

ADAGIO SYSTEMS, LLC

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NoteSmith News 2026

October 2025

IRS e-filing changes -- Important

This is a reminder that the IRS has made significant changes to e-filing requirements and processes for information returns (1098, 1099, etc.). The threshold for mandatory information return e-filing has been reduced from 250 returns of a single type to 10 returns of all types combined. This means that far more people/companies will need to e-file their information returns. To e-file, you need a Transmitter Control Code (TCC), and the TCC you may have had in the past will no longer work unless you renewed it before August 1, 2023 (www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/about-information-returns-ir-application-for-transmitter-control-code-tcc-for-filing-information-returns-electronically-fire). To request a TCC, you need to first verify your identity through a new verification system called ID.me. Then, you will complete the "Information Return (IR) Application for Transmitter Control Code (TCC)" (see below). For more information on these requirements and processes, go to www.irs.gov/e-file-providers/filing-information-returns-electronically-fire. As always, we recommend that you review these new IRS requirements with your CPA or tax advisor.

IRIS and FIRE e-filing

The FIRE system has long been the IRS e-filing system for Information Returns such as 1098s and 1099s, and NoteSmith has and does automatically generate files to submit to the FIRE system. A few years ago, the IRS introduced the IRIS system, which initially only handled a limited set of information returns. However, the IRS has now expanded the IRIS system to handle a broad set of information returns (all types that NoteSmith helps generate). As a result, the IRS has just announced that it is retiring the FIRE system in 2027. We are looking into what will be required for NoteSmith to work with the IRIS system and we will keep you updated. In the interim, the FIRE system will continue to operate as it has in the past for the 2026 filing of tax year 2025 returns.

Spam

Our Technical Support team has reported a recent increase in the number of emails that are being spammed (that is, being automatically sent to the Spam folder). This is true in both directions - from the user to the Technical Support team and from the Tech Support team to the user. Our suggestion is to be sure to check your spam folders if you haven't received a timely response to your email sent to our team.

NoteSmith 2026 - Renewal delivery options

The new program is being finalized and tested. For those of you who need to purchase a new/additional license, the target date for availability of new, full NoteSmith 2026 licenses is November 15, 2025. *Renewals* in January will be offered three ways again this year. As was the case last year, the early mailing option has been eliminated, and **the only early option will be via download**. The earliest "Batch 1" delivery (for \$15) is a download option, with emailed instructions and Installation Guide sent around January 4. The middle "Batch 2" delivery option is also a download option (for no additional cost), with emailed instructions and Installation Guide sent around January 20. The latest "Batch 3" delivery (for \$20) is a mailed packet sent around January 20. With the costs of printing, postage, and labor increasing, the Batch 3 mailed option is no longer a "no cost" option. If you have a concern about the timing of your delivery, be sure to pay the few extra dollars for the "Batch 1" Express Download delivery.

Checks

Please make checks out to our company name:

Adagio Systems, LLC ("Princeton Investments" works, as well)

Also note that our correct street address is:

1001 E Harmony Road, Suite A-110

Fort Collins, CO 80525

Internet Security Software

This is a reminder about issues that sometimes arise due to recent releases of internet security, anti-virus, and firewall software programs as it affects programs installed on your computer, including NoteSmith. Two issues we sometimes see include:

1. *Random errors are reported by NoteSmith.* The program states that files are missing which in reality have been renamed by your internet security software. Your software renames NoteSmith files as it scans, then renames them back to the original if the file is clean. Multiple files needed by NoteSmith cannot be scanned quickly enough, either because your hardware is too slow or too many files are being requested in rapid succession, so the security software fails to finish scanning and does not rename the files. Programs such as Microsoft Word may open only one or two files in a session so you never notice this behavior, while NoteSmith needs as many as 14 files when recording a single payment.

2. *NoteSmith cannot access the internet to retrieve updates or newsletters.* Many years ago, NoteSmith added the capability of automatically downloading any program updates made during the month. Also, the monthly newsletter can be retrieved at the same time NoteSmith checks for updates instead of it being sent by bulk email. The newsletter is posted at the NoteSmith web site and the program will download it and any updates monthly. Some people have not benefitted from this because their security software is blocking NoteSmith from accessing the internet.

Both issues are easily resolved simply by making two changes to the settings in your internet security or anti-virus software. Tell it that NoteSmith (or NSWin.exe) is a trusted program and that you want to make periodic scans (hourly or daily) instead of continuous scans.

