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to automate and streamline trial balance preparation. The program's interface provides options for reviewing trial balance information and relates the balances to specific workpapers associated with the detail work. The program directly integrates with the other products offered by CCH, including ProSystem *fx* Engagement (reviewed on page 12) and the ProSystem *fx* Office line of products, as well as with third-party tax software vendors. ProSystem *fx* Trial Balance costs \$1,100 and includes full CCH support.

#### **PROGRAM USE/NAVIGATION – 4.5 Stars**

ProSystem *fx* Trial Balance opens to an intuitive but slightly crowded workspace that provides more than a dozen minimized windows for the assorted tasks that can be worked on during a trial balance. This includes making journal entries, entering account information, applying ratios, viewing tax information and using the program's diagnostic features. Windows not active are

stored at the bottom of the screen,

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get us accustomed to the multiple window environment.

Actual data entry is performed via the Accounts screen, which provides a spreadsheet-style format for entering beginning balances and ongoing information.

An array of icons and pull-down menus offer access to the primary components of the program, such as accessing predefined industry-specific classifications and lead schedules, running diagnostics, creating new clients or using the system's help utility. Trial Balance supports up to 11 years of data and supports multiple types of entries, including adjusting, passed adjusting, reclass, tax, eliminating journal, recurring and intentionally unbalanced entries.

It also makes transaction data into source journals for cash receipts, cash disbursements and general journals fairly simple.

Users can maintain multiple-period types for interim processing, such as months, quarters or semi-annuals for the same client, and can calculate

larger interim periods from smaller

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members, and by email and we will  
checkout and synchronization upon  
return.

ProSystem *fx* Trial Balance provides more than 30 predefined industry-specific ratios for analytical review, and includes more than 60 templates, which helps with transferring data to Word and Excel for report generation. The system also supports fund accounting for nonprofit organizations, providing templates for several common types, including educational organizations, healthcare, government units, and volunteer groups, and the general ledger allows account numbers of up to 40 characters.

#### **IMPORT/EXPORT CAPABILITIES – 5 Stars**

ProSystem *fx* Trial Balance is fully integrated with ProSystem *fx* Tax, which significantly reduces preparation time for users of both products. The system's Dynalink feature transfers all trial balance data to a client's tax return, automatically populating fields with appropriate financial information. The program maintains and updates

balances between ProSystem *fx* Trial

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linking of financial statement data.

### **REPORTING – 5 Stars**

Trial Balance includes more than 70 standard reports and workpapers, including lead schedules, trial balance reports and material variances. Through integration with Word and Excel, these reports can be customized as needed, including the use of letterhead, headers, footers and font control. Using a wizard to guide users, the program produces excellent financial statements that allow drill-down links to show underlying detail by leads, subleads and accounts and allows combination of accounts into built-in leads and classification schedules. Trial Balance also allows printing to \*.PDF format.

### **PAPERLESS MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES – 4 Stars**

Aside from the aforementioned \*.PDF printing, ProSystem *fx* Trial Balance is limited in its paperless management capabilities because this is seen as more of a process management function by CCH, which should be handled by an engagement program.

As such, this program offers complete

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as well as flexibility and powerful reporting and financial statement capabilities. The program can support simple to very complex clients, including fund accounting for nonprofits. Although navigation is somewhat intuitive, new users may require a little extra time to grow accustomed to the multiple window environment.

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**OVERALL RATING: 4.5 Stars**

**Program Use/Navigation** covers ease-of-use; number of clients and form recipients; primary navigation tools; and general operation of the program, including data entry.

**Workflow Management** addresses how the program streamlines engagement processes via workflow and communication tools, customization and other features.

**Integration with Other Software** is considered a very significant factor since drawing information from GL accounts is an integral part of the trial balance process, and the ability to export the data into a tax program greatly reduces preparation time.

**Reporting** functions of the software, including analysis and client deliverables such as financial statements is essential. This section looks at the availability of standard

reports, customization capabilities and integration with word processing and

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is not the cheapest, and sometimes  
the most expensive option does not  
provide the best function.

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