Getting started with TaxCalc's Practice Management Solution

taxcalc®

TaxCalc's Practice Management Solution

Practice Manager Plus

Advanced workflow

Deadline management

Customise workflow events and transitions

Multiple dashboard

Multiple offices

Document Manager
powered by SmartVault

Online document storage

Branded client portal

Secure file sharing

Connected desktop app

Version control

Email alerts

Time

Create time logs and timesheets

Auto time tracker

Interactive visualisation of timesheets

Timesheet reviewer process

WIP Overview and outstanding WIP

Time Analysis

Work value and cost calculations

eSign Centre

Digital signing

Multiple documents per envelope

Multiple signers

Remind clients for signature

Control centre overview

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Getting started with TaxCalc's Practice Management Solution

TaxCalc's practice management solution works as the administrative powerhouse of your practice. Synchronising with all products across the TaxCalc suite, it allows you to take even more control of how your practice runs, creating greater productivity and efficiency than ever before.

With **TaxCalc Practice Manager Plus** you can have complete visibility of all work as it progresses through your practice, giving you instant access to comprehensive client information, advanced workflows and deadline management of statutory and non-statutory tasks.

TaxCalc Time, our new time logging tool, lets you track hours across job functions, making it easy to assess, analyse and approve time spent on both billable and non-billable activities, maximising chargeable time and allowing for more accurate billing.

Automate your document workflow with **TaxCalc Document Manager powered by SmartVault,** which enables you to securely store and share all your firm and client documents remotely using one centralised cloud-based solution.

The digital age of document signing is here! **TaxCalc eSign Centre** makes sending signed documents easy, minimising the time spent obtaining client approval for tax returns, VAT returns and sets of accounts. Preparing documents for electronic sign-off couldn't be simpler when using our eSign Centre workflow, the same ones you know and love so well in TaxCalc.

Let TaxCalc's practice management solution give you the tools to be more organised and more effective in everything you do.

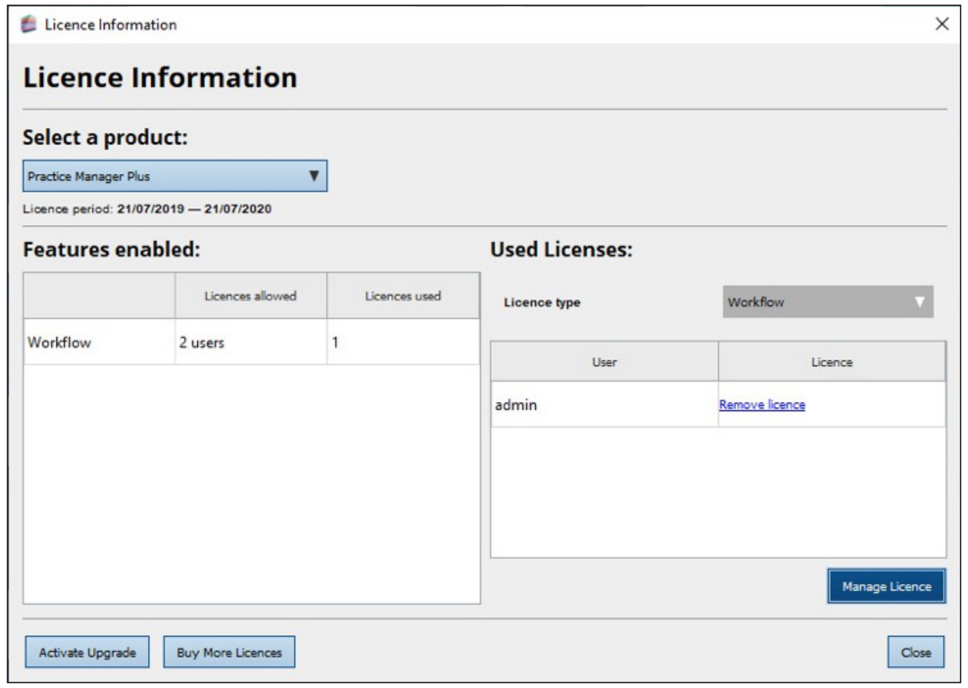
Getting started with Practice Manager Plus

Practice Manager Plus is the enhanced integrated practice management solution everyone's been waiting for. With TaxCalc's Practice Manager (the enriched and renamed version of our trusted and popular Client Hub) working together with Practice Manager Plus, you can be in even more control of how your practice works by creating, customising and co-ordinating all of your Jobs and Tasks in just a few simple steps. Whether you're a new or existing TaxCalc user, it's easy.

Step 1

Set Licence and User Permissions for Jobs and Tasks

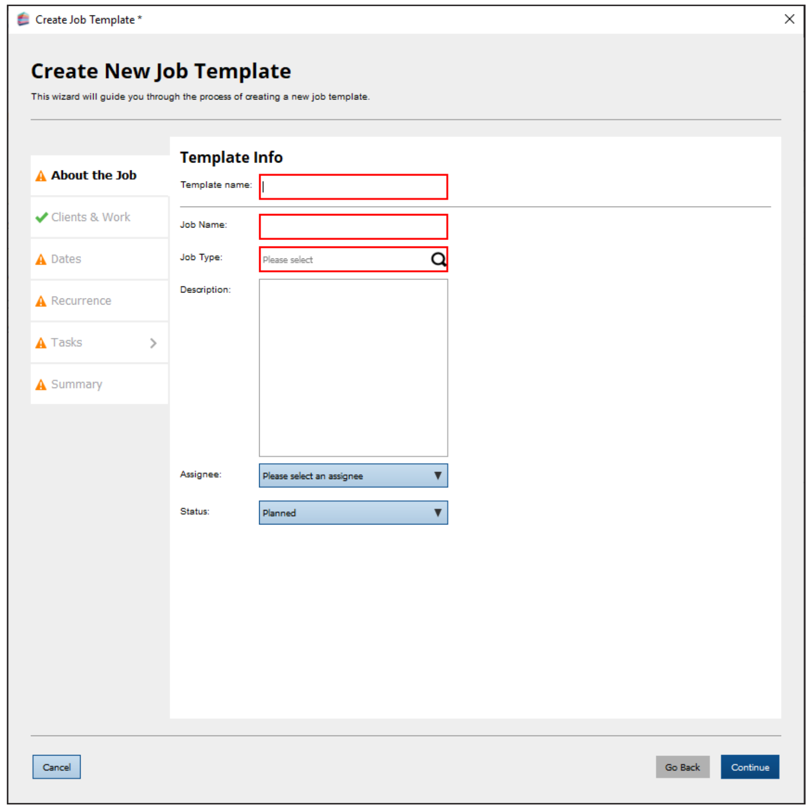
1) To get started, your Administrator is automatically assigned a Practice Manager Plus licence. You'll need to assign a licence to each user that requires access to Practice Manager Plus.



