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From
the August 2007 Review of Engagement & Trial Balance Systems

Trial Balance CS is the trial balance product from Thomson Tax and Accounting. It does a good job of handling all the basics, including import of client information, financial statements preparation, tax return groupings, and the production of many trial balance-related reports.

EASE OF USE — 4 Stars

Trial Balance CS sports an up-to-date interface that is consistent with the other applications in Thomson Tax and Accounting's CS suite of accounting firm tools. One interesting feature in this trial balance application is its "split-screen" interface that allows a user to see the trial balance and record journal entries on the same screen. Features like this can have a significant impact on engagement efficiency and accuracy. Trial Balance CS offers an extensive set of standard reports that can be customized to meet the reporting needs specific to the particular engagement. As well, report profiles can be created to facilitate the batch printing of reports.

TRIAL BALANCE — 4.5 Stars

Trial Balance CS stores up to 10 years of account information. Data fields can be completed with standard information using an Autofill feature. The trial balance grid can be customized and filtered to focus the information to the user's needs. Trial Balance CS also allows on-screen tick marks and workpaper references that help keep the information in electronic form by reducing the need to print and annotate workpapers. Trial balance account grouping can be done using a "grouping codes approach" that will combine account information for financial statement and tax return purposes at the same time.

Consolidated entities can be handled either at the general ledger account level

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custom statements. Additionally, financial statement formats can be copied from client to client to efficiently maintain the firm's statement formatting standards.

DATA IMPORT/EXPORT/INTEGRATION — 4 Stars

As previously noted, Trial Balance CS integrates with other tools in the Thomson Tax & Accounting suite, including UltraTax CS, GoSystem Tax, Engagement CS, Write-up CS, FileCabinet CS and Financial Analysis CS. It will also transfer information to other tax applications using a text file export feature, as well as to Microsoft Word and Excel.

SUMMARY

Trial Balance CS is a good choice for firms that need more than basic trial balance functionality but do not need the extensive capabilities found in a full-blown workpaper tool. A perpetual license for Trial Balance CS costs \$900 (\$600 for an annual renewable license).

2007 Overall Rating: 4 Stars

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