

TaxWise Desktop to TaxWise Online Comparison

You will find as you make your transition to TaxWise Online, that there are many similarities with TaxWise Desktop. Wolters Kluwer has made it its mission to reduce the differences there are between the two programs, to help reduce the learning curve involved as you make this transition. However, that leaves us with slight differences, nonetheless.

Similarities

To begin, let us review the similarities between the two programs, and then we can focus on the differences.

Let us start with similarities looking at the software:

- **Training Mode:** You can prepare practice returns in both the desktop and the online version of TaxWise. In TaxWise desktop, you use the Training user, and in TaxWise online you use a different URL, you go to : <https://twonline-training.taxwise.com/>
- **Interview Mode:** Use interview mode to enter data into the tax return. This feature is ideal for less experienced seasonal preparers or receptionists.
- **Forms Tree:** Both have forms trees that are located on the left side and have all active forms for that return in the tree for quick and easy navigation. Completed forms have a check mark and forms that are missing required information have a red exclamation mark.
- **Refund Monitors:** Both have a refund monitor that gives the preparer the AGI and federal and state refund or balance due as well as the Return Summary link which is F7 in TaxWise Desktop. They may look a little different, but they work the same and give the same information
- **Color Coding:** Color coding in returns is very similar. Red identifies required entries and black identifies direct entry. The differences here are that TaxWise Desktop identifies yellow as a calculated field, and in TaxWise Online a calculated field is lime green. For the overridden fields, TaxWise Desktop identifies this with a grey underline, where as TaxWise Online displays overridden fields in blue.

Next let us look at similarities as we work through a return:

- **Forms:** Any 1040 form that is supported in TaxWise Desktop is supported in TaxWise Online.
- **Linking:** You have the ability to link to supporting forms in both TaxWise and TaxWise Online.
- **Diagnostics:** Diagnostics in both programs run a preliminary check of the return and disables the E-file button if any diagnostic errors are found. In addition to diagnostic errors the diagnostic window lists Warnings, Overridden Entries, and Estimated entries giving you an opportunity to review them for accuracy.
- **Bilingual:** Both have forms available in Spanish, on screen or to print.

- **Apply for ITIN:** You have the ability to apply for an ITIN using TaxWise Desktop and TaxWise Online.
- **Return Stages:** You have the ability to create return stages in both TaxWise Desktop and TaxWise Online to help managing and tracking where in the process a return may be or why a return is in progress.

Lastly, other general similarities in the program:

- **Reports:** Reports are available in both TaxWise Online and desktop, as well as the additional reports available from the TaxWise Support Site.
- **Printing Returns:** You can print returns and customize print packets in both programs.
- **Printing Checks:** You can print checks using Online Check Printing (OCP) in both programs

Differences

Let us first talk about the differences in terminology. TaxWise Desktop and TaxWise Online have similar if not identical functions, but they are named differently.

The Table below list the functions available in both programs but named just slightly different.

TaxWise Features	TWO Features	Descriptions
Tax Form Defaults	Return Templates	Save time by adding forms and defaulting information that appears consistently across most, if not all, returns you complete.
Client Letters	Client Letter Templates	Both programs allow you to use default letters or allow you the ability to create your custom to attach to your client's returns.
Print Packets	Print Sets	Both Print Packets and Print Sets allow you to establish the forms you wish to print when printing returns as well as what order and how many copies to print.
Prep Use Form	Custom Fields	The Custom Fields adds the Prep Use Form into the Forms Tree of every return. This can be used to gather nontax info from your clients for example how did they hear about your business to help with tracking marketing responses.
Security Manager	Manage Users	Ability to create users and assign functions or roles to user based on their role in the organization.
Return Query	Check Return Status	This allows the preparer to look up the return status of a taxpayer's return while working in a different return.

i Keyboard Shortcuts are available in TaxWise Online as well, however, keep in mind that depending on what web browser you are using, the keyboard shortcut may be a browser shortcut, rather than a software shortcut. Example: F5 is the calculator key in TaxWise Desktop, but F5 refreshes most browsers. You can find a list of Keyboard shortcuts in Program Help.

Listed below you will find features that are available in TaxWise Desktop, but not currently available on TaxWise Online. Many of which we have on the roadmap to be implemented to TaxWise Online in the future.

- What if Mode?

Advantages

Both TaxWise Online and TaxWise Desktop have their advantages. For TaxWise Online the major advantages include:

- **Reduce Administrative Burden:** No installation and updating required on individual computers or networks as the program is maintained by Wolters Kluwer. You will no longer have the need to back up and restore as Wolters Kluwer backs up data. No carryforward or networking required.
- **Improved security:** No data is stored on individual computers as Wolters Kluwer secured facility stores all data. Wolters Kluwer has intrusion detection software that reduces the threat of your taxpayer data being hacked. No encryption software needed, and our servers and systems adhere to government security standards.
- **Greater Mobility:** With proper log in credentials, TaxWise Online can be accessed from any device with an internet connection. This allows you to troubleshoot problems or prepare returns remotely. The program is immediately available, as there is nothing to ship or download.

For TaxWise Desktop the major advantages include:

- **Business & Specialty Return Type Availability:** TaxWise Desktop can do a variety of business returns including 1041, 706, 709, 990, and 5500. AT this point both TaxWise Desktop and TaxWise Online support Form 1065 and Form 1120S business returns.
 - **No internet required:** There is no internet required to preparer a return using TaxWise Desktop. However, you will need internet access for downloading the program, updates and to e-file returns.
- i** Remember that when you purchase TaxWise Online, you also get TaxWise Desktop. This provides you with a backup to prepare returns if your internet goes down and also allow you to prepare your business and specialty returns if needed.