Step 2

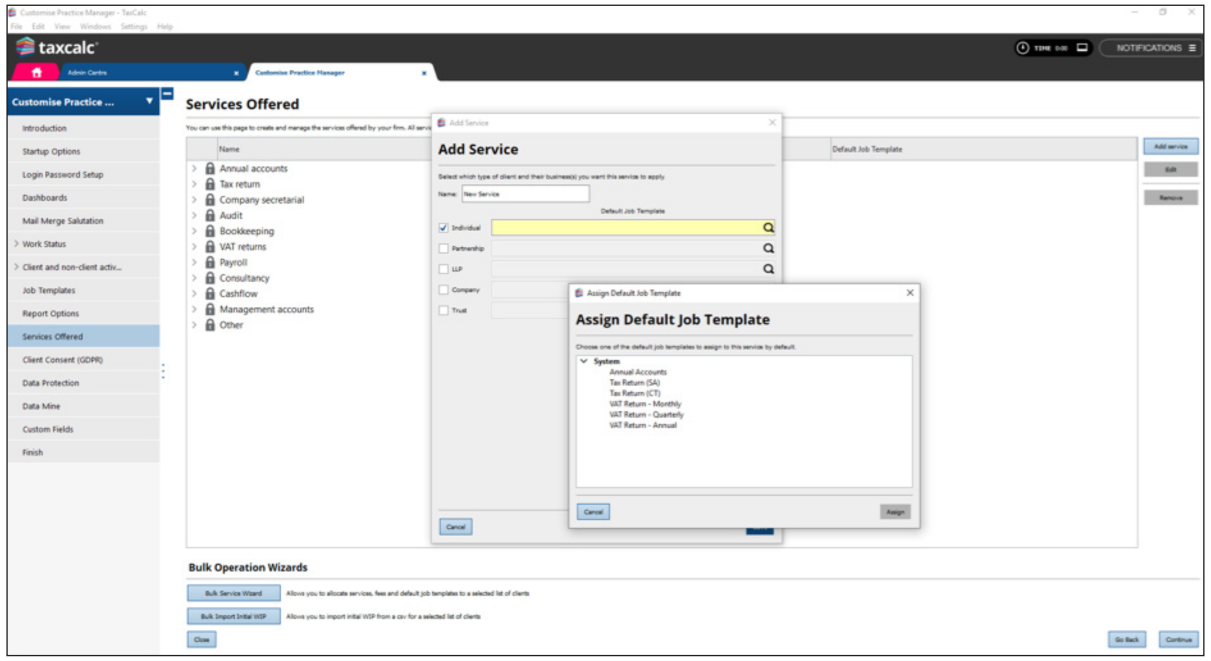
Create a Job Template

We're here to make your life easier, which is why you can now create one single Job Template with multiple Tasks to automate services offered by your practice, such as Tax Returns, to use time and time again. For more detail on creating Job Templates see [Knowledgebase Article 2978.]



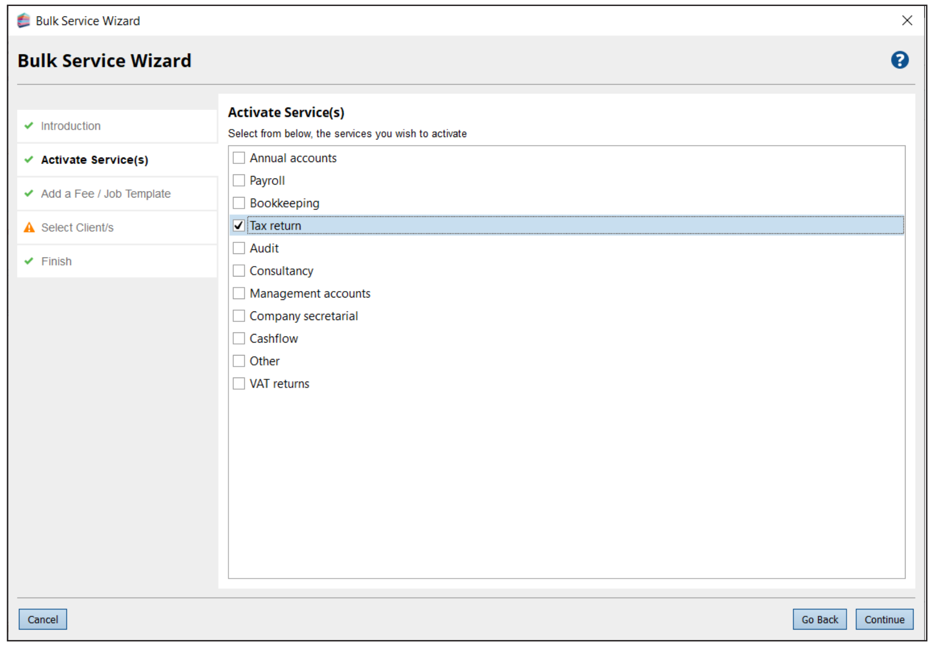
Step 3
Set up Services Offered

Once you have created your Job Template you can assign them to each service for your specific types of clients and their businesses.



Step 4
Bulk Activating Services for Clients

You can allocate services, fees and Job Templates for your clients. Instead of you painstakingly allocating each one individually, we've made things easier by adding a Bulk Service Wizard option where you can allocate all services (with corresponding Job Templates) and fees to multiple clients all in one place.

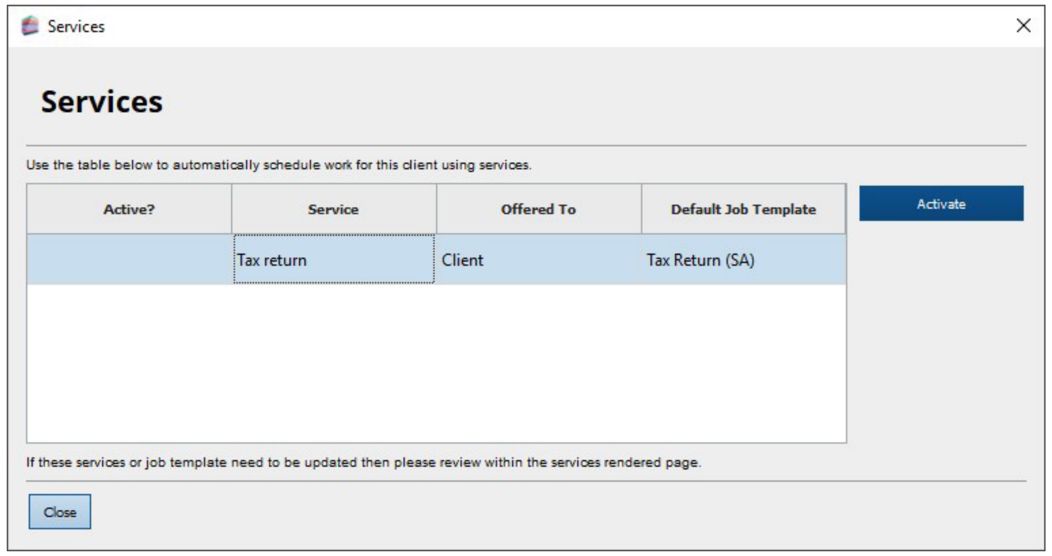


Step 5

Activating a Job or Task for a Client

Once your services have been setup and allocated to your clients, you can manage the associated Jobs and Tasks within Practice Manager. From here you'll be able to see what Jobs and Tasks are active and activate any new ones.

