



Mvelopes: Save Money With This Service

Online budget service helps you track where your money goes.

Tom Mainelli, PC World

Tired of wondering where all your money's gone a week after payday? Online service Mvelopes Personal can help you track your spending – down to the last dime – so you can budget your paychecks and maybe have a little cash left over. The service isn't perfect, but a recent update makes managing your money remarkably close to painless.

The company recently rolled out a new version 3.0, a new Adobe-Flex based platform that uses Flash Player 8.0 to make the interface run more quickly and smoothly.

Are You in the Red?

So how does it work? When you sign up, the setup assistant walks you through the process of connecting the service to all of your online financial accounts—everything from your checking and savings account to your credit cards. You ... set aside money in your own list of Mvelopes to pay for everything that you spend money on...

As you pay your various bills the transactions appear online, and you drag and drop them into their appropriate Mvelopes. At the end of the month, you see which Mvelopes still have money in them and which ones are (gasp) in the red, and then you juggle the balances accordingly. If you play the game right, and you watch you Mvelopes closely, you'll likely stop spending more than you make.

It Just Works

With this latest update, Mvelopes has become an even more usable service. It continues to work better for me than Intuit's Quicken or Microsoft Money for budgeting.

Rating: 84 Very Good