

Electronic filing

Gracia Carr of the State Comptroller's Office could fit all of the 123,000 paper returns stored nearby - equal to the number filed electronically during fiscal year 1996 - on just a handful of optical disks.



More taxpayers chose to have their Maryland personal income tax returns filed electronically in fiscal year 1996 than ever before - saving time and money for everyone.

The 123,000 returns transmitted electronically to the State Comptroller's Office through qualified, commercial tax preparers marked a 25% increase over the previous year's total.

In most cases, refund checks are printed within 24 hours of receiving a valid electronic return.

Since processing electronic returns costs one-fifth as much as it does for paper returns, the state saves thousands of tax dollars - and storage space - using cyberspace for tax filings.

Aside from speedy refunds and cost efficiency, electronic filing also provides unparalleled accuracy. The information on the return is verified immediately, so there's no chance of errors to delay processing.

In 1996, for the first time, taxpayers could file *both* their federal and Maryland returns with a single electronic transmission, thanks to a "piggyback" program implemented by the State Comptroller's Office and the Internal Revenue Service. Moreover, taxpayers with balance due returns could file electronically for the first time in fiscal year 1996 - avoiding guesswork about how much they owed and the surprise of a tax bill arriving weeks later in the mail.

