



“The amount of time it’s saved me is phenomenal”

Andy Housley, owner of Chesterfield-based Square 1 Accounting, explains how Xero Tax has helped him take control of compliance

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Introduction: Square 1 Accounting

Andy Housley, owner of Chesterfield-based Square 1 Accounting, explains how Xero Tax has helped him take control of compliance

Since setting up Square 1 Accounting in 2008, Andy Housley has built a loyal client base of sole traders and small businesses who value his personal service and one-to-one support. However, strong client relationships aren't the only thing Andy — who had a career in IT before training to be an accountant — prides himself on. *"I'm very technology-minded and always keen to be ahead of the curve,"* he says.

From the start, Andy wanted to harness the power of digital tools in his practice to help make life easier for him and his clients. He was an early adopter of cloud-accounting software and started using Xero in 2010.

"The thing I've always liked about Xero is that it's simple and it works," he says.

"Everything is very user-friendly." In 2020 Andy was one of the first to sign up to Xero Tax, Xero's end-to-end tax and accounts production solution designed to streamline compliance. "I know with Xero that anything that comes along is going to be something that can help me to be more efficient in what I do and how I provide a service to my client," he says. Xero Tax is available to all partners at no extra cost. *"When they said it would be free for Xero partners it was a no-brainer. It represents amazing value."*



Andy Housley
Owner
Square 1 Accounting

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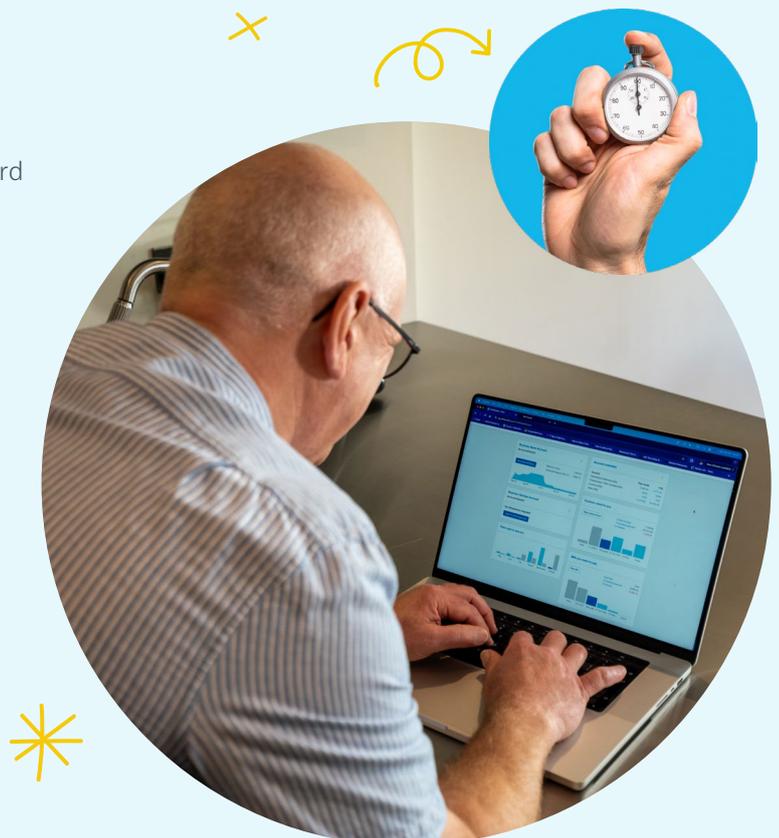
A faster solution for tax and accounts filing

Previously, Andy was using TaxCalc to prepare and file tax returns, which cost him hundreds of pounds a year. It also involved extracting data from Xero and inputting it into desktop software. *“It was a big manual process that was clunky and not very intuitive,”* he says.

Xero Tax fully integrates with Xero with data flowing easily and securely between books, accounts and tax returns. Once you’ve checked through and confirmed the information, tax returns can then be filed directly to HMRC. *“If I’ve done the first bit correctly, which is getting the accounts right in Xero, then the rest of it just follows through,”* says Andy. The first returns he completed using Xero Tax were so straightforward he initially thought he must have missed something.

“It was that fast, I had to go back to make sure I’d done it right,” he says.

With the bulk of his work focused on compliance, streamlining this process saves Andy a significant amount of time. *“Before I used Xero Tax, it could take an hour just to get to the point where I could start producing the tax return. Now I can do the whole thing in 20-30 minutes.”*



One **easy-to-use** tool for compliance

Xero Tax makes it simple to manage different types of clients, all in one place – and it’s always developing. With the recent addition of partnership tax, accountants and bookkeepers can now prepare and file accounts for partnership clients in Xero Tax, as well as for companies and individuals.

With Xero Tax, Andy already had a one-stop solution for company and personal tax, but now he no longer has to flip between different tools or spend money on extra software to serve partnership clients.

“It’s all in one place,” he says. He found filing his first partnership tax return a breeze, too. *“The way Xero has structured it is brilliant. It’s clean, it’s simple, it works.”*

With Xero Tax, a client’s tax return is an extension of their bookkeeping. There’s no need to import or re-import data, so there’s less chance of errors. And anything that doesn’t look right is easy to fix.

“You’re in control from start to finish,” says Andy. **“If you spot an anomaly part way through a tax return you can quite easily go back into the source transactions and change it.”**





Say goodbye to the January rush

The end-to-end solution also means he avoids the dreaded January rush. “I get all my tax returns out of the way,” he says. “From April 6, there’s nothing stopping me from putting all the tax returns in. As long as everything is correct in Xero, I don’t have to wait for anything.”

“I still find it incredible that it’s so quick.”

Like all Xero software, Xero Tax is cloud-based. This means everything is stored securely online and can be accessed at any time, from any device. “You can look at it at any time of day, from anywhere in the world, and I do,” says Andy. “I travel to China and India a lot, and it means I can work while I’m on the go. It’s so flexible. It’s improved my work-life balance no end.”

With compliance work quicker and easier thanks to Xero Tax, Andy has more time to spend on the important things — like growing his practice or time with his family. “I’m in a position now where if I want to, I can increase my client base considerably,” he says. “Or, it lets me take a day off in the week to spend with my grandsons. That quality of life is only there because I can look at my diary and see that everything is done or under control.”

He encourages other accountants and bookkeepers to take control of their compliance work with Xero Tax, too. “I can’t understand why some people haven’t signed up for it yet,” he says.

“It’s quick, it’s efficient, it’s secure and it’s in the cloud, so it’s always accessible. The amount of time I have saved by adopting it has been absolutely phenomenal.”



**Find out how Xero's integrated software,
innovative practice tools, thriving community,
and on hand accounting experts help increase
efficiency so you can do more**

