

6 accounting & bookkeeping lessons from Steve Wozniak

Our CEO, Adrian Blair, interviewed Apple co-founder and general all round good guy, Steve Wozniak. They spoke about how accountants & bookkeepers can align with the digital age and be the human focal point which tech can never replace.

Here are the six main lessons from Woz himself.



Work with tech which knows you

“For getting your work done, you need software which almost knows you on a personal level. It should remind you what you need to do even before you know you need to do it. That might be your phone telling you when to leave the house because it knows your route is busy or a system processing items for you while you work on other tasks so they’re ready when you need them.”



Quickly standardise your data

“The faster accountants & bookkeepers can standardise their data and get it into a database, the better. Find tools which help you make a simple picture out of all the complex data sets which your clients throw at you.”



Make client communication a specialism

“Communication as a skill is so important. At Apple, the communications department had total authority over new products. They could turn engineers down if they couldn’t explain what they were creating in simple terms. Accountants & bookkeepers should do the same. If you struggle to communicate with clients, have someone who specialises in taking your complex thinking and is able to turn it into an easily understood message.”



Break habits for tech adoption

“You might have “older” clients who don’t adopt technology as quickly as you’d like. It’s not a problem with their brains, their logic or ability to reason, it’s because they’re stuck in their habits. And once it’s a habit, it’s hard to break away. Help clients to break their habits of say, dropping off loads of paperwork which you need to deal with by refusing to take it unless they digitise it for you. Be radical and break the habit.”



Inspire the next generation

“Always give yourself and be a mentor at work to others. Show them what you’ve gone through before and how you’ve learned from it. You can definitely apply this to accounting and bookkeeping, helping both team members and clients through complex procedures. Be open to honest sharing – especially with younger people.”



Software will never replace you

“We’ve got to emphasise the importance of the human. The bookkeeper and the accountant have an important role in life. You can’t override that with software.”

