

# The Modern QuickBooks Experience

How moving to QuickBooks Online with Island lowers costs and reduces risk while keeping the experience familiar.

## Modernize and Protect QuickBooks with Island

**Lower costs. Reduce risk. Familiar experience. Safe access on any device.**

### Who this is for

Business owners and finance teams (controllers, accountants, bookkeepers) who use QuickBooks Desktop and are evaluating QuickBooks Online.

### What you'll learn

- How to get the convenience of QuickBooks Online with the familiar experience of QuickBooks Desktop
- How Island helps you control who gets in and how sensitive data is handled
- How to safely extend access to outside accountants or bookkeepers, even when they use their own computers

### Quick summary

- Looks like Desktop, runs in the cloud. Island opens QuickBooks Online in a clean desktop style app window with no browser bars, so your team feels at home fast.
- One approved way in on any device. Enforce a consistent, secure sign-in route and keep sensitive data out of personal systems, even when bookkeepers or CPAs use their own laptops.
- Simpler stack, fewer headaches. Retire servers, remote desktop, and VPN just to reach accounting.

### Call to action

Ask your MSP, IT provider, or trusted technology advisor to show you QuickBooks Online in Island with a 15-minute test drive.

### Executive summary

QuickBooks Desktop works, but it often brings servers, remote desktops, VPNs, patching, and backups. QuickBooks Online removes that infrastructure. With Island, QuickBooks Online runs in a desktop style app window built as a custom progressive web app (a lightweight app that opens in its own window with no browser bar). You get a familiar, focused workspace and stronger control over who gets in and where data can go.

### Why now

Many businesses are planning the next three to five years around online tools. This paper shows a low-risk way to evaluate QuickBooks Online.

### Three outcomes that matter

1. One approved way in. Everyone signs in the same secure way, with Island enforcing your chosen path.
2. Keep sensitive data off untrusted computers. Prevent risky downloads or copying and keep files in company locations.
3. Desktop experience with minimal retraining. QuickBooks Online opens in its own window with no browser bars, so it looks and feels like a traditional desktop app.

## Desktop Experience

With Island, QuickBooks Online doesn't feel like a website in a browser. It opens in its own dedicated application window, providing a familiar desktop experience. It can even be pinned to the Start menu or taskbar to launch just like the desktop version.

