



TAX SYSTEMS



Alphatax Ireland Release Notes

Version 19.0



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1. Introduction

About version 19.0

Welcome to the version 19.0 edition of Alphatax Ireland. This release includes a number of new features and enhancements including:

- Form CT1 2019 and ROS E-filing 2019 are included in this release;
- PDF size of the Form CT1 and tax computation has been significantly reduced;
- Finance Act 2018 changes to introduce controlled foreign company rules;
- Changes to support an Alphatax single database on SQL server
- Miscellaneous changes to resolve customer issues

Technical support

We provide a technical support help desk for users requiring assistance. The help desk can be contacted by telephone between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.

| If you require help or further information, please contact the support team on: | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Ireland: | Tel: +353 (0) 1661 9976 | Email: support@taxsystems.ie |
| UK: | Tel: +44(0) 1784 777 666 | Email: support@taxsystems.com |

*Please note: We recommend that you use the **E-mail Support** option from the **Help** to send copies of the computation directly to Support.*

2. Important notices

Single Database

As previously advised, in the 19.0 release, we are offering the ability to run Alphatax using a single database on SQL Server. Currently Alphatax uses two databases named ALPHATAXCORPORATIONTAX and ALPHATAXUSERAUTHENTICATION by default. When running Enterprise Manager database to upgrade an existing database, you will be given the option to migrate the information in the User Authentication database into the Corporation Tax database. This option will also be available when creating a new database.

When upgrading to a single database then you will need to amend any SQL reports that reference the User database to reflect the fact that the user data will be stored in the Alphatax database. If you use any other external reporting tools, such as spreadsheets, that refer to the User database then these will also need to be amended to reflect the change.

Note that if you are upgrading from a classic database, the Authentication database will not be deleted and any data in it will no longer be updated. If you have any processes which read information from or write information to the authentication database, they will have to be changed to access the corresponding objects in the corporation tax database.

Why have we done this?

- To make the management and administration of Alphatax Enterprise simpler for customers.
- To reduce ongoing customer maintenance.
- This is the first step towards hosting the Alphatax database in the cloud.

Chromium Embedded Framework Update (CEF)

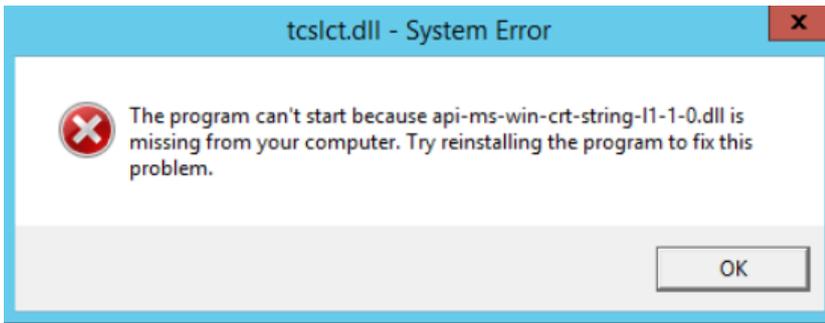
In Alphatax 18.1 we introduced a new Product News feature to ensure that we can keep users up to date with new features in Alphatax and critical Revenue Commissioner updates.

The Product News feature makes use of CEF, which is a framework provided by Google to allow software developers to embed a Chromium web browser in their application.

CEF is regularly updated by Google to address security vulnerabilities and ensure the framework remains robust. We have updated the CEF version used by Alphatax in this release and will continue to do so in future releases in accordance with best security practice.

This version of Alphatax makes use of the latest version of CEF available at the completion of development (74.1.14+g50c3c5c+chromium-74.0.3729.131, which was released on 7 May 2019).

Please note that this version of CEF makes use of a component which is not included by default in some older Windows operating systems. If these operating systems have not been updated with a Microsoft hotfix then an error dialog will be displayed.



The hotfix was issued by Microsoft in 2015, so we believe that most systems will have been updated to include this. If you do experience this issue however, then please point your administrator to the following link for details of how to download and install the Microsoft hotfix. See Appendix 1 for an aide memoire.

Operating systems that are affected by default unless the hotfix has been applied are as follows:

- Windows Server 2012 R2
- Windows 8.1
- Windows RT 8.1
- Windows Server 2012
- Windows 8
- Windows RT
- Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1 (SP1)
- Windows 7 SP1
- Windows Server 2008 Service Pack 2 (SP2)
- Windows Vista SP2

Please contact Tax Systems Support if you require additional details.

3. Installation

Installation key

Your 16-digit Alphatax installation key is provided in the email that you received announcing the release. The Alphatax installation key is required to both download and install Alphatax.

