

Distribute General Revenue and Expenses or Payroll Expenses

Document #:	3077	Product:	CenterPoint® Accounting
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Overhead expenses are those production and non-production costs not readily traceable to specific jobs, processes or profit centers. Although overhead expenses are not directly related to any specific area of your business, they do play a part in the profitability of each area. Account distributions can be used to automate the process of expensing overhead to divisions of the company (profit centers).

Expenses can be distributed by percentage, and can be distributed at the time the expenses are entered or later when you know exactly how they should be distributed. A distribution can be setup that distributes all overhead expenses or distributions can be setup for various scenarios (for example, distribute utility costs to the various entities of the business). Distributions can also be used to distribute unallocated revenue.

EXAMPLE: Overhead expenses, such as insurance expense, will be distributed to all profit centers based on each profit center's percent of total gross revenue. In our example, dairy is 55% of the operation. Crop is 45% with two crops of corn (60%) and soybeans (40%).

If the insurance bill is \$1,000:

- \$550 insurance expense would be allocated to dairy
- \$270 insurance expense would be allocated to corn
- \$180 insurance expense would be allocated to soybeans

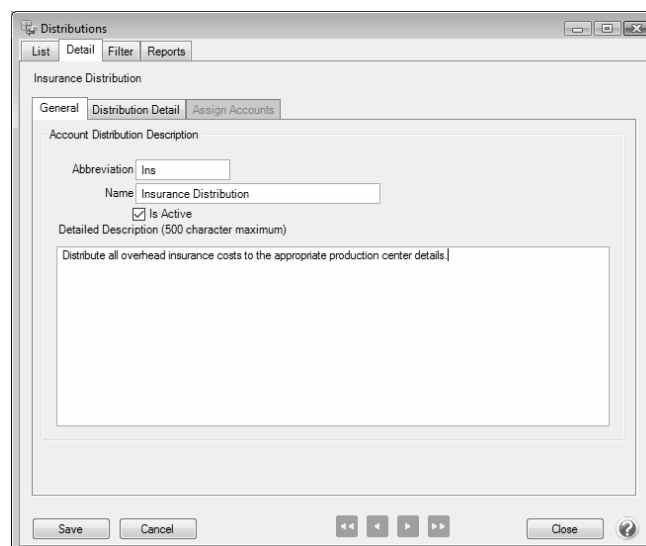
[Step A: Create an Account Distribution](#)

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Step A - Create an Account Distribution



The screenshot shows a software window titled "Distributions" with tabs for "List", "Detail", "Filter", and "Reports". The "Detail" tab is active, showing the "Insurance Distribution" configuration. The "General" sub-tab is selected, displaying the following fields:

- Account Distribution Description:** A large text area containing the text "Distribute all overhead insurance costs to the appropriate production center details."
- Abbreviation:** A text box containing "Ins".
- Name:** A text box containing "Insurance Distribution".
- Is Active:** A checked checkbox.
- Detailed Description (500 character maximum):** A text box containing "Distribute all overhead insurance costs to the appropriate production center details."


At the bottom of the window, there are "Save", "Cancel", and "Close" buttons, along with navigation arrows.

1. Select **Setup > Accounts > Distribution**.
2. Enter an **Abbreviation** (optional), **Name** and **Description** to easily identify this account distribution.
3. The **Active** check box will automatically be selected, clear the check box if this distribution is no longer active. If the check box is cleared, accounts cannot be assigned on the Assign Accounts tab and if accounts are assigned when the distribution is inactivated, a message displays reminding you that the accounts will be removed when the distribution is saved.
4. Select the **Distribution Detail** tab. The distribution tab will be used to identify how the expenses should be distributed. A distribution can be dispersed to an unlimited number of profit centers.
5. Click **New** in the lower left corner.

The screenshot shows the 'OverHead Distribution' window with the 'Distribution Detail' tab selected. The 'Name' field contains 'Regular Expenses', 'Type' is 'Percentage', and 'Timing' is 'At Transaction'. The 'Percentage of Total Amount' is set to 100.0000%. Below this is a table with columns for Profit Center, Location, Project, and Percentage.

