

H&R Block's Online Tax Products and Services Launch This Weekend

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Advice-Based Features, Personalization and Ease-of-Use Make hrblock.com a Fast

And Convenient Tax Solution for Do-It-Yourselfers

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 10 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- H&R Block (NYSE: HRB) this weekend launches the only do-it-yourself, online tax programs that combine the speed and convenience of the Internet with the assurance that comes with personalized, money-saving tax advice from the nation's leading tax company.

Online tax preparation cuts hours from pen-and-paper tax prep time, and H&R Block offers the widest range of Internet-based taxpayer services, from the do-it-yourself Online Tax Program to having an H&R Block tax professional prepare, sign and file the return via the Internet. Online taxpayers also enjoy the benefits of e-filing, including faster refunds, more accurate returns, and confirmation that the Internal Revenue Service has accepted their return.

Clients at hrblock.com provide information via a simple, click-through interview that features built-in assistance and tax advice from H&R Block. Depending upon the clients' needs and comfort levels, they can select from a range of "hand-holding," advice-based products that provide one-on-one connections with H&R Block tax professionals.

"Seamless access to trusted H&R Block advice and experience is what truly differentiates our online products and services from any others," said Mark Ciaramitaro, vice president of H&R Block's e-solutions. "No other company can offer such a combination of technology and knowledge."

DO-IT-YOURSELF ONLINE TAX PREPARATION

Online Tax Program - Do-it-yourself convenience with support every step of the way from H&R Block advice

H&R Block's Online Tax Program is ideal for the do-it-yourself taxpayer looking for a faster, easier solution than traditional pen and paper. New features deliver speed, convenience and H&R Block advice. Features include:

- **New! No Credit Card Required!** - H&R Block's new Simple Pay product eliminates the need for a credit card by deducting tax preparation fees from a taxpayer's refund amount.
- **Tax Law Assistant** - Provides relevant information about how new tax law changes will affect taxpayers now and in the future. H&R Block also helps each user learn to maximize their tax benefit under the new changes. A graph available at hrblock.com charts the inception of new tax laws and how those laws will affect an individual's tax situation.
- **Comprehensive IRA Advisor** - Provides complete IRA planning tools and Express IRA technology that enables users to instantly open an IRA and fund the account with their tax refund.
- **Home Mortgage Advisor** - Determines if taxpayers can save money and get increased tax advantages by refinancing their current home or consolidating debt under a home equity loan. H&R Block assists taxpayers in taking advantage of lower mortgage rates and provides clients with options for future savings.
- **Data Import** - Dramatically cuts preparation time by automatically and instantly importing W2 and 1099 data from participating employers and financial institutions, along with the previous year's tax data from H&R Block online tax services, H&R Block offices, and TaxCut(R) software.
- **Accuracy Guarantee** - If the Online Tax Program makes a calculation error, H&R Block will pay any resulting penalties and interest assessed by the IRS.

NEW!

Online Tax Plus - Do-it-yourself convenience with year-round advice and planning tools

New for tax season 2003, Online Tax Plus gives clients a new, deeper level of personalization and advice via year-round planning tools, along with the option of having an H&R Block tax professional review their return to look for missed credits and deductions and to provide money-saving advice before e-filing to the IRS.

- New! Free Professional Review - Clients can elect to have a free consultation and review of their return by an H&R Block tax advisor prior to IRS filing
- NEW! My Tax Return Comparison - Clients can see how their returns compare to national averages.
- NEW! My Home Loan Advisor - Clients on a year-round basis can quickly see how home-ownership impacts their tax situation.
- NEW! My Donations Tracker - Gives clients a central resource to track their donations throughout the year and import them into their return at tax time.
- NEW! My Investment Planner - Helps users optimize their retirement savings with a customized, interactive planning tool. Based on the client's information, H&R Block provides a tailored retirement savings plan and college planning tool. The tool also performs "what if" scenarios so users can select the best retirement plan for their lifestyle.
- NEW! My Tax Savings Advice - H&R Block built-in advice gives users year-round tax savings tips and planning strategies.

PROFESSIONAL ONLINE TAX PREPARATION

Professional Tax Service - Complete, professional tax preparation via the Web

For those who prefer to have a professional do their taxes, H&R Block's most comprehensive Internet-based service, Professional Tax Service, enables users to conveniently collaborate with an H&R Block tax professional who completes their tax return. Clients submit information electronically, and an H&R Block tax professional does the rest. -- New! Simplified Online Questionnaire -- The Professional Tax Service's

- new, simple online questionnaire -- which takes about 10 minutes - provides the ability to ask questions and make comments throughout the process.
- New! Free, Live Support! PTS clients have instant access to support from H&R Block tax professionals via instant messaging.
- Personal Interview -- An experienced H&R Block tax professional calls the client, usually within 24 hours after they complete their tax organizer, to probe for tax-saving information and provide personalized advice. The tax professional and client continue to communicate until the return is complete.
- Signed, e-Filed and Guaranteed - Once the client approves the return, the H&R Block tax professional signs it and e-files it to the IRS. The return includes the H&R Block guarantee: if H&R Block makes an error in the preparation of your return, H&R Block will pay any resulting penalties or interest assessed by the IRS.

About H&R Block

H&R Block Inc. (www.hrblock.com, <http://hrblock.com>) is a diversified company with subsidiaries that deliver tax services and financial advice, investment and mortgage products and services, and business accounting and consulting services. As the world's largest tax services company, H&R Block served nearly 23 million clients during fiscal year 2002. Clients were served at the approximately 10,400 H&R Block retail offices worldwide and through the company's award-winning software, TaxCut(R), and its online tax services. H&R Block is the only major tax and financial services company that focuses primarily on helping middle-income taxpayers achieve their financial goals. Investment services and securities products are offered through H&R Block

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