Should you have any queries, please contact the support team on 01 661 9976 or at support@taxsystems.ie.

Downloading and installing Alphatax

Please download the copy of Alphatax from the releases download site <https://releases.taxcomputersystems.com>, which will require you to enter your email address and your 16-digit Alphatax installation key. This process will generate an automated email with a unique URL which will be sent to your email address.

The URL will allow you to download the Alphatax installer along with other applications which you are registered to use and also installation guides and release notes.

Click on '**Alphatax v19.0.exe**' to initiate the installation process for which the Alphatax installation key will again be required. Press the **Enter** key at the prompts. The installation process will override the old version of Alphatax. For detailed information on the installation process refer to the *IE_Alphatax_V19.0_Installation_Guide*. This can be retrieved from the user documentation section of the download screen.

Enterprise users should also run the database update script from within the Enterprise Manager utility. The database version is now 39. The Enterprise Manager is automatically extracted from within the Alphatax Installer package.

Templates

The installation will reinstall the standard Alphatax templates to ensure that you have the latest version.

To allow you to retrieve your own versions of these templates, if applicable, the old templates are stored in a new folder called BACKUPXn (where n is a number incremented for each new installation).

Please note: This part of the process may take some time. A progress bar displays the names of templates as they are being copied.

Folders called BACKUPXn created in the version 18.1 release are removed with this release.

Alphatax platform support

Operating Systems

Alphatax is supported on Windows 7 and later operating systems for the desktop. Alphatax is also supported on Windows Server 2008 and later on servers.

Windows Server

Microsoft is preparing to end support for Windows Server and SQL Server 2008/2008 R2 on 14 January 2020. Please see <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/cloud-platform/windows-server-2008> for further details from Microsoft.

Please be advised that we intend to withdraw support for the above from the 2020 release of Alphatax and update the minimal requirements for Alphatax to Windows Server 2012 or later.

4. CT1 2019

Alphatax has been updated with the CT1 2019 and the new XML 2019 schema which enables e-filing for companies with a year end in 2019.

New trading results panel for trades with capital allowances for intangible assets

The Form CT1 2019 has a new trading results panel for trades with capital allowances for intangible assets. Any trade with such allowances should not complete any other panel within the trading results section of the form. At the time of release, we are in discussions with Revenue regarding the design of this new panel and in particular the following issues:

- There are no cells for "trading losses forward", "losses appropriate to this trade", "charges" or "group relief" in the new panel.
- At the time of release ROS does not set "losses appropriate to this trade" in the trading panel for trades with no capital allowances on intangible assets against the taxable profits of trades with such allowances.
- The new panel for trades with capital allowances on intangible assets has no cells for any other type of capital allowances. Revenue have said that such trades should not have any other type of capital allowances. We have added a diagnostic to bring this to users' attention.

5. PDF size of CT1 2018 and CT1 2019

There was an issue in version 18 of Alphatax when the PDF writer was used to create a PDF of both the tax computation and the tax return in the one file. The size of the file created was over 12 MB which caused clients difficulty when e-mailing the files. The size of such files has now been reduced to about 1.5MB

7. Miscellaneous changes

Group letter writer – deadline manager

Alphatax now enables users to write a letter at a group level which retrieves values from company files. Such a letter may display various tax liabilities outstanding, possible surcharges and different tax deadlines for selected companies. Please see below for just one example of information that may be retrieved.

05 July 2019

John Ryan
8 Liffey Street
Corbally
Dublin 2

My ref: JR7

Dear John

International Furniture group - period ended 31/12/2018 – Summary of tax position

Please find attached a summary of the tax position of companies within. We should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt.

| Item | Name | Tax Liability | Tax paid | Balance | Payment Date |
|------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Alpha Limited | 1,813,750.00 | 1,600,000.00 | 213,750.00 | 23/09/2019 |
| 2 | Beta Limited | 4,707,500.00 | 3,500,000.00 | 1,207,500.00 | 23/09/2019 |
| 3 | Ireland Furniture Ltd | 3,055,000.00 | 2,430,000.00 | 625,000.00 | 23/08/2019 |

Report designer – reporting on fixed assets and intangible assets

New values have been added to the report designer table. These new values will enable users to monitor their fixed assets across a group or a number of companies. This will enable users to review various net book values of assets. They will also be able to include the tax written down value total of all the assets for each company.

Other values added to the report include the total trade losses brought and carried forward per company and the transitional adjustment brought and carry forward values.

Values for the intangible assets capped to 80% of trading profits have been added to the report table to match the values for assets limited to 100% of trading profits.