Profit Center	Location	Project	Percentage
Memberships	Colorado Store		10.0000%
Memberships	Corporate		2.0000%
Memberships	Minnesota Store		1.5000%
Fishing Equipment &	Colorado Store		3.0000%
Fishing Equipment &	Minnesota Store		15.0000%
Fishing Equipment &	Illinois Store		4.0000%
Biking Equipment & S	Colorado Store		3.0000%
Biking Equipment & S	Minnesota Store		1.2500%
Biking Equipment & S	Illinois Store		2.0000%
Skiing Equipment & S	Colorado Store		38.2500%
Skiing Equipment & S	Minnesota Store		10.0000%
Skiing Equipment & S	Illinois Store		10.0000%

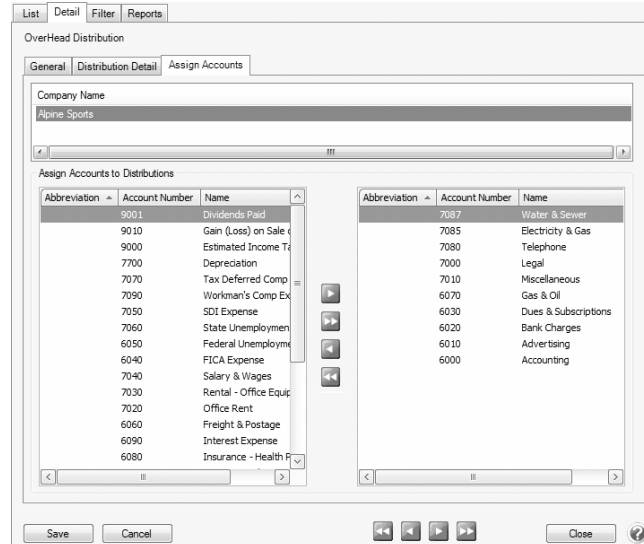
6. Enter a **Name** for this portion of the distribution, such as Regular Expenses.
7. Select the appropriate Type. **Percentage** will allow you to distribute based on a percentage of an amount.
8. Select the appropriate **Timing** option. Choose between:
 - » **Later:** This option should not be used for distributing Payroll expenses. This option will record the revenue or expense to the account but won't distribute it to profit centers until later when the Apply Distributions process is completed (defined in step D below). This option is for those that won't know at the time of purchase how they'll be using it, thus how they'll want it distributed.
 - » **At Transaction:** At the time the transaction is entered, it will record the revenue or expense and it will automatically distribute it to the previously defined profit centers.

 Note: If you are changing the timing for an existing distribution, an *Are you sure you want to change the distribution timing?* message will display to inform you that the timing selection affects the account activity included in Processes > Periodic > Apply Distributions and affects editing a general journal transaction that used this distribution. Click Yes to continue or No to cancel the change to the timing for the existing distribution.

9. Enter the **Percentage of Total Amount** for this portion of the distribution.
10. In the grid, select the appropriate **Profit Center** for this portion of the distribution.
11. Repeat steps 4-8 to identify each disbursement breakdown in the distribution. The **Total Distribution** field on the left will keep a running total of all details included in the distribution.
12. Click **Save**.

Step B - Assign Accounts to the Distribution

1. Select **Setup > Accounts > Distributions**. Highlight the appropriate Distribution and click **Edit**.
2. Select the **Assign Accounts** tab.
3. The **Assign Accounts to Distributions** area will list all accounts not already assigned to other distributions on the left side of the screen. Each account that should use this distribution should be moved to the right side of the screen by double-clicking on the account or using the green arrow buttons located between the account lists.



4. Once all appropriate accounts for this distribution have been selected, click **Save**.
5. You can verify the distributions you have assigned to accounts by printing any of the Chart of Accounts reports found in **Reports > Reports > Setup Lists > Accounts > Chart of Accounts**, **Chart of Accounts with Levels** or **Chart of Accounts by Distribution**.

Step C - Test the Distribution (optional)

The Test Distribution step allows you to verify that a distribution has been setup correctly. The test does not actually distribute the amounts, it just displays an example of what would happen if transactions were entered for that amount.

