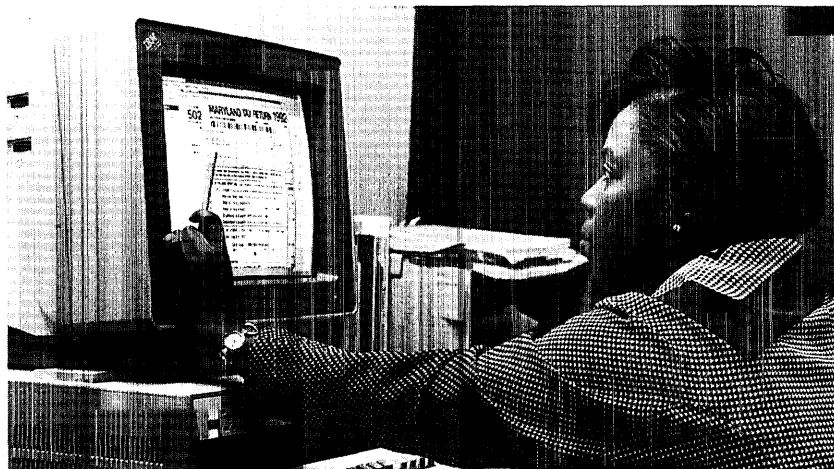# Tax form imaging

"Maryland is the first state in the nation to process state income tax returns using a pioneering imaging technology to capture, intelligently interpret and manipulate data," says State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein.

The tax imaging process transforms state income tax returns into useable data by capturing video-type images of a document, storing the image, converting a portion of it to data and processing the data as though it had been manually entered by conventional data entry.

Maryland's new imaging system will not only save time and costs in processing tax returns, but it will also provide tax officials greater access to documents and improve taxpayer service.

Auditors will be able to correct errors electronically, quickly retrieve documents to answer taxpayer inquiries and even print a copy of the return at the flick of a switch. Different auditors can also look at the same return simultaneously.

Thanks to Maryland's pioneering imaging system, officials like Robin Barnett-Jones in the State Comptroller's Office can view complete Maryland income tax returns electronically to correct errors, spot fraud or answer taxpayer inquiries.

Another electronic verification feature helps to ensure the accurate distribution of nearly $1.7 billion in local income tax revenue to Maryland's 24 subdivisions and 160 incorporated cities and towns. Maryland's tax imaging system will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in processing costs each year.