New report added

A new "December 2017 CT liabilities" report has been added to enable clients identify their large clients in the lead up to the filing of the December 2018 returns. The user will be prompted to enter the corporation tax value that the report is to use to determine what defines a large company and any companies which begin and end in 2017 with values exceeding that amount will be included in the report.

9DB Double Taxation relief

The calculation of "income referable to amount of relevant royalties" on the trade related double taxation relief statement has an $A \times B/C$ formula. This calculation has now been amended when there is a stream of 9DB income which has suffered no foreign tax so that its values are taken into account in the calculation.

Irish Distributions received

Following customer feedback, we have included a link between the 'Distributions received' statement and the 'Franked investment income' statement. Once the distribution received cells have been completed the value will now flow to the Franked Investment Income statement.

Transfer out values

The capital allowances statements will display the 'transfer out cost' and 'transfer out TWDV' columns if the accessory statement for any one row completes. This will make it easier where there are several assets being transferred out as displayed below.

| | Year | Cost % | Cost b/f | WDV b/f | Addition | Transfer out cost | Transfer out TWDV | Disposal proceeds | Net W&T | WDV c |
|---|------|--------|----------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|
| <i>Use accessory form for other rates etc</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sample 1 | 2018 | 12.5 | 100,000 | 67,500 | | 100,000 | 80,000 | | (12,500) | |
| Sample 2 | 2017 | 12.5 | 200,000 | 104,000 | | | | | 25,000 | 79,000 |
| Sample 3 | 2016 | 12.5 | 220,000 | 72,500 | | | | | 27,500 | 45,000 |
| Sample 4 | 2017 | 12.5 | 80,000 | 40,000 | | | | | 10,000 | 30,000 |
| | | | 600,000 | 284,000 | nil | 100,000 | 80,000 | nil | 50,000 | 154,000 |

Intangible additions – fixed rate claim

Following Revenue clarification, we have made amendments so that the tick box in cell 2(4)(c)(iv) of the CT1 is only completed if an asset claiming allowances using the fixed rate method was acquired during the period. It does not complete in subsequent periods if no other such assets are acquired.

Balancing charges on intangible assets

Balancing charges on intangible assets acquired post 11 October 2017 now appear on the CT1.

Prior year values - provision adjustment

The display of the prior year adjustment in the trade summary for provisions has been improved when in one year it is an addback and in the other it is a deduction.

Group tax accounting – Foreign currency translation

The group foreign exchange function has been amended to reflect the correct deferred tax brought forward value in the 'deferred tax provision per accounts' statement.

Group – Freeze pane

The group relief statements 'freeze pane' feature now freezes the amount of the loss along with other details when you scroll down through the statements in input mode.

Grants or similar amounts received specifically to support Research and Development activities

The research and development tax credit - CT1 details statement includes a column to enter the grants or similar amounts received specifically to support Research and Development activities. This value was not displaying on the paper CT1 and has now been amended.

8. System changes

Anonymised Product Usage data

- We have made several changes to optimise the Alphatax Anonymised Product Usage data logging to ensure that there is no adverse impact on performance at peak filing times. As part of these changes we have reduced the volume of data items collected.
- We have expanded the anonymised product usage data collected by Alphatax to include audit trail events.

CCM Recalculation [Enterprise only]

- We have enhanced the logic used by the CCM 'Recalculate computations' function to include the option of rolling forward changes through all company periods. Previously the Recalculate computations logic would calculate each of the periods individually and would not reflect changes to brought forward values into later periods.

Miscellaneous system changes

- Clients running Alphapack on a Terminal Services or Citrix can now send e-mail directly via SMTP rather than using Outlook
- We were previously advised by a small number of users that the Accounts Analysis Tax Analysis dialog did not display properly in 4k resolution. We have made changes in the product to alleviate this issue.
- We have made a minor change to enable the Compare Differences dialog to be resized.
- A user reported an issue with one of the footnotes on the Accounts Analysis Profit and Loss account displaying data relating to another value on the same statement. This issue has been resolved.

9. Appendix 1: IT help and guidance

The following item included in the Important Notes section (p.5) is something that you may wish to call to the attention of your IT department, when installing the latest version of Alphatax.

| Issue | Summary |
|--|---|
| The latest versions of Chromium Embedded Framework (CEF) make use of a component which is not included by default in some older Windows operating systems. | Microsoft issued a hotfix ('Windows Update for Universal C Runtime in Windows') which allows Windows desktop applications that depend on the Windows 10 Universal CRT release to run on earlier Windows operating systems. If the update has not been applied, then Alphatax users will experience an error on start up. |

Please contact Tax Systems Support if you have any queries.



TAX SYSTEMS



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