies on the accuracy of the data that is recorded

A QUICK TIP

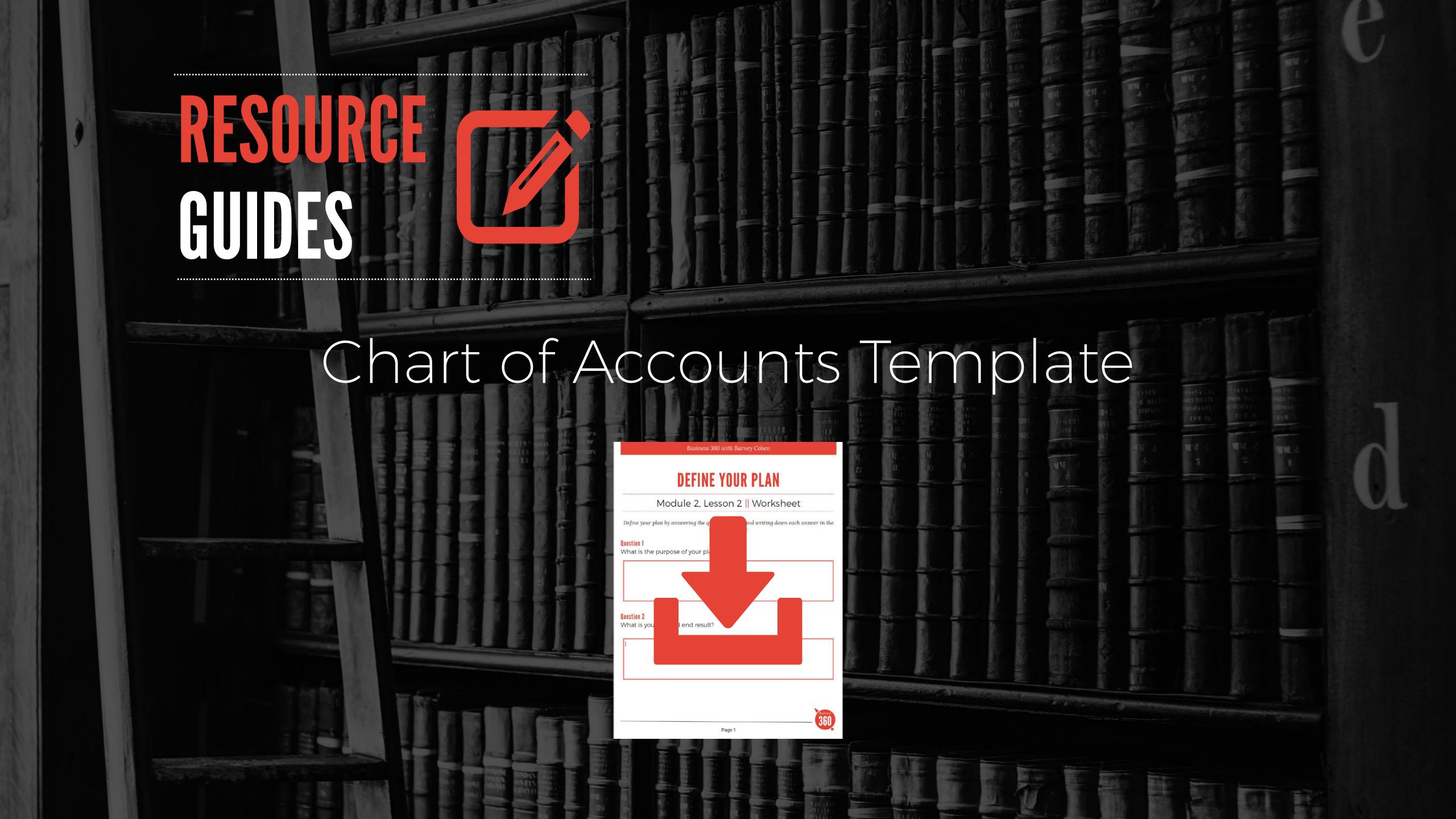
Get someone with some skill or expertise in accounting to help you with the initial set-up of your Chart of Accounts.

SLOW DOWN!

Getting your Chart of Accounts right will save you a fortune in time and money

A QUICK TIP

Update your Chart of Accounts regularly, and review it at least once a year with your accountant or bookkeeper.





Review your current Chard of Accounts and see if you know what every account represents. If not, get with your bookkeeper and reorganzie your Chart of Accounts so that it works for you.







FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Income Statement (or Profit & Loss Statement)
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Cash Flow

DEFINITION: SHOWS ALL MONEY COMING INTO AND GOING OUT OF YOUR BUSINESS OVER A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME.

INCOME STATEMENT

Income Statement or P&L Statement



PRICE OF CD: \$10
COST OF CD: - \$7

GROSS PROFIT: = \$3

THE BUSINESS TUNE-UP

Income Statement or P&L Statement

		Month 1	
TOP	Revenue		
	Cost of Goods Sold (COGS)		
	Gross Profit		

	Expenses		
	Payroll		
	Rent		
MIDDLE	Supplies		
	Utilities		
	Other		
	Total Expenses		

FIXED EXPENSES

Always stay the same

- Reoccurring and predictable
 - Rent
 - Insurance

VARIABLE EXPENSES

May vary from month-to-month

- Changes depending on events
 - Hourly payroll
 - Marketing

DEFINITION: A CLEAR AND CONCISE PICTURE OF YOUR BUSINESSES WEALTH.

BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet

DEFINITION: A PICTURE SHOWING WHERE EACH DOLLAR COMES FROM AND HOW IT'S SPENT IN YOUR BUSINESS.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Month 1
Cash Inflow	
Revenue	
Capital	
Loans	
Cash Outflow	
Salaries	
Loan Payments	
Other Expenses	

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

- Allows you to find opportunities to reduce costs and increase revenues
- Provides trends in business activity
- Alerts you to upcoming cash shortages
- Shows your cash position currently, in the past, and in the future
- A cash flow statement is NOT a Profit & Loss statement, though they may be similar



Cash Flow

DEFINITION: A SNAPSHOT OF HOW YOU WANT TO SPEND YOUR MONEY IN THE FUTURE.



WHAT IS A BUDGET?

- Contains specific information for a certain period of time
- Forward-looking function
- Estimates revenue and expenses
- Often produced yearly
- Typically built based on data from previous years
- Good accounting enables an accurate budget

WHAT JUST HAPPENED

- You understand the role and relationship of accounting and finance for your business
- You know what to look for in a good accountant or finance person
- You have a basic knowledge of the three documents that make up your financial statements
- You know the importance of a good Chart of Accounts and how to use it to get good data about your business