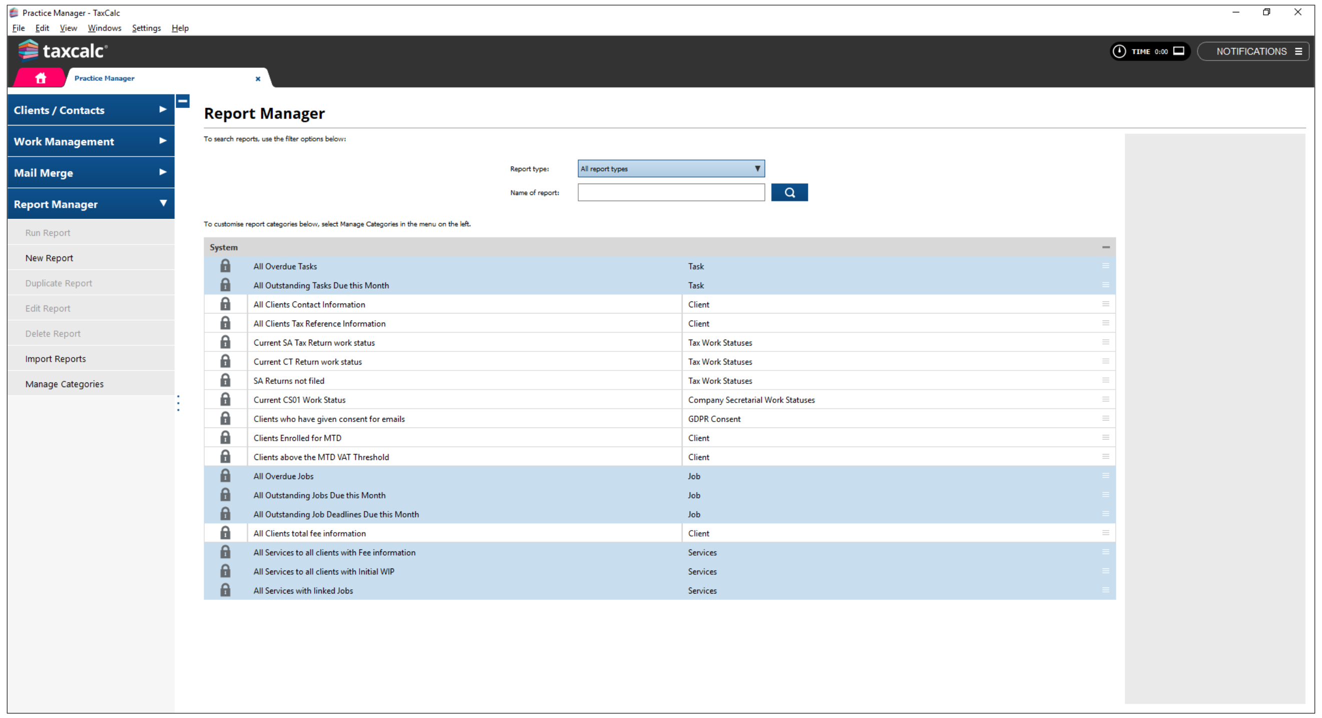
If you are already using Tasks in Practice Manager to manage your work don't worry. Follow this guide to create your Job Templates, allocate to your Services and activate your Jobs, and when you are ready, simply de-activate your existing Tasks. For more information see [Knowledgebase Article 2981](#).



Step 6

Running Job or Task Reports

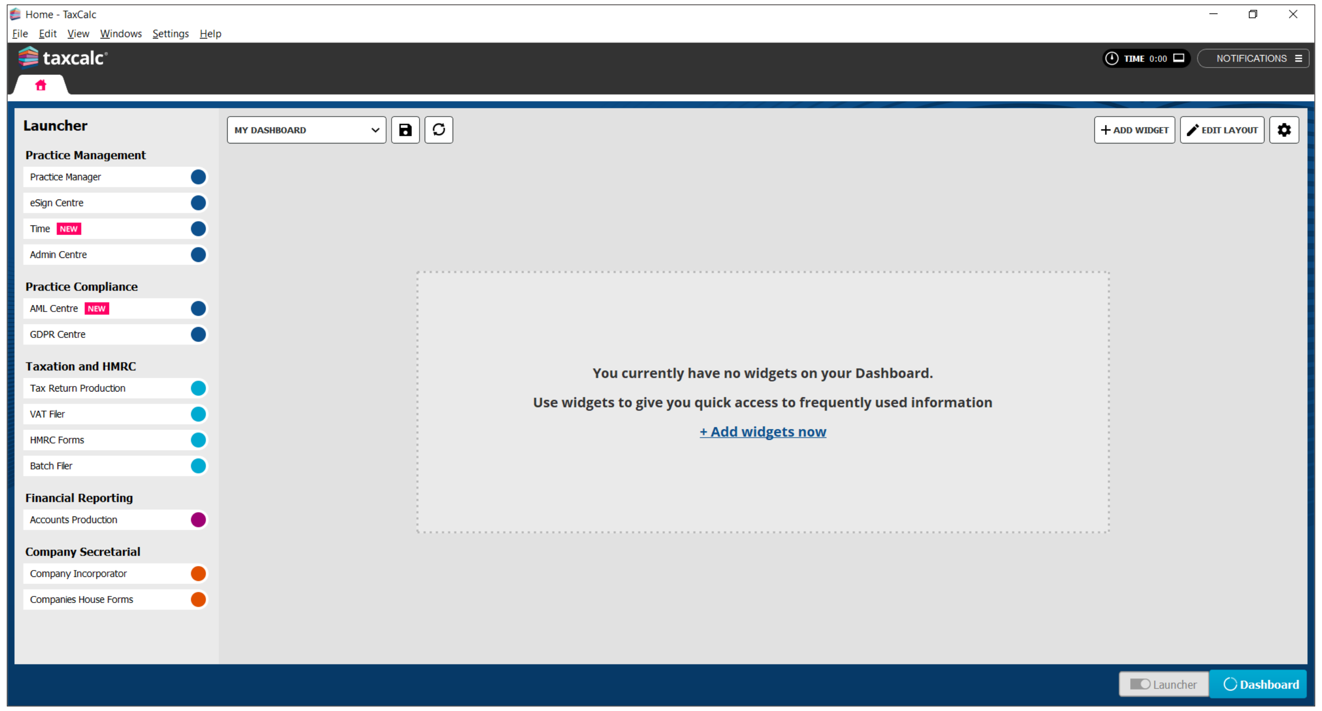
You can report on Jobs and Tasks to determine any overdue or outstanding Jobs or Tasks as well as any services with linked Jobs.
You can also customise and create new reports for your Jobs and Tasks.