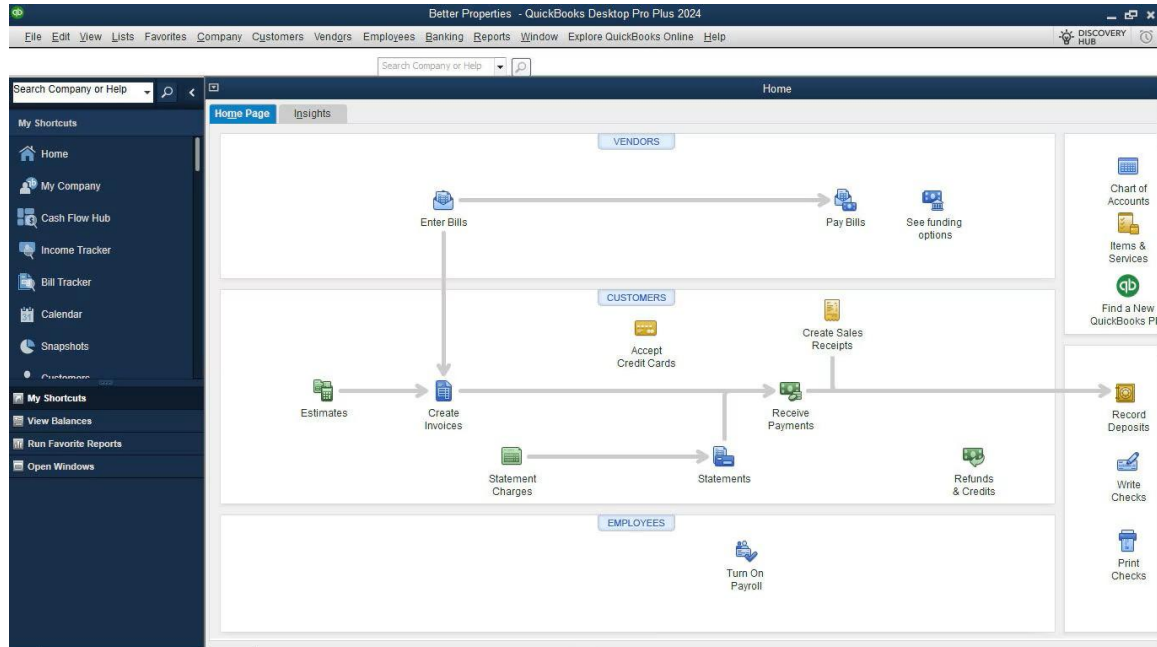


Figure 2 QuickBooks Desktop on Windows

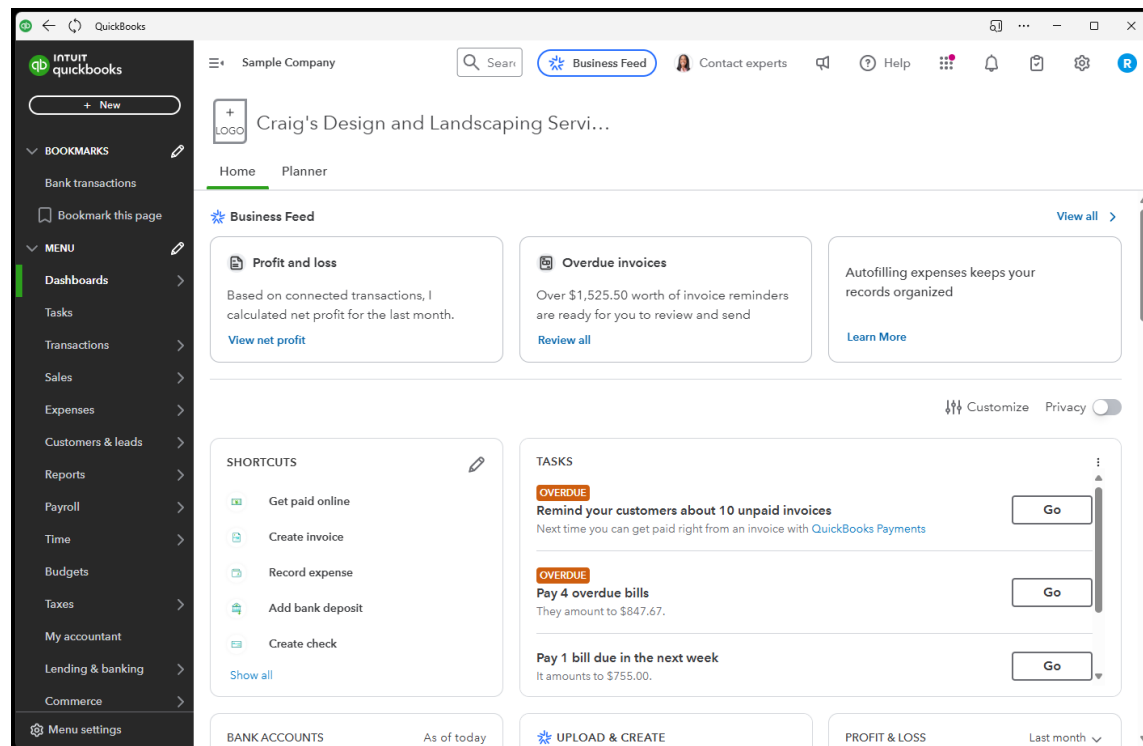


Figure 1 QuickBooks Online via Island Progressive Web App.

## What improves with QuickBooks Online and Island

- No servers to manage for accounting. Say goodbye to Windows file hosting, remote desktop tools, and VPN just to reach QuickBooks.
- Always current. QuickBooks Online updates in the cloud, so there is no version drift across machines.
- No disruptive upgrades. Updates happen automatically in the background. Instead of large, jarring version changes that can interrupt work or require IT help, improvements are rolled out gradually and subtly, keeping things smooth and familiar for your team.
- Easier collaboration with outside firms. Accountants and bookkeepers can work from their own computers while your data stays governed by your policies.
- A familiar interface. With Island, QuickBooks Online runs in a clean app window with no browser distractions, so daily tasks feel familiar.

## Your questions answered

### **I don't want QuickBooks in a browser tab.**

QuickBooks Online in Island launches in a dedicated application window without the browser frame. For users, it feels like the desktop version, making the move smoother and easier to adopt.

### **How do we control sign-ins?**

Island lets you enforce a single, approved sign-in route to QuickBooks Online for everyone. Think of it as one secure login path you require people to use. Entry is predictable, and your rules apply up front.

### **Our bookkeeper or CPA uses a personal laptop.**

That is common. With Island, you can allow access from personal or third party devices while preventing sensitive data from being saved or copied into uncontrolled places. In short, you can finally enable Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) safely when Island policies are set up properly.