1. Select **Setup > Accounts > Distributions**. Highlight the appropriate Distribution and click **Edit**.
2. Select the **Distribution Detail** tab and click on **Test** in the lower left side of the screen.

Distribution Name	Percentage	Amount
Regular Expenses	100.0000%	\$ 35,000.00

Profit Center	Location	Project	Percentage	Amount
Memberships	Colorado Store		10.0000%	\$ 3,500.00
Memberships	Corporate		2.0000%	\$ 700.00
Memberships	Minnesota Store		1.5000%	\$ 525.00
Fishing Equipment	Colorado Store		3.0000%	\$ 1,050.00
Fishing Equipment	Minnesota Store		15.0000%	\$ 5,250.00
Fishing Equipment	Illinois Store		4.0000%	\$ 1,400.00
Biking Equipment &	Colorado Store		3.0000%	\$ 1,050.00
Biking Equipment &	Minnesota Store		1.2500%	\$ 437.50
Biking Equipment &	Illinois Store		2.0000%	\$ 700.00
Skiing Equipment &	Colorado Store		38.2500%	\$ 13,387.50
Skiing Equipment &	Minnesota Store		10.0000%	\$ 3,500.00
Skiing Equipment &	Illinois Store		10.0000%	\$ 3,500.00

3. Enter an amount in the **Distribute This Amount** field and click **Distribute**.
4. The total dollars are allocated based on the distributions defined on the **Distribution Detail** tab.
5. Click **Close**.

Step D - Apply Distribution (only if distribution in Step A was setup with the *apply later* timing option)

If you have chosen **Later** as the timing option on a distribution (step A6 above), there is an additional processing step that manually distributes the dollars. We recommend being consistent on the frequency and time you run Apply Distribution, such as at the end of each month.

Note: If **At Transaction** was selected as the timing option on a distribution, step D is skipped entirely.

Prerequisite

If the profit center breakdown in the Distribution Details screen were left blank in Step A8, they must be defined prior to processing Apply Distribution transactions.

1. Select **Processes > Periodic > Apply Distributions**.
2. Click **Create New**.

3. In the **Company** box, enter the company name that the apply distribution transactions should be created for.
4. In the **Transaction Date** box, the next "calculated" date to create apply distribution transactions displays. The date is calculated by taking the last date transactions were created and incrementing the date one month. The day of the month will default to the last day of the month, but can be changed.

5. In the **Transaction Number** box, enter the transaction number for the apply distribution transactions or click the sequence number icon and select the next available sequence number. See the [Maintaining Sequence Numbers](#) topic for more information.
6. In the **Memo Line 1** box, enter an optional memo for the transaction. In the **Line 2** box, if the transaction is assigned a name that was setup with a default memo, it will display automatically and can be overridden.
7. Enter an optional **Notation**.
8. Click **OK**.

Account	Quantity 1	UOM 1	Quantity 2	UOM 2	Amount	Edit
Accounting	0		0		\$ 648.00	Edit
Advertising	0		0		\$ 1,454.00	Edit
Bank Charges	0		0		\$ 134.40	Edit
Dues & Subscrip	0		0		\$ 95.00	Edit
Miscellaneous	0		0		\$ 31.24	Edit

9. If you wish to change the distribution amounts before posting, click **Edit** at the right of the transaction.
10. Click **Post** to complete the process.
11. From the List tab, you can perform the following actions on a posted transaction:
 - » **Edit a posted transaction:** Select the posted transaction, click **Edit**, change the transaction, click **OK**, and then click **Post**. The distribution transaction recalculates using the same date, company, transaction number, and notation.
 - » **Delete a posted transaction:** Select the posted transactions, click **Delete**, click **Yes**. All distribution transactions for the company and date will be reversed.
11. If you wish to change the distribution amounts in the Amount column before posting, type over the existing amount. Click **Edit** to add/change/remove account distribution detail lines and recalculate the remaining details (click **Reset** to set the distribution back to the amounts prior to any changes).



Hint: Setup a scheduled reminder and CenterPoint will remind you to Apply Distributions on a consistent frequency. View the Scheduled Reminder document for step by step instructions.