Step 7
Using Job and Task Widgets on the Dashboard

Dashboard is a collection of widgets that can be added, removed and grouped to enable fast navigation to relevant information. It's designed to show data in a simplified structure, enabling greater efficiency for our Practice Manager users.

You can use Jobs and Tasks widgets to see at a quick glance which Jobs and Tasks are assigned to you or to other users and at what stage each one is at. You can then filter them by Task type and status or just view the Task summary to show a simplified view of the total number of Tasks for specific Task types and statuses.



Checkout our Getting Started with [Practice Manager Plus guide] for more detailed information.

Getting started with Time

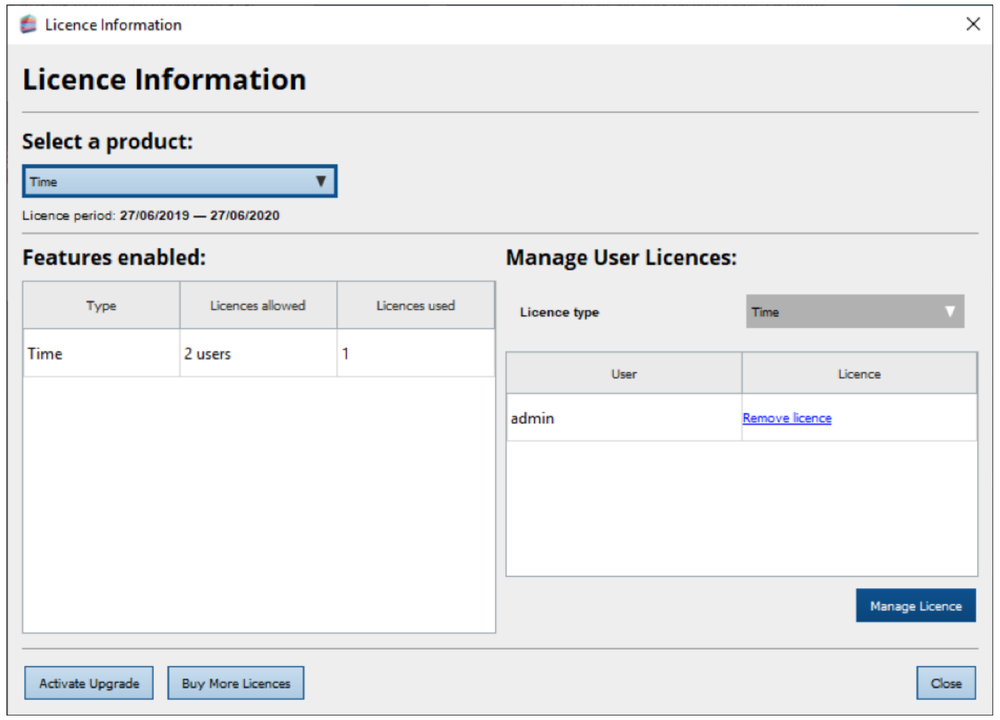
Get the big picture as well as the minute detail of all time spent in your practice. TaxCalc's new time-logging, automatic tracking and reporting tool delivers the information you need to assess chargeable and non-chargeable time and keep tabs on productivity in your practice.

Track chargeable and non-chargeable activity and generate reports to gain visibility of client profitability and staff performance. All your time-related tasks are made easy with TaxCalc Time.

Now you can actually see the value your people provide to your practice and clients. Working in harmony with every product in the TaxCalc suite, Time lets you track hours across job functions, making it easy to assess, analyse and approve time spent, both on billable and non-billable activities.

Step 1
Set Licence and User Permissions for Time

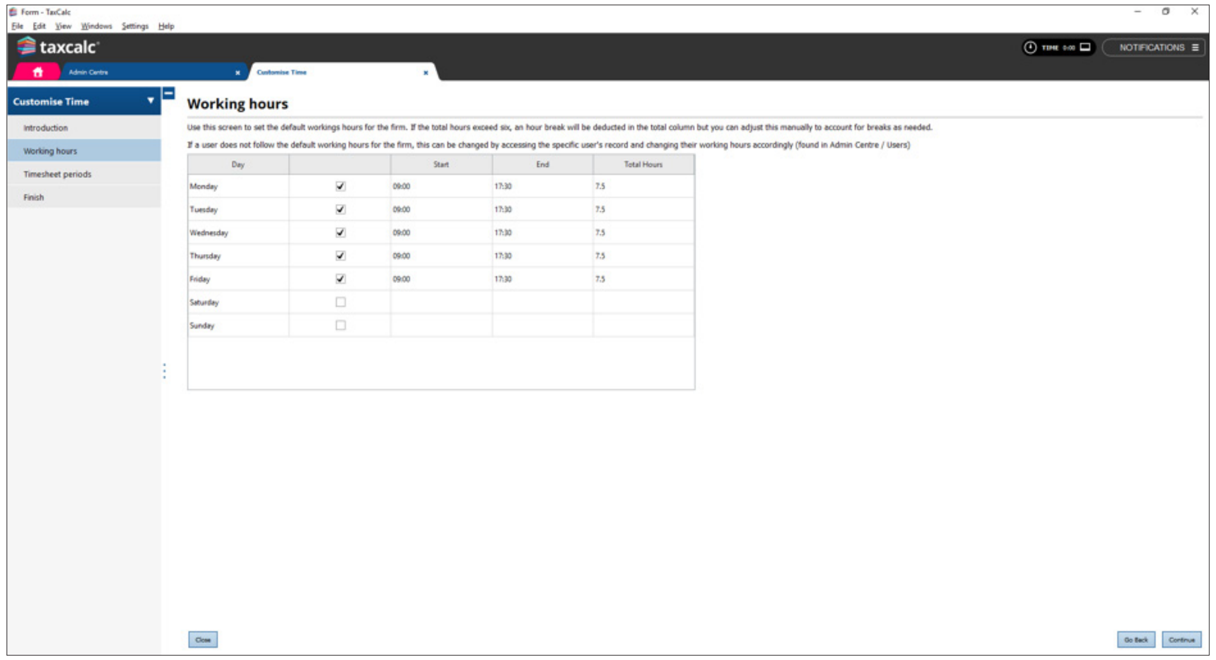
1) To get started, your Administrator is automatically assigned a Time licence. You'll need to assign a licence to each user that requires access to Time.



Step 2

Configure Default Working Hours and Charge Out Rates

By default, users are expected to follow the firm working hours. Within TaxCalc you can set your own firm wide and user specific working hours. If you provide any services to clients on a Chargeout rate (user) basis, you can set the users charge out rate to calculate fees as a default.