### **Will it be fast enough?**

Many teams find QuickBooks Online as fast or faster than accessing Desktop over remote desktop tools. Running QuickBooks Online through Island removes the extra remote desktop hop and keeps the experience focused.

### **What about feature differences?**

Most day to day accounting translates well. A few specialized or industry specific features differ. If you rely on advanced inventory or highly customized Desktop only reports, review the guide below.

## Myths and facts

### Myth: “Browser means less secure.”

Fact: Security depends on how access is controlled. With Island, you enforce one sign-in route and keep data in company systems.

### Myth: “We will lose control on BYOD.”

Fact: Island policies keep sensitive files off personal devices and govern copy, print, and exports.

### Myth: “We must migrate data to test.”

Fact: It only takes a few minutes to test drive QuickBooks Online in Island using sample data. You’ll see the look, feel, and controls for yourself, with no migration required.

### Myth: “Online is always slower.”

Fact: Many teams see performance equal to or better than Desktop over RDS or VDI, because the remote desktop layer goes away. With QuickBooks Online in Island, the browser itself runs locally on the user’s device, so it performs optimally while still being controlled and protected.

## Is QuickBooks Online right for us?

If you are on the fence, start with the test drive first.

### QuickBooks Online and Island are usually a great fit if you want to:

- Lower costs by eliminating servers, VPNs, and remote desktop systems
- Protect sensitive financial data with built-in access controls and policies
- Enable safe access from any device (including personal or outside accountants’ computers)
- Simplify operations with fewer moving parts to manage and support
- Provide a familiar desktop experience that eases adoption and reduces training needs
- Gain peace of mind knowing your accounting system is always current, stable, and securely managed

### Staying on Desktop or Enterprise still makes sense if you:

- Depend on advanced inventory or manufacturing features unique to Desktop Enterprise
- Require deep job costing details or custom reports that do not map neatly to QuickBooks Online
- Rely on industry specific Desktop editions or legacy add-ins you cannot replace
- Operate largely offline or have very poor connectivity

## How Island Makes QuickBooks Safer and Easier to Use

- **Approved access every time.** Island becomes the secure front door to QuickBooks Online, ensuring only authorized users sign in and credentials stay protected.
- **Keep data where it belongs.** Island prevents sensitive financial records from being copied, downloaded, or saved to personal devices, and routes files to company storage when needed.
- **Safe access from any device.** Outside accountants, bookkeepers, and staff can use personal or unmanaged computers without putting company data at risk.
- **Desktop-style delivery.** QuickBooks Online opens in a dedicated app window that looks and feels like Desktop, making adoption easier with less training.
- **Audit-ready by design.** Access and policy events can be recorded to support internal controls, investigations, and audit readiness.
- **Backups.** Ask your MSP, IT provider, or trusted technology advisor about third-party backup for your QuickBooks Online data.

### Try it first: two easy ways

Safety note: Exploring the test drive or a trial does not affect your current Desktop setup.

#### 1) Test drive with Island

Explore a QuickBooks Online test drive company with sample data inside Island's app window. You can see the look and feel and the controls. No data migration required. Your MSP, IT provider, or trusted technology advisor can set up the Island portion so you can experience the approved sign-in and data handling rules.

#### 2) Trial with a copy of your data

Create a QuickBooks Online trial and migrate a copy of your Desktop data to validate reports and workflows. You can keep Desktop running while you test. If you prefer to avoid dual entry, do a short fit check in the test drive, then perform one last migration right before go live.

#### POV success checklist

- Time from click to sign-in under about 10 seconds
- Users describe the experience as "like Desktop"
- No sensitive files land on personal devices
- Key reports look right if you choose the trial route

#### Next step after a successful POV

Schedule your final migration with your MSP, IT provider, or trusted technology advisor and retire the extra RDS or VPN steps.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Do we need to change how our accountant works?**

No. They can keep using their own computer. Island helps ensure your data is handled according to your rules while they work in QuickBooks Online.

### **Can staff use personal laptops?**

Yes, if you allow it. With Island policies set correctly, you can enable Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) safely, giving access on any device while keeping sensitive data out of personal systems.

### **What if we try it and decide not to switch?**

That is exactly why we recommend a short proof of value. Validate your workflows first, then decide.

## **Next step**

See QuickBooks Online in a desktop style app with secure sign-in and data controls. Ask your MSP, IT provider, or trusted technology advisor to set up a 15 minute test drive so your finance team can experience it.