



# How PD Abacus, the Ultimate Royalty Splitting Solution, Saves Hours of Time for Co-Authors and Publishing Teams

A Case Study Featuring Michael Anderle and Other Bestselling Authors

PublishDrive, a global self-publishing platform, has developed the ultimate royalty splitting solution - PD Abacus. This service makes it easy to calculate co-author royalties, keep track of team costs, distribute royalty reports to contributors, and more.





## THE PROBLEM

Today's self-publishing landscape requires a rapid release schedule and robust marketing to succeed; many indie authors and publishers are using collaboration to meet these demands. But what they've always lacked is a convenient, reliable method for splitting royalties and managing shared costs every month.

And without royalty management tools that are on par with traditional publishing, it's difficult for authors and publishers to scale their digital businesses in a fast-paced industry.

Most of the authors we spoke to when conducting this case study were relying on manual methods to split royalties. Michael Anderle, bestselling author and CEO of [LMBPN Publishing](#)<sup>1</sup>, spent 20+ hours on this monthly task. He stated this method had two major pain points:

*"First was hours expended for the royalty process. The second was the number of times we needed to check and recheck our numbers since so much of what was done to compile the royalty payment information was manual."*

[J. Thorn](#)<sup>2</sup>, bestselling author and co-owner of Molten Universe Media, encountered some of the same issues. *"I had to block off an entire half-day of work to do this every month," he said, "and I hate working in spreadsheets."*

He added that he even sought the services of professional accountants; all declined due to the complexities of splitting royalties.

## Obstacles for Authors and Publishers

- Royalty splitting often requires hours of work
- Possibility of errors = decreased team trust
- Spreadsheets lack sophistication and transparency, especially when sharing royalty data with co-authors or contributors

<sup>1</sup> <https://lmbpn.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://jthorn.net/welcome/>



## THE SOLUTION

Thanks to PublishDrive's PD Abacus, the self-publishing industry finally has a solution.

With PD Abacus, authors and publishers have everything they need to manage royalties for collaborative publishing projects:

Royalty calculation for teams big and small

Ability to easily import Amazon sales data for ebooks and print titles, as well as ACX audiobook sales data

Generates downloadable royalty reports

Option of inputting costs, advances, and additional revenue streams for comprehensive financial tracking

Built-in messageboard to communicate with collaborators

PD Abacus offers the sophistication of traditional publishing tools customized to fit the unique needs of self-publishers.

As a result, indie authors and publishers can streamline their accounting, reduce errors, and ultimately scale their digital businesses in an industry that demands efficiency.

## How PD Abacus is Filling a Gap in the Industry

- Provides a streamlined system to calculate co-author royalties.
- Uses easily imported sales data
- Can be used by KDP/KU authors who distribute directly to Amazon
- Costs and other revenue streams can be manually added for full financial tracking



## THE RESULTS

PD Abacus brought measurable and immediate benefits to those using the service. Michael Anderle stated:

*“Before PD Abacus we’d spend approximately 20-25 hours per month calculating, checking, and distributing royalty information to authors. We anticipate cutting that time to between 2-4 hours per month with PD Abacus.”*

Likewise, J. Thorn said, *“I would spend about 3-4 hours calculating royalties and tracking financials. Once I had PD Abacus set up, the first report took me about 15 minutes.”*

The ability to transparently share data with co-authors and collaborators is also of great value to authors and publishers. Author **David Berens**<sup>3</sup> stated that PD Abacus “makes our split (50%) look more legitimate to my co-author. As in, I’m not cheating you...My co-author can login and see the report on their own as well.”

Michael Anderle echoed these sentiments:

*“...providing our authors access to the functionally designed and detailed online reports is a major benefit to the company and to our authors. Of equal importance are the automated processes that reduce the possibility of errors creeping into the royalty workflow.”*

## Digging into the Data

Time spent splitting royalties (in hours)\*



\*Based on estimates provided by authors. Note: Michelle Wilson handled royalty splitting on a quarterly basis, rather than monthly.

<sup>3</sup> <http://tropicalthrillers.com/>



## THE RESULTS (CONTINUED)

Even for a two-person team, PD Abacus can help authors spend more time on what matters most: writing. Author **Michelle Wilson**<sup>4</sup> indicated she spent 3-4 hours quarterly on splitting royalties. Now, it takes her minutes.

*"I don't have to focus as much on the technical aspects," she said. "I can focus on writing."*

## Digging into the Data

Time spent splitting royalties (in hours)\*



\*Based on estimates provided by authors. Note: Michelle Wilson handled royalty splitting on a quarterly basis, rather than monthly.

<sup>4</sup> <https://michellereneewilson.com/>



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The ability to adapt quickly, publish often, and streamline the overall workflow are some of the keys to success in the self-publishing industry.

PD Abacus' time-saving solutions are helping self-publishers do exactly that.

With less time spent on administrative tasks, authors and publishing teams can meet their writing deadlines to maintain a quick publishing output.

In addition to the time-saving benefits, PD Abacus reduces the chances of accounting errors, which provides authors and publishers with peace of mind.

Sharing detailed royalty reports with collaborators also builds team trust, leading to happier, more productive teams.

PD Abacus' proven benefits are helping authors and publishers scale their digital businesses, and ultimately, write more and worry less.

## Benefits of PD Abacus

- Simplifies royalty splitting for all book formats
- Can turn hours of administrative work into minutes
- Provides peace of mind for busy authors and publishers
- Boosts team trust with reliable technology and transparent data sharing

PD Abacus eliminates the hassles of collaborative publishing.



Ready to see what your team has been missing?

**Sign up for your FREE PublishDrive account to take the next step!**

**GET STARTED**

About PublishDrive: [PublishDrive](#) is a self-publishing platform for indie authors and publishers who are rewriting the rules of publishing. Recognizing the need for a streamlined path to self-publishing, the PublishDrive team developed a full-service solution for distributing ebooks globally, marketing strategically, and empowering authors and publishers to write more and worry less. Services include: distribution to 400+ online stores and thousands of other sales channels in the US and internationally, free ebook conversion, promotion tools, royalty splitting for co-authors, and more.