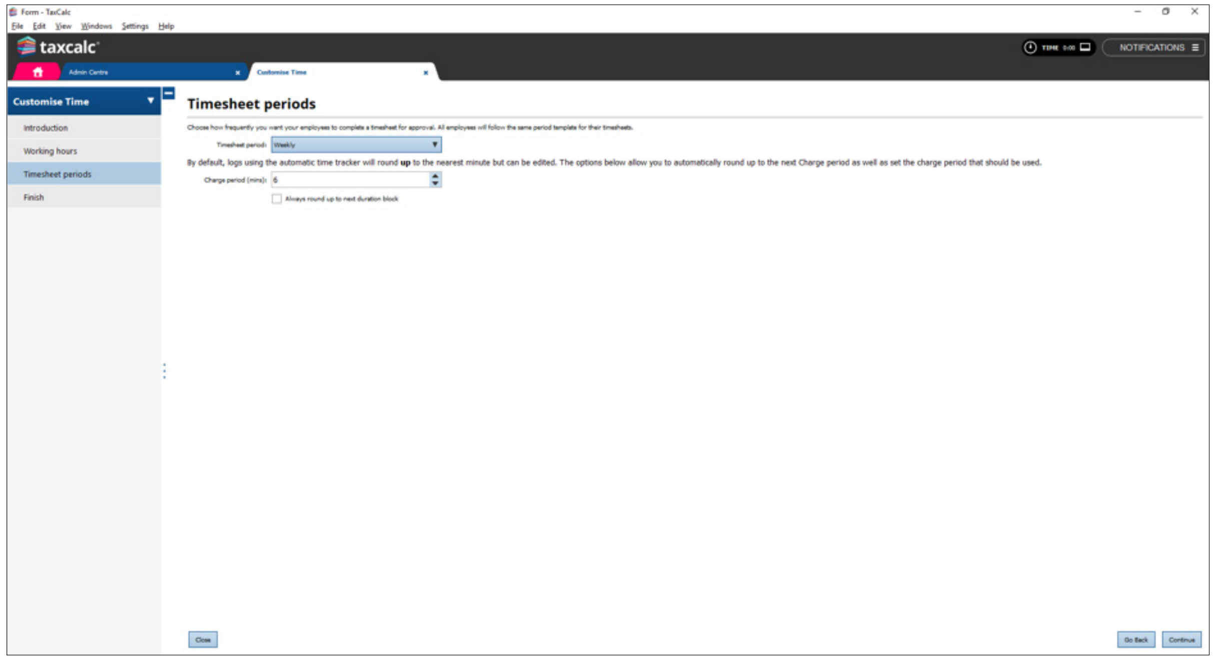


Step 3

Timesheet Periods

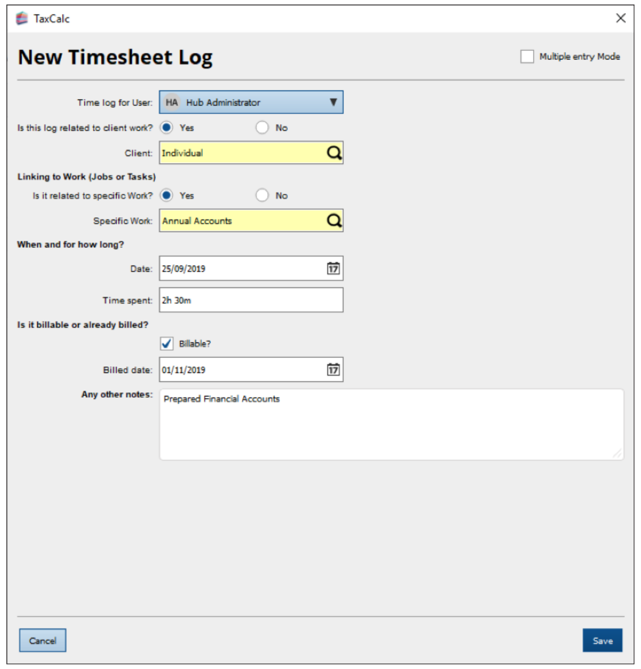
Choose how frequently you want your employees to complete a timesheet for approval in Timesheet Periods. You can set this to weekly or monthly, it's entirely up to you.

From here you can decide the number of minutes to round up time logged by the automatic Timetracker. By default, the automatic Timetracker will round up to the nearest minute, but you can change this to suit the requirements of your practice

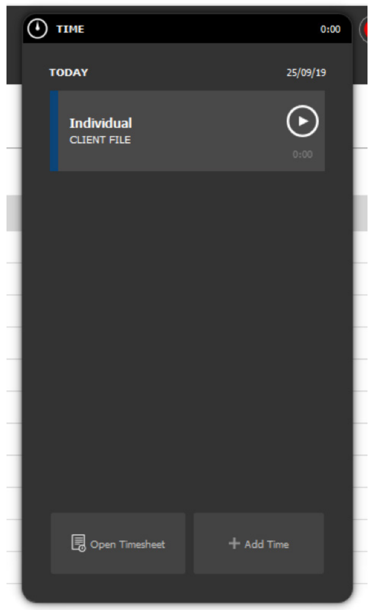


Step 4
Log Time

Use Time Logs in the Time module to log time against your clients. You can enter time against individual clients one by one, or multiple clients all in one go. Link Jobs to the time you're logging so that you can see exactly what you've been working on for each client.

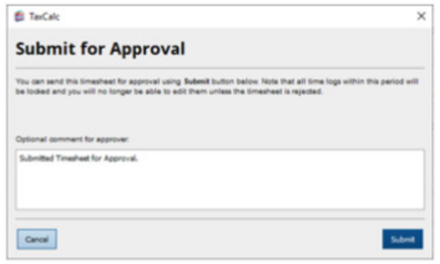


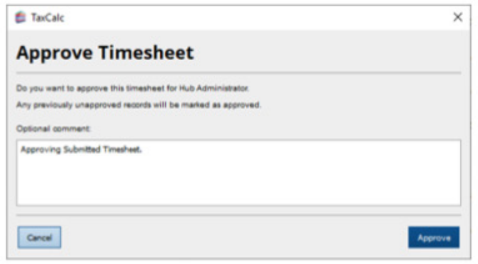
If you're working on a specific client or work item, look out for the red flashing prompt of the automatic Timetracker. Simply click the start button from the automatic Timetracker to start recording the time you're spending on the client.

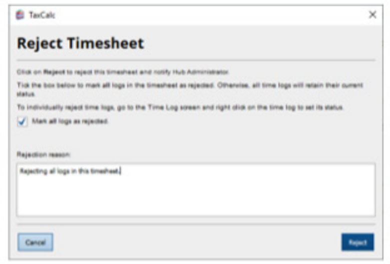


Step 5
Submit, Approve and Reject Timesheets

Once you have entered your time logs they can be submitted for approval. Depending on your permissions you will then be able to either approve or reject the time submitted.

