



Making more time for the grill

The stepson of a successful restaurateur, Brandon Atwell grew up waiting tables, washing dishes and cooking. As soon as he graduated college, he and two friends opened Murky Waters Blues and BBQ in Gulfport, Miss, a restaurant town known primarily for steaks and seafood. The restaurant was such a hit that the trio opened two more locations and a catering kitchen within five years, rapidly growing from 15 to 90 employees.

Anything that lets me spend less time in the office helps

People always say, "It must be fun running a restaurant, hanging out, eating food and drinking beer all day." But 90 percent of my job is sitting in an office, doing spreadsheets, reconciliations, invoicing, you name it. Anything that lets me spend less time in the office and more time running the restaurant, getting face time with my staff and customers, is a good thing.

We had our CPA running our payroll until about year three. I would deliver all the paychecks by hand, but then we opened a location that was more than an hour away. I would have employees waiting for me at 3:00 p.m. on Friday to hand-sign the checks and drive them over — it became really difficult.

More bang for my buck

Our college friend, Grey, was an ADP® representative, and he told me that ADP could have our checks all laser-signed and overnighted. When I learned about all the other things you're able to do with ADP, it was clear that I'd be getting more bang for my buck.

Now, I can use any computer in the world to do payroll, and the checks will just magically arrive by UPS on Friday. Even if I go on vacation, I don't have to worry about it.

We have a lot of lenders that need FTE reports, and I'm able to pull those right off of the RUN platform really easily. I can get all the addresses plus everybody's hours and their earnings for the quarter without getting our CPA involved. It's really convenient.

Down to a science

Once we had a problem with our state Department of Revenue because we had made a structural change to the business in the middle of the year — and they are not fun to deal with. But we contacted ADP and they helped us get all the required forms and documents and proof and show them what happened. That could have been a lot more disastrous than it was.

I'm a huge proponent of time is money. If I still had to deliver checks to all of our locations every other Friday, the drive alone would take more time than I have. With ADP, we've really got it down to a science.

#workingfor

I'm working to put more into this earth than I get out of it, trying to leave it a better place.

Brandon Atwell
Co-Owner



Quick facts

-  **Company:** Murky Waters Blues and BBQ
-  **Headquarters:** Gulfport, Mississippi
-  **Industry:** Restaurant
-  **Established:** 2013
-  **Employees:** 90
-  **Locations:** 3
-  **Website:** Murkywatersbbq.com

Business Challenge: Hand-delivering paychecks became too time-consuming after opening a third location, as did printing up FTE reports for multiple lenders.

How ADP Helped: RUN Powered by ADP® (RUN) gets paychecks into employees' hands quickly and makes it easy to print all payroll reports.

