I've been using the WealthTec Suite(r) of estate and financial planning software for almost twenty years. In my opinion, it's one of the most robust and comprehensive tools available to the experienced planner. The various planners in the Suite are designed for the different kinds of planning engagements that advisors may encounter, from a straightforward "needs analysis" to a full-blown financial and estate plan. The "Cash Flow and Estate Planner" permits intensive cash flow and income tax modeling as well as the use of sophisticated estate planning techniques. The "EstatePro" and "DesignPro" planners focus on dispositive planning, with even more robust estate planning modeling. A "Presentations" component includes PowerPoint presentations of 19 estate planning techniques (GRAT, CRAT, QPRT, etc.) that illustrate the "how and when" of each technique and is an excellent education tool. There are 20 "focused" planners that let you zero in on one planning technique (e.g. GRAT, Sale to IDGT, etc.) and show, side-by-side, the results of using that technique versus not using it. I use the "GRAT vs. Sale to IDGT" a lot.

WealthTec(r) is an Excel-based tool, offering the awesome power of Excel but that doesn't require the user to "build it from scratch". Because the output is in Excel, the "deliverables" can be exported to Excel and customized to suit the user's preferences. The HELP functionality is the best I've ever seen in a commercial planning package. One caveat though. This is an extremely powerful and comprehensive tool for experienced planners. It's not a tool for those brand-new to this kind of planning.

- John L. Olsen, CLU®, ChFC®, AEP®, President: Olsen Financial Group