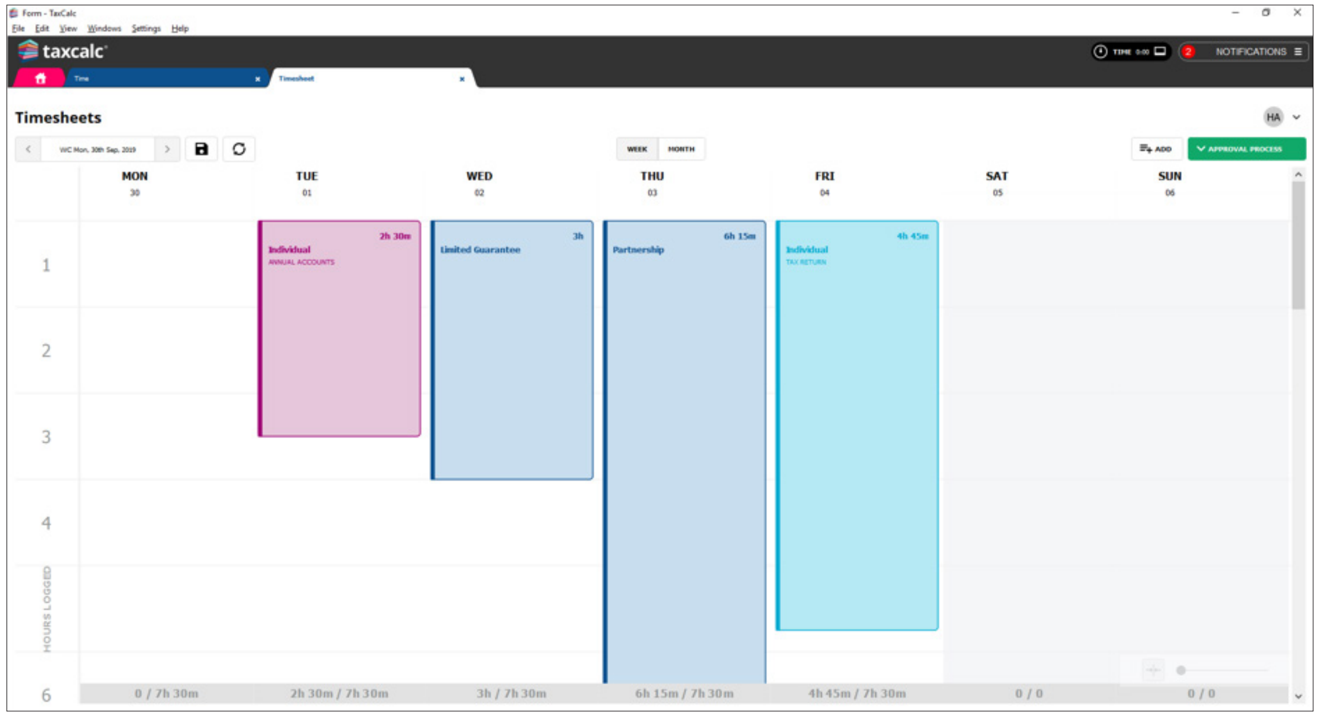






Step 6
View Timesheets in Calendar Mode

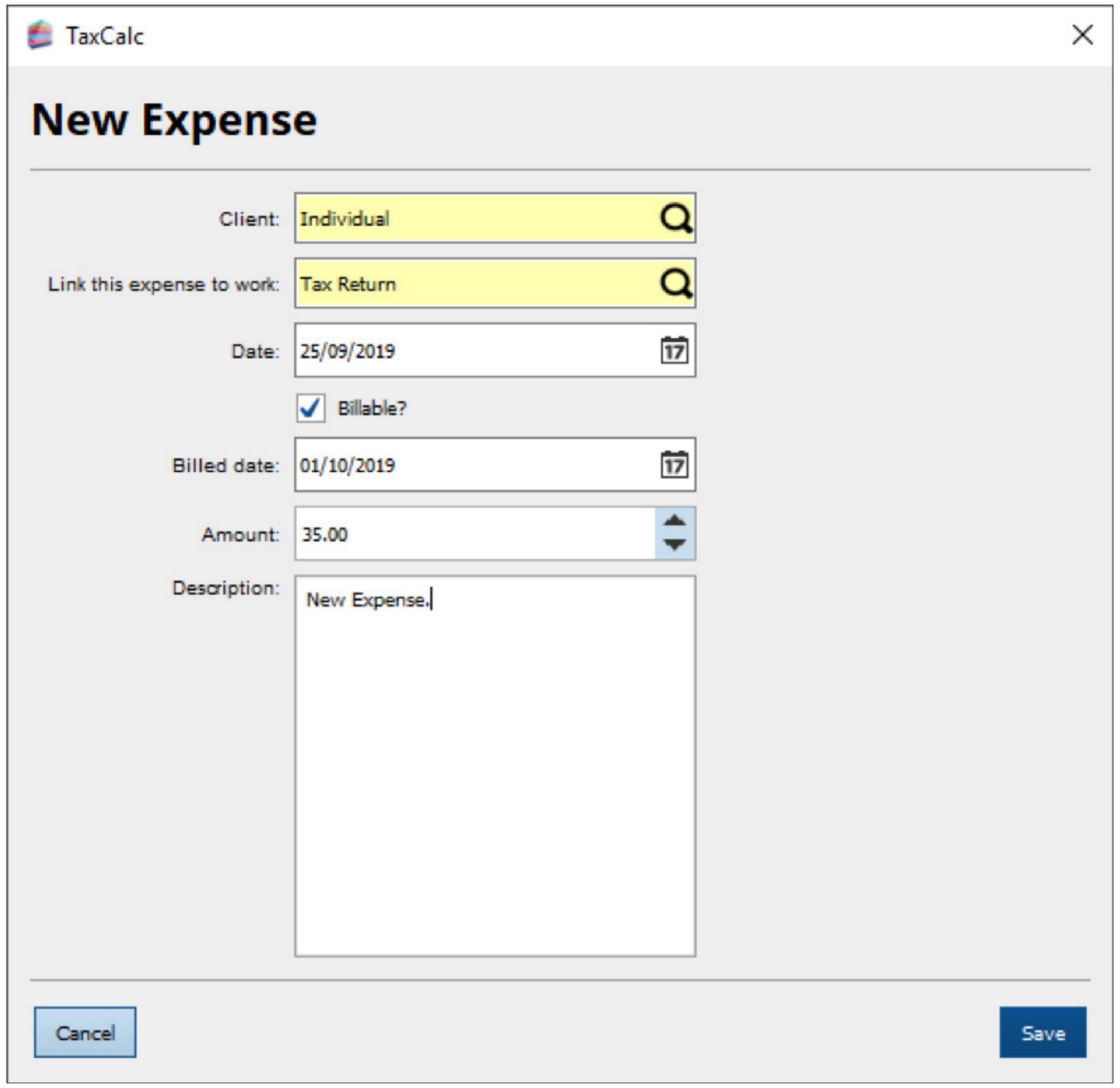
Managing timesheets in the calendar view enables you to manipulate the entries and make any necessary changes all in one place.



