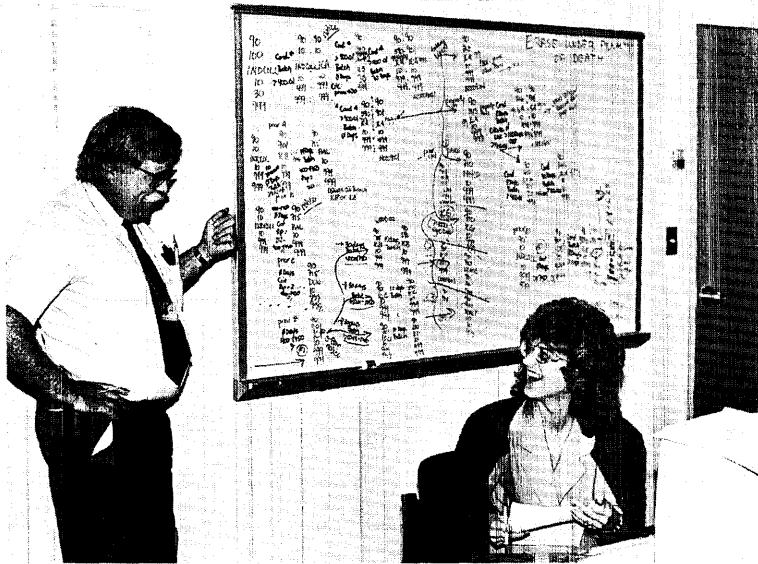


Consolidated tax system



State Comptroller's Office co-workers Bill Huebl and Ruth Anne King discuss some of the 291 conditions subject to user acceptance testing of the State of Maryland Tax System during the summer of 1993. The system contains nearly 300 computer programs that will process all tax accounts.

“Maryland is only the fourth state in the nation to implement a new consolidated computer system for tax administration,” says State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein

The State of Maryland Tax System will handle the processing for all state tax accounts administered by the State Comptroller's Office, creating one taxpayer history file for each taxpayer.

The change will consolidate the accounting systems for each tax; simplify tax

notices and other correspondence; streamline collection activities and eliminate the need for separate files in different divisions. The system will be organized by taxpayer - instead of by tax type - making life easier for both taxpayers and tax officials.

For example, a retail service station might file individual income tax returns, corporation income tax returns, sales and use tax returns, withhold income taxes from employees' wages, possess a cigarette retailer's license and a motor fuel tax registration. Under the new system, information about the owner's several accounts will be consolidated under the taxpayer's name and easily accessible.

The new system will cut costs, eliminate duplication of effort and boost efficiency. It will also improve tax compliance.

User acceptance testing for the system began in fiscal year 1993, after the completion of all planning and documentation. The individual income tax portion of the system was brought on line on September 1, 1993, and the business tax portion of the system is scheduled to go on line on June 1, 1994. 