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*From
the August 2007 Review of Engagement & Trial Balance Systems*

In mid-July, just as this article went to press, Intuit released a new component to its Lacerte Tax application, the Lacerte Trial Balance Utility.

Lacerte Trial Balance Utility is a focused application that has been designed primarily to efficiently group and adjust a client's general ledger account information so it can be used in a Lacerte tax return, supporting 1065, 1120, 1120S, 990, 1041, and Schedule C returns. Lacerte Trial Balance Utility has minimal financial statement and reporting capabilities.

Lacerte Trial Balance Utility imports data from QuickBooks and EasyAcct, as well as from Excel spreadsheets. The import capability has good features for ignoring "junk" lines that should not be imported and can deal with an Excel spreadsheet that has multiple worksheets. One interesting feature is the product's SmartMap feature. SmartMap was initially part of the integration between QuickBooks and EasyAcct and Lacerte but has now been expanded to the Lacerte Trial Balance Utility (Intuit received one of *The CPA Technology Advisor's 2007 Tax & Accounting Technology Innovation Awards* for SmartMap (<http://www.c patechnologyadvisor.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=1611>)).

SmartMap assigns accounts to tax lines by matching account description, account type and business entity type. Additionally, SmartMap "learns" as new tax line assignments are made. It is a system-wide database that applies "learned" assignments to all subsequent tax clients. Lacerte Trial Balance Utility also features a very easy-to-use process for assigning general ledger accounts to tax lines and features a very "visual" approach with drag-and-drop capabilities.

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