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Time and attendance software and systems can be a little confusing for people looking to track employee hours and attendance. It seems that there are several good options available. Ultimately, your choice will come down to a matter of preference and how much you want to spend. This article will give you a basic overview of how time and attendance software work, and why you might want to use professional versions, such as those solutions sold at Time Clock Pearl. There are three main types of tracking systems: the local network-based browser, the desktop computer program, and the remote server-based systems. The first and last of these are also known as web-based time clocks.

The main reason to use an electronic or professional system for tracking is for ease and organization. The other option would be to keep a physical spreadsheet or to have a paper log. But what happens is that you get a lot of content and mass accumulating, as the papers add up. You also encounter more errors and disorganization, when employees have to cancel and reschedule shifts, when they don't come in on time, when they over or underestimate when they clocked in and out, when they miscalculate total hours, when they lose track of vacation time, and when they write their shifts in the wrong slots. There are more ways to make a mistake than even these!

With a web-based time clock or a desktop time and attendance software system, you can be much more certain that hours are being kept with accurate math, and that the many different aspects of time tracking such as vacation time, overtime, tardy attendance, sick days, etc., will be calculated correctly. You can much more easily adjust misprints or errors, as well, and you can keep your database of history and information in one place, condensed in an electronic form, and more environmentally friendly, as well, because you aren't using loads of paper. You can easily distinguish between part-time and full-time employees as well, along with varying rates of pay among employees.

Sometimes smaller companies with fewer employees are able to handle time and attendance tracking with their own spreadsheets either electronically or physically. But generally, when a company hits about 25 employees, a web-based time clock or computer system becomes enormously helpful. A good time clock system will be able to accommodate for complex needs of growing companies. Sometimes you'II see companies with over 1,000 employees, and they need to find systems that can create complex yet agreeable schedules, handle labor planning, and perhaps keep an archive of desired schedules for all of those employees. Time Clock Pearl's systems are able to handle these demands.

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Riley Poole - About Author:

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