Step 7

Create Ad Hoc Expenses

Ad Hoc Expenses allows you to view and manage your general client expenses. From here you can add, edit and delete expenses where required.

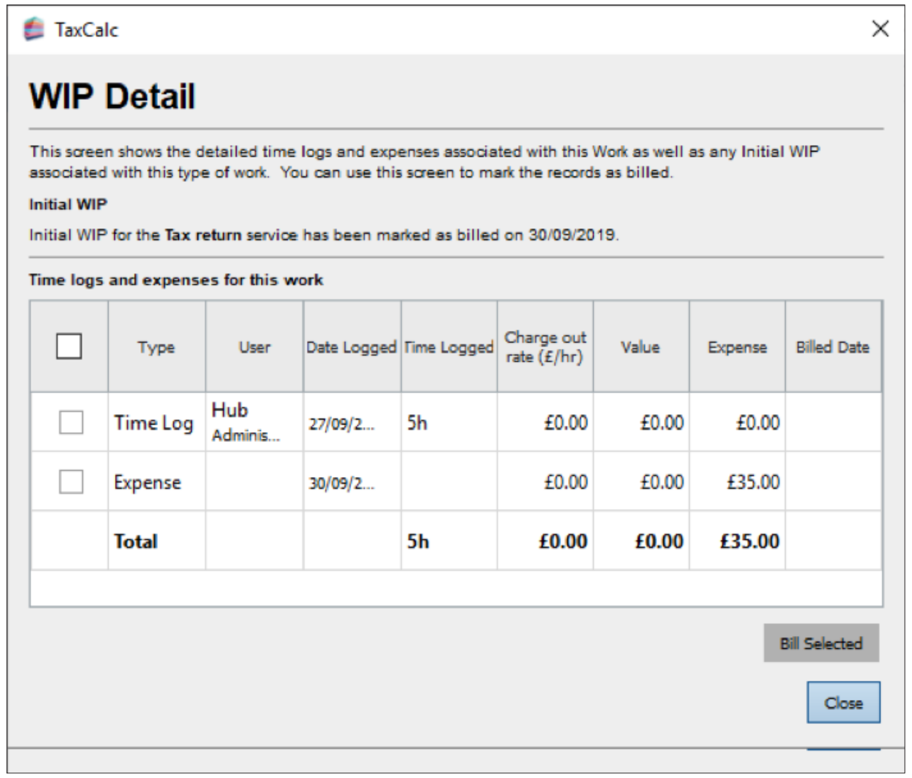


Step 8

Report on Time, WIP Overview

From the WIP Overview screen, you can see any imported Initial WIP, what clients you have logged time against, how much you expect to bill each client per service (either as a fixed fee or a charge out rate) and whether the client has been billed for the services offered. If you have added any expenses to the client, these are included here too.

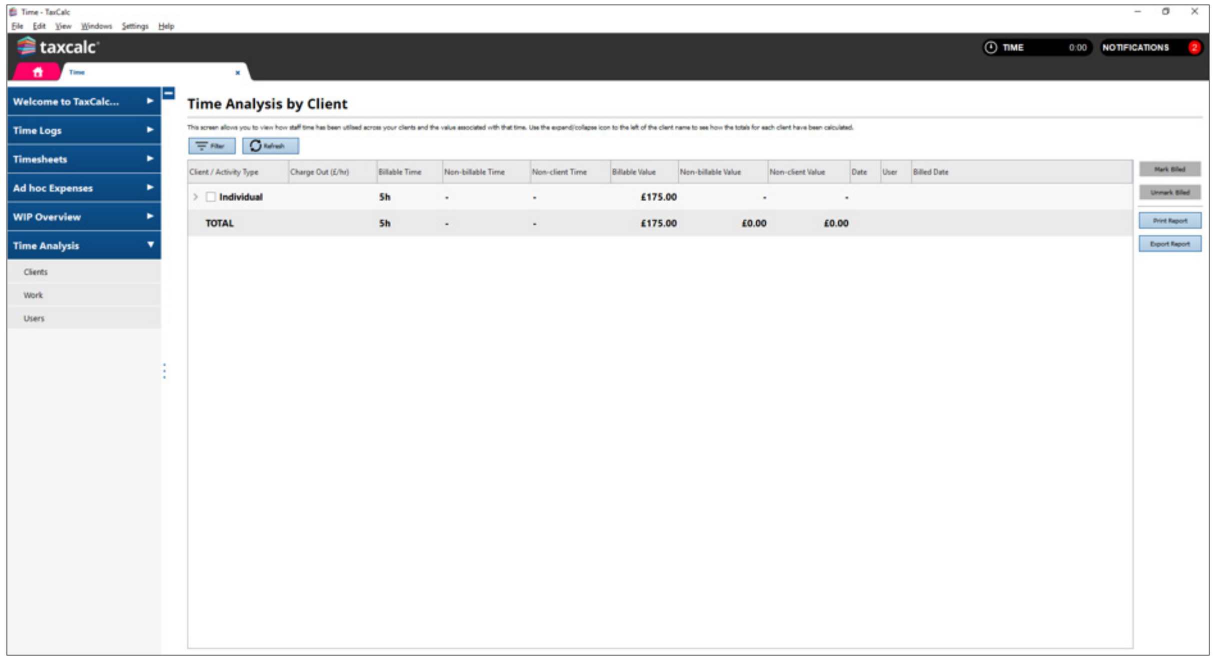
You can also export the WIP data to MS Excel where you can then use this information to raise invoices and billing for your clients.



Step 9
Time Analysis

Time Analysis allows you to view client related time logs and mark them as billed or unbilled. You also have the option to mark items as billed in bulk.

You can select to view the time logs by Clients, Work or Users. The displayed time logs default to the user logged in. To view other users time logs, set the relevant permissions in the Admin Centre, then select the appropriate user (or users) from within the filters panel.



For more detailed information, read our [Getting Started with Time guide.]

