



How Does Gaines & Company, Inc. Grow, Manage and Protect Their Firm with CCH Access™?

Introduction

Just as most consumers have adopted cloud-based applications from banking to brokerages in their personal lives, accounting firms large and small have anticipated the benefits of a cloud-based, integrated accounting solution built on a common platform. That was the goal when Gaines & Company, Inc., a full-service accounting firm based in Zachary, Louisiana, began searching for a cloud-based solution that would improve efficiency and productivity. The firm had reached the limits of its server-based setup and began exploring new technology solutions that would improve efficiency and connectivity. They chose CCH Access, the award-winning cloud-based system designed to help firms grow, manage and protect their business.

“Our office had reached the point where we needed to connect more fully, move toward a paperless environment and improve efficiencies. Having been with Wolters Kluwer for over 20 years, we were excited to hear about CCH Access and couldn't wait to try it out.”

Bill Gaines,
Principal, Gaines & Company, Inc.

A Common Platform and Client Database

CCH Access provides an integrated common platform that enables firms to deliver tax preparation, compliance, document portals, workflow and practice management solutions using a single common core database. The single client database with fully integrated tools means that data flows seamlessly among the five CCH Access modules. This enables CCH Access users to complete more work in less time and with fewer resources.

Similar to your iPad® or iPhone® applications, CCH Access is a smart client that you download to the workstation. The workstation serves as a user interface from which to enter information. CCH Access also includes tight integration with Microsoft® Word, Excel® and Outlook®, which makes it easy to interface with those local applications. In fact, the data, calculations and business logic are all actually within the cloud environment.

Seeking 24/7 Accessibility

In addition to achieving efficiency gains, the firm wanted to seamlessly connect its second office to improve accessibility, drive productivity and set the stage for future growth.

“I have a remote office about 20 miles away, and CCH Access allows me to keep those two offices connected — something I wouldn't be able to do without the cloud. It doesn't matter where I am — I can be anywhere in the country and still have immediate access to all of my information at any time.”

Seamless, Expert Implementation

In addition to the improved and integrated functionality of CCH Access, Gaines was particularly impressed with the quick and pain-free implementation. His firm migrated from CCH® ProSystem fx® Tax with a migration program that transfers all client data into CCH Access. Every new CCH Access customer — whether a current Wolters Kluwer customer or not — gets assigned an implementation consultant to ensure the process goes smoothly.

“The transition to CCH Access was seamless and painless. Since CCH Access follows Wolters Kluwer methodology, we were able to start using it immediately with a minimal learning curve. Wolters Kluwer helped move all of our data, answered our questions and walked us through the transition from start to finish. It only took a couple of hours and we were off to the races!”

About Gaines & Company, Inc.

- Full-service accounting firm serving clients throughout the Zachary, Louisiana area
- Founded in 1977
- Four full-time employees
- Complete 1,000+ individual and business tax returns per year

Wolters Kluwer provides CCH Access training for both end users and administrators to get staff up to speed on each of the integrated modules, including:

- CCH Access™ Tax
- CCH Access™ Document
- CCH Access™ Portal
- CCH Access™ Practice
- CCH Access™ Workstream

Worry-Free Maintenance

Another benefit Gaines & Company experienced with the migration to CCH Access was the elimination of manual software updates. Wolters Kluwer handles all CCH Access maintenance, updating all modules automatically in the cloud.

“We used to do updates ourselves, and I was always lagging behind an update or two. Now, I’m on autopilot. There are no servers to update and the solution updates itself regularly, freeing up more time to get work done.”

Gaining Valuable Efficiencies

Moving to CCH Access has helped Gaines & Company migrate away from paper and gain significant efficiencies. The firm has been able to standardize processes and save time using the various integrated CCH Access modules.

“Compared to our process before, using CCH Access is like night and day. CCH Access saves us time to the tune of around two hours a day, which means we can either serve more clients or head home at a reasonable hour. Making the move to CCH Access was the right decision for us. I’d retire first before going back to the old way we used to manage the practice.”

Using CCH Access, Gaines & Company, Inc. was able to:

- Save over 500 hours per year through tight integration and smooth workflow
- Achieve additional efficiencies by migrating away from labor-intensive paper processes
- Standardize practices for greater efficiencies
- Eliminate the need for server updates

In addition to CCH Access, the industry’s only cloud-based, modular tax preparation, compliance and firm management solution built from the ground up, Wolters Kluwer provides world-class tax guidance, making sure professionals have the most current U.S. and international tax and accounting rules, regulations, news and analysis to mitigate risk and protect their reputation.

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CCHGroup.com/Axcess
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