

# Uniform Accounting Network

The Uniform Accounting Network (UAN), a division within the AOS Information Technology Department, is tasked with providing comprehensive accounting and payroll solutions to local governments across Ohio. UAN supports a wide range of entities — including townships, villages, libraries, special districts, and cities — by delivering an integrated software platform alongside hardware, training, and support services.

The UAN system encompasses five primary modules: Accounting, Payroll, Inventory, Budget, and Cemetery. These modules collectively enable local governments to manage about \$7 billion in finances annually and process payroll for around 30,000 employees statewide.

In addition to the core UAN software, the division produces the Audit Work Bench (AWB), an add-on application used by AOS auditors and Independent Public Accountant (IPA) firms to perform audits of UAN clients. AWB updates are released after each UAN software update, ensuring that auditing tools remain aligned with the latest software capabilities and regulatory requirements.

## UAN Client Base and Adoption

UAN supports five entity types, with varying adoption rates:

Entity Type	UAN Clients	Total Entities	% on UAN
Townships	1,258	1,308	96%
Villages	535	672	80%
Libraries	174	251	69%
Special Districts	186	582	32%
Cities	8	251	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>3,067</b>	<b>70%</b>

This demonstrates UAN’s widespread adoption among smaller government entities, with townships and villages representing the majority of clients. Lower adoption among cities and special districts reflects the diversity of financial management practices and existing systems in those jurisdictions.

## Department Structure and Responsibilities

The UAN division is organized into three primary operational teams: Design and Development, Testing, and Support. Each team plays a critical role in maintaining software quality, operational reliability, and client satisfaction.

## Design and Development Team

The Design and Development Team is responsible for translating business and statutory requirements into functional software features. This team is divided into two subgroups:

- **Design Team:** Collects specifications, drafts requirement documents, and designs user interfaces. Input for design comes from multiple sources, including the Ohio Revised Code, IRS regulations, and the Audit Division. The team produces documentation covering screen layouts, validation rules, data storage protocols, and process workflows.
- **Development Team:** Implements features based on documented requirements. All code changes undergo peer review and unit testing to ensure adherence to quality standards before being included in release builds. Developers use Visual Studio 2022, SQL Server Management Studio, and Microsoft DevOps for source control, task management, and version tracking.

## UAN Test Team

The Test Team ensures that each UAN software release meets quality standards and functional requirements. Testing covers the full suite of applications — including UAN core modules, the Cemetery module, and AWB — using structured processes within Microsoft DevOps.

Test management involves defining iterations for each release, creating test tasks, test suites, and test cases. Each test case includes step-by-step procedures that validate both functionality and compliance with requirement documentation, which outlines overview, security, policy, processes, forms, data, and transaction rules. New features undergo complete validation, while enhancements are tested against historical revision records to maintain consistency and reliability.

## UAN Support Team

UAN provides a comprehensive support framework through **Application Support** and **Technical Support** functions:

### Application Support

- Resolves about 18,000 support tickets annually, tracked in the HEAT system.
- Provides in-person and webinar-based training sessions in Columbus and online. Over 60 hours of recorded training content are available on the UANlink YouTube channel.
- Coordinates with UAN Visiting Clerks, experienced fiscal officers who assist both the Test and Application Support teams and are available to entities seeking supplemental fiscal office support.

## Technical Support

- Manages all hardware-related issues for UAN-provided computers and printers.
- Oversees the selection, configuration, and deployment of new hardware at client sites to ensure standardized, reliable technology infrastructure.

## Current UAN Application

The existing UAN application, version 2027.1, was originally released in 2011. It is a multi-user client-server application developed in VB.Net with a SQL Server backend, and is distributed individually to each entity.

The UAN release cycle is structured to maintain regulatory compliance and incorporate enhancements:

**Year-End Release:** UAN version 2027.1, typically in late November or early December 2026.

**Tax Table Patch:** Early January release to update payroll tax tables.

**AWB Release:** February 15, aligned with the year-end UAN release.

**Budget Release:** UAN version 2027.2, approximately three months after the tax patch.

**AWB Update:** 2–3 weeks after the budget release to support audit functions.

Developers rely on Microsoft DevOps to manage source code, track tasks, and monitor testing across each release cycle, ensuring that updates are systematically validated before distribution.

## Planned Improvements

UAN is undergoing a multi-year transformation to rewrite the application as a hosted web platform. In 2021, the office released an RFP to select a vendor to supplement the UAN Development Team. Star Seven Six, in partnership with Workstate, was chosen to provide technical resources under a time-and-materials contract, supporting up to 10 personnel at a time.

UAN retains full responsibility for all deliverables in the rewrite project. As part of this transition, the existing User Participation Agreements — currently focused on client technology use — will be updated to reflect the hosted web environment. Each entity will be required to sign a revised agreement before conversion.

Pilot conversions to the new platform are scheduled to begin in early 2027, with full rollout planned later that year. Follow-on contracts are being considered to provide ongoing maintenance and security for the AWS-hosted environment. This modernization effort aims to improve scalability, security, and accessibility for all UAN clients.

## Summary

The Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) is a critical service of the Ohio Auditor of State, providing comprehensive financial management tools to local governments statewide. Through its integrated software modules, extensive client support, and rigorous development and testing practices, UAN ensures reliable accounting, payroll, and audit management.

With 70 percent of eligible entities currently using UAN, the system demonstrates high adoption among smaller governments, while ongoing modernization — including a transition to a hosted web application — will enhance long-term accessibility, security, and functionality. Through a combination of proactive development, robust support services, and strategic planning, UAN continues to fulfill its mission of providing high-quality software, hardware, training, and assistance to Ohio's local governments.