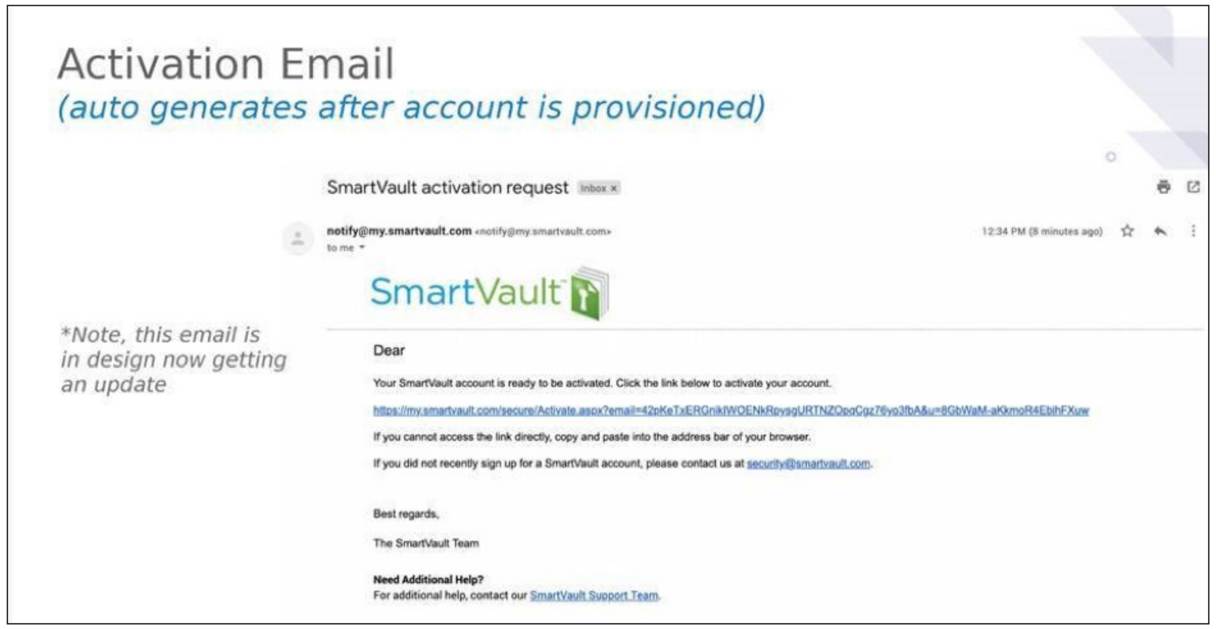
Getting started with Document Manager powered by SmartVault

Document Manager is an integral part of TaxCalc's Practice Management toolkit.

A complete solution for managing client documents, Document Manager offers the peace of mind that all your documents are stored and shared securely all in one place – from onboarding a new client to maintaining tax returns or accounts.

Step 1
Activating your Account

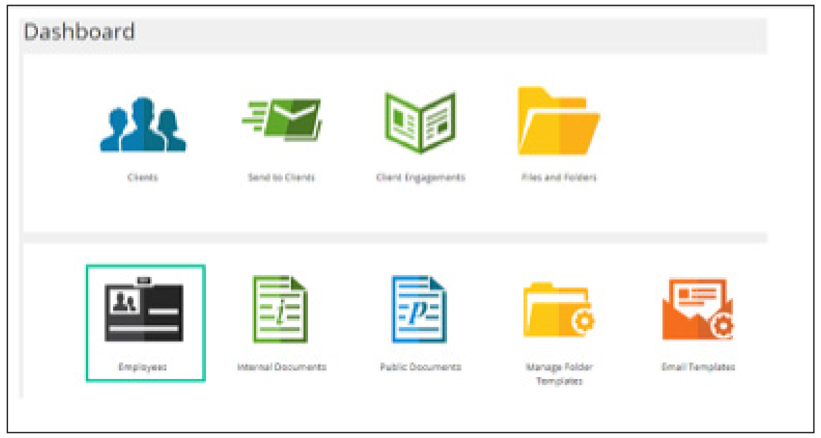
1) You will receive an email from SmartVault within one to two business days inviting you to activate your Document Manager account. Once activated, you'll be ready to go!



If you don't receive the email, please check your junk mail folder. If you still haven't received the activation email, please contact TaxCalc Support on **0345 5190 882.**

Step 2
Adding Additional Users

You can add additional users to your Document Manager account if required. When you add a new employee, an email invitation is sent to the employee that allows them to join Document Manager.



Click here for more information on how to add an employee to your account.

Step 3
Onboarding and Training

Once you've activated your account and logged in to Document Manager, you'll be automatically directed to the SmartVault home screen. From here, you'll receive a welcome email with a handy link to the SmartVault Getting Started Guides, which include comprehensive tutorials and videos to get you up and running as quickly as possible.

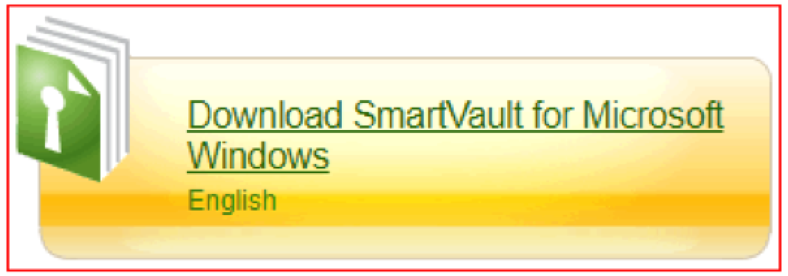
You'll also be given a link to the SmartVault Live Training Hub, where you can schedule your free 1 hour training session, after which you will be emailed links to helpful knowledgebase articles and furthermore, a 30-minute follow-up call with your dedicated Customer Success Manager to answer any additional questions you may have.

For more information about SmartVault onboarding and training please contact support@smartvault.com or call 01223 735906 and press 1 for support.

You will receive ongoing account management inviting you to any upcoming webinars and informed of any useful features. You will also receive a health check before your renewal date to ensure you're getting the best out of Document Manager.

Step 4
Installing Connected Desktop

Install the SmartVault connected desktop client for your Windows application, which provides a fully integrated connection between your computer and the SmartVault Portal, where you'll perform all of your document management.



Click here for more information on how to install the desktop client for Windows.

Step 5
Uploading a Document

Once you've had your training and you're all set up, you can easily upload your TaxCalc documents to Document Manager for secure online documentation storage and file sharing.

Step 6
Electronic Approval via eSign Centre

With Document Manager and TaxCalc eSign Centre you get the best of both worlds for online secure document management and electronic approval.

When you need formal approval from your client, simply use TaxCalc eSign Centre to pack your documents into an eSign envelope and send for signature. Once the signing process is complete, upload your signed document to Document Manager.

Please note:
You will need a TaxCalc eSign Centre licence to use this functionality.

Take a look at our Getting Started with Document Manager guide for more information.

Getting started with eSign Centre

TaxCalc eSign Centre dramatically reduces the time spent obtaining client approval for tax returns, VAT returns and sets of accounts. Simply send over an electronic copy of the document, ask the client to check and sign – you'll be notified immediately and you can submit the document straightaway.

Using our tried and trusted SimpleStep workflow, preparing documents for electronic sign-off couldn't be easier. Clients can sign on any device - smartphone, tablet, laptop and desktop – from anywhere at any time.

For more information on eSign Centre, see KB2875.