Thank you for choosing NoteSmith to manage your portfolio.

Daisy McCarthy, Manager of Licensing and Support

September 2025

NoteSmith 2026

We are putting the final touches on NoteSmith 2026 and testing is beginning. Your current program will pop up a message and allow you to print an invoice with your choice of options. Then a postcard announcement will be mailed in November to be sure we do not miss anyone. The 2026 update will be sent in January, with download options to save you time and money.

Delivery options for NoteSmith 2026: Once again, there will be three delivery options for next year, which are unchanged from recent years. The earliest "Batch 1" Express Download (for \$15) is a download option with emailed instructions and Installation Guide sent around January 4. The middle "Batch 2" delivery is a Regular Download option for no additional cost, with emailed instructions and Installation Guide sent around January 20. The latest "Batch 3" delivery (for \$20) is a mailed packet sent around January 20. With materials, labor, and shipping costs increasing, postal delivery is no longer offered free of charge.

IMPORTANT FOR NOTESMITH 2026 ORDERING: Standard delivery of NoteSmith 2026 will be Regular Download ("Batch 2"), with emailed instructions and Installation Guide sent around January 20. Download delivery - long the industry standard - is a faster, less expensive option that is also better for the environment. The Regular Download option is still offered for no additional charge. If you want either Express Download (\$15) or postal mail delivery (\$20), be sure your order includes your preferred option.

Follow the directions in this newsletter in the coming months, or as your program presents them in November.

IRS e-filing - Important reminder

As you are probably aware, the IRS changed the requirement for e-filing information returns such as 1098s and 1099s. If you need to file a combined total of 10 or more returns, you are required to file them electronically, starting with Tax Year 2023 returns (for filing in 2024). NoteSmith Pro and Net have included functionality to prepare the files for 1098 and 1099-INT electronic filing for many years. As always, we recommend that you review these new IRS requirements with your CPA or tax advisor.

NoteSmith Pro

A common issue we handle each year is: onto how many computers can NoteSmith Pro be installed? The simple answer is two, but only if those both belong to you, the NoteSmith Pro customer, and are never used at the same time. The only ways we license use of Pro is either 1. A working installation and one for backup just in case; or 2. A working installation at the office, backing up the data, and taking it home to the other working installation, which effectively is also a backup installation.

NoteSmith Pro is not licensed to two employees of one corporation. It is not licensed for use by you and your CPA, nor you and anyone else. NoteSmith Pro is a single (1) user software program. There is no two-user license for any NoteSmith program. If you have questions or concerns about this, contact technical support.

Changing calculated numbers

We receive questions on occasion about changing the amount of interest or the balance of a note by a few cents or a few dollars. Every question like this is handled the same way based on the fact that NoteSmith services somewhere between \$1-2 billion dollars of notes in any given month and that the formulae in the program have been stress tested with real notes for at least 2 decades.

This means that there are only two possibilities when the interest or balance needs to be changed. The numbers you used at the start are incorrect or the numbers you would like to see as a result are incorrect. You may have

seen an Adjustment function within NoteSmith that allows certain carefully protected changes to your accounts. It is explained distinctly on the relevant screens and in the manual, but I will emphasize that it is only for the use of land developers and even so, under limited circumstances as allowed by the IRS.

Please consider this information carefully and contact the NoteSmith technical support staff if you want to change any calculated number.

Summer is nearly over!

I hope you have a safe holiday weekend. Remember this is one of the more dangerous driving weeks of the year so slow down and take a few extra precautions while behind the wheel.

Thank you for choosing NoteSmith to manage your portfolio.

Daisy McCarthy, Manager of Licensing and Support

August 2025

Updated NoteSmith Websites Go Live in August

Refreshed NoteSmith websites will go live in August. Although content changes will be minimal, this update will make the websites more current in style and structure, improve navigation, and, most importantly, improve accessibility. Recent industry standards and regulations emphasize the need to make the digital world more accessible to people with disabilities, and NoteSmith is pursuing this important goal.

Although the "look and feel" will change somewhat, users familiar with the NoteSmith websites will find the same "Home, Programs, Order, and Support" navigation links that you have used for years. We hope you like the updated websites, and we welcome your feedback.

