

Welcome to our monthly Tech-Talk newsletter. We hope you find this useful, but as always, please contact us for further help or if there are any topics you wish to discuss.



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Xerocon Announcements

Xerocon 2025 did not disappoint, delivering a raft of updates that signal Xero's ongoing push to blend accounting technology with smarter automation. This year's keynote focused heavily on practice efficiency, with new integrations designed to cut down time spent on compliance work. Notably, Xero previewed enhancements to its bank reconciliation engine, using AI to automatically detect anomalies in transaction patterns. This promises to reduce the number of errors that slip through to clients while also freeing up valuable staff time.

A standout announcement was the expansion of Xero's App Store partnerships, including new links with payroll and expense tools popular in the UK and US markets. This reflects the broader trend of firms seeking to build

bespoke ecosystems around their practice, leveraging automation without adding complexity. Xero also doubled down on client engagement tools, rolling out improvements to Xero HQ designed to simplify workflows for advisers and improve transparency with clients.

What became clear is that Xero is not just refining existing tools but reshaping its role as a hub for connected practices. For accountants, the message was clear: adopting these features early could mean staying ahead of the curve as compliance deadlines tighten and clients expect quicker turnaround times. Xerocon reinforced that the future of advisory work lies in seamless integration and proactive insights, not manual data handling.

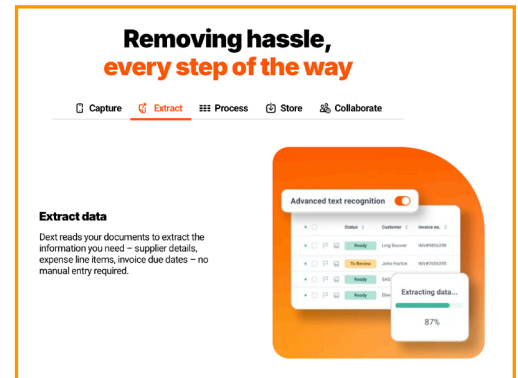
Dext AI Line Item Extraction

Dext has unveiled a major update to its platform with the introduction of AI-powered line item extraction, a feature designed to eliminate one of the most tedious bottlenecks in bookkeeping. Instead of manually coding each expense or relying on broad-level categorisation, the new functionality reads receipts and invoices line by line, extracting details such as items purchased, quantities, and tax rates.

The implications are significant. For accountants, this means a sharper level of accuracy in coding expenses and preparing VAT returns. For clients, it delivers transparency in how costs are broken down and ensures compliance with increasingly detailed reporting standards. Early adopters have reported reductions of up to 40% in time spent reviewing expense submissions, freeing up staff to focus on higher-value tasks.

Dext's move comes at a time when firms are under pressure to do more with less. By embedding AI directly into the workflow, line item extraction reduces errors, improves efficiency, and builds a stronger data foundation for advisory insights. The feature also ties neatly into the broader trend of automation-driven compliance, signalling a shift where manual data entry becomes a thing of the past.

For practices aiming to future-proof, adopting tools like this is not optional—it's a necessity. As clients demand real-time reporting and regulators push for digital-first compliance, AI-powered data extraction will quickly move from 'nice-to-have' to industry standard.



QuickBooks AI Agent Release in the UK

Intuit has officially rolled out its QuickBooks AI Agent in the UK, following successful pilots in the US earlier this year. The tool is being pitched as a virtual finance assistant that can handle everything from chasing late invoices to generating cash flow forecasts in real time. Built into the QuickBooks platform, the AI Agent is designed to take routine admin off the shoulders of accountants and small business owners alike.

What sets the AI Agent apart is its ability to learn from user behaviour. For example, it can spot when a client typically pays late and adjust forecast models accordingly. It also integrates seamlessly with QuickBooks' reporting dashboards, making it easier for firms to deliver insights without pulling additional reports or relying on third-party apps.

Early feedback from UK beta users suggests the tool has already saved practices several hours per week in routine tasks. For smaller firms, this can mean the difference between reactive compliance work and proactive client advisory. For larger practices, it helps free up capacity and supports scaling without expanding headcount.

The release also underscores the broader trend of AI assistants moving from concept to reality in accounting software. As competition intensifies between the major platforms, firms can expect AI to become not just an optional add-on but a core part of their technology stack.

The question is, who will come out on top Intuit Assist or JAX? Either way the true winner will be the users of either tool.

UK & US Tech Deal

The recently announced Multi Billion Pound UK-US technology partnership marks a significant step in aligning financial technology regulation and fostering innovation across both markets. The deal is designed to ease the flow of investment and accelerate cross-border collaboration for three main focus areas: AI, Quantum Computing and Nuclear Power. All linked in a way that will affect every working sector in the UK.

For accounting practices, this could pave the way for smoother integration of US-developed software in UK firms, particularly around compliance tools that historically face localisation hurdles. In practice, this might mean faster access to new AI-driven platforms for tax and audit automation, as well as broader adoption of US expense and payroll systems tailored for UK use.

Beyond the regulatory alignment, the deal also includes joint commitments to cybersecurity, data-sharing protocols, and responsible AI frameworks. This is an important signal that governments recognise both the opportunities and the risks of AI adoption. With cybercrime escalating and AI capabilities advancing rapidly, ensuring firms can adopt new technology safely will be crucial.

Ultimately, this partnership creates new opportunities for firms to modernise faster while minimising compliance friction. Practices that stay close to these developments will be best placed to take advantage of cross-border innovations and bring cutting-edge solutions to their clients.