



Entering the Computer Age

Maryland was
the first state
to take
advantage of
computerized
data sharing
with the
Internal
Revenue
Service

Louis Goldstein often told the story of his first day on the job as state comptroller when he asked his new staff where the computers were. The answer of "what computers?" was the impetus for 40 years of modernization and innovation in accounting, revenue collection, and customer service.

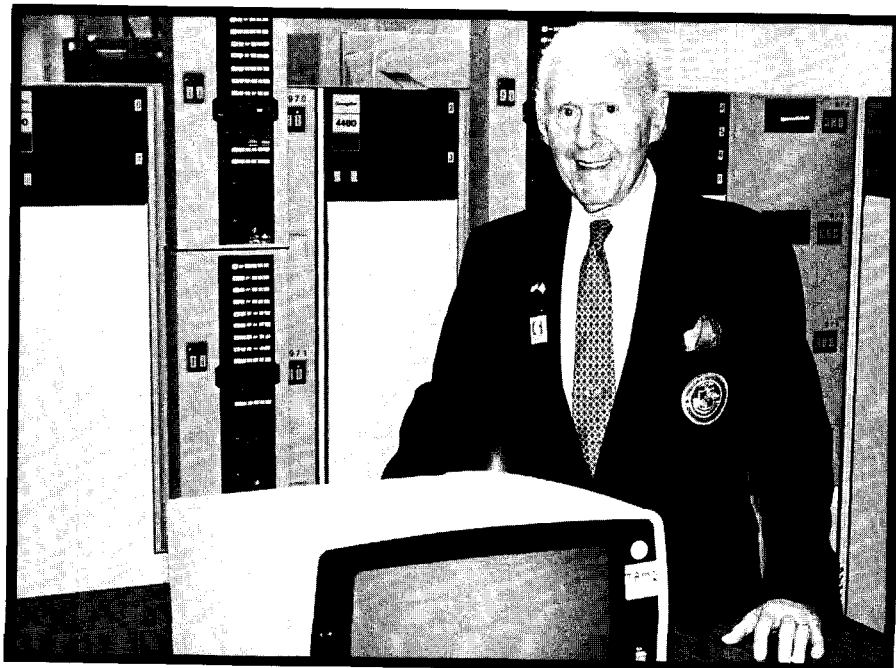
The new comptroller quickly made Maryland the first state in the nation to automate income tax processing and the first to take advantage of computerized data sharing with the Internal Revenue Service, saving taxpayer dollars and improving revenue collections.

Under Louis Goldstein's leadership, Maryland became one of the first states to implement a central computerized statewide accounting and reporting system, the STARS system, in 1976.

STARS provided the data base for significant accomplishments, including converting the state's

financial reports to generally accepted accounting principles, conversion to generally accepted auditing standards, and issuing comprehensive financial reports including the opinion of an independent auditor - one of the major national accounting firms.

Comptroller Goldstein continued to provide stellar data services to other state government agencies and to the public. A study by the Progress and Freedom Foundation, in conjunction with IBM's Institute for Electronic Government, ranked Maryland number one in the nation in using digital technology to provide taxpayer service and to process, store, and retrieve tax information. Enhancements such as PC filing, electronic funds transfer and a highly interactive website continue to make more high-tech services available to Maryland citizens. And the Comptroller's Office has been recognized for being well on schedule to having its extensive computer network ready for the Year 2000.



Comptroller Goldstein administered state government's largest data processing operation, serving many state agencies in addition to the Comptroller's Office.
Photo by Mike Walsh