Updating to Windows 11 -- Deactivation

Due to Microsoft's end of support for Windows 10 (and 8.1 and 7) this October 14, you may be considering transitioning to Windows 11 on your current computers or upgrading to a new computer altogether. Please remember to follow the Deactivation procedure for NoteSmith (in the manual) before you change operating systems or computers. The updated operating system or new computer will not recognize your previous license activation. **The last step of Deactivation is to print a copy of the Deactivation Receipt. Please note that you have to tell NoteSmith to print the receipt, it does not happen automatically. This receipt must be submitted to NoteSmith Support to get a no-cost replacement activation.** If you have a problem with the printing of the deactivation receipt, quit at that point and contact NoteSmith Support immediately. Once the activation is lost, the only solution is to purchase an additional activation.

One other bit of advice: Don't get rid of your old computers until you are sure that NoteSmith is installed and the data has been restored completely on the new computers.

Online Backup reminder

If you use the optional NoteSmith Online Backup (highly recommended), or even if you use your own backup method, we have one simple piece of advice: make sure your backup is actually being performed! We have been contacted a number of times over the years by users who have lost their data for one reason or another (crashed hard drive or computer, user error, etc.) and have only then learned that the backup they thought was happening, wasn't. Don't start your backup and walk away; watch to make sure it is completed. And test the backup files from time to time. Backups are priceless when they are needed, but only if the backup files are there!

Lost passwords

A NoteSmith user once told us that their computer died so they reinstalled NoteSmith onto another computer. When they tried to restore from a backup, the downloaded file refused to open, stating that the password they entered was incorrect. This is not a NoteSmith issue; you must have your password to maintain access to your customers' data. Think of the reason for having a password: it is to keep prying eyes out of the sensitive financial data which belongs not to you but to your customers. Therefore, be sure to save the password and store it in a secure location. If you lose your password, we cannot recover it for you. We did not leave a back door into your data because a hacker would be able to access that door as easily as we could. *Just assume that if you lose your password, you have lost your backup data.*

Updating

We always encourage NoteSmith customers to update their program files at least once each year although once a quarter is more realistic. The program itself will do so automatically at the start of each month. Update your program now from Help, Technical Support to add recently modified features.

There is no magic to updating. Files are copied to your hard drive from our web site. You have to exit and restart NoteSmith by right mouse clicking and selecting Run As Administrator (see the printed or PDF manual for what that means) so the files can be copied to a special folder where Windows can protect them from outside, malicious intent.

You may have to tell your internet security software that NoteSmith is a trusted program so it can access the internet. All internet security and anti-virus software can recognize Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, and other widely used programs but has no idea if specialty software you install such as NoteSmith is safe. You have to tell it. Some suggested steps appear in the NoteSmith FAQ file at the web site or from Help, Technical Support.

NoteSmith 2026

We are coding NoteSmith 2026 now. If you have ideas for NoteSmith, now is a good time to send them to us. We incorporate suggestions into NoteSmith every year and although we may not be able to modify the code in time for next year's release, we will be happy to consider anything for the following year.

Look for our announcement in the mail sometime around Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, make sure you have our correct mailing address: **1001 E Harmony Road, Suite A-110, Fort Collins, CO 80525.**

Checks should be filled out to read **"Pay to the order of Adagio Systems, LLC"** (the parent company for NoteSmith) or **"Pay to the order of NoteSmith."**

Please note that if you pay using PayPal, the confirmation/receipt you receive from them will read "Adagio Systems, LLC." There was a name change for the parent company of NoteSmith several years ago from Princeton Investments, Inc. to Adagio Systems, LLC.

Email

We have supported NoteSmith by email since 1996, which is now nearly 30 years. We do this because email support, compared to telephone support, saves you thousands of dollars on your initial license and several hundred each year. Email allows us to send you exact steps in writing known to resolve your issue so you can refer to them in the future. Email also allows us easily to save the text of the incoming correspondence which is helpful for a variety of reasons.

Nearly all of you have provided us with email addresses. If you send us a question by email, be SURE to check that email account for our response. Also check your anti-spam filter in case our messages are being filtered and add our email address to your "White List" or "Trusted Senders List." We use plain text, no graphics, and no CAPs to reduce the chances of our messages being filtered, but remember we have no way to tell if your email account is blocking us.

August already! Where is the summer going?

Daisy McCarthy, Manager of Licensing and Support