

M4 Systems

Advanced General Ledger (AGL)

Brochure

M4 Systems Advanced General Ledger

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Introduction

M4 Systems Advanced General Ledger (AGL) is the product of many years' experience working "at the sharp-end" with users of Microsoft Dynamics GP (formerly Great Plains). AGL forms part of our Dynamics Plus suite of products designed to significantly enhance the standard operation of Dynamics GP.

Whilst Dynamics GP features the ability to create a chart of accounts up to 10 segments in length, in practice, this requires many hours of manipulation of data in Excel and manual imports into the system. In addition, this process typically needs to be repeated in turn for each company created. The end result is often a large Chart of Accounts with many redundant codes including irrelevant segment combinations presenting a huge burden for operators to code transactions using the standard windows of Dynamics GP. For this reason, many companies resort to using fewer segments to reduce the size of the Chart of Accounts and are therefore under-utilizing the true power of the system. AGL was developed to fully utilize the segment based structure of Dynamics GP and compliment the segment based reporting capabilities of Management Reporter and Frx. In essence, AGL provides the tools you need to create manage and operate a large Chart of Accounts easily and effectively.

Advanced General Ledger (AGL) enables complex multi-segmented charts of accounts to be created very quickly and easily, dramatically reducing the time as compared to using a tool such as Excel for the same job. An ideal Chart of Accounts can be built in logical slices using AGL so that GL codes are created only from logical segment combinations.

AGL features intuitive, enhanced GL code "lookup" windows throughout the system enabling the rapid look-up of complex multi-segment codes and effortless multi-faceted coding of documents. AGL significantly improves the user experience and efficiency in coding transactions with a large Chart of Accounts.

AGL makes it practical to store multi-dimensional analysis for any or all transactions within the General Ledger using segment values. Segments can be defined for Product Groups, Regions, Customer Groups, Projects and Employees; this means the GL codes created offer an extremely granular level of detail. The resultant General Ledger provides a coherent, structured, periodically summarized, data-warehouse for your financial information. Users can easily report by Segment value, in summary or in detail, using reporting tools such as Management Reporter or FRx.

AGL extends considerably the volume of information that can be tracked per segment value. Ranges of codes can be changed and segments or characters can be added any time very easily and without loss of historical data or comparatives.

AGL is not only for the creation of a new Chart of Accounts when creating new companies. For an existing Chart of Accounts, AGL includes tools to increase the number of segments (without losing existing data or history) and to synchronize GL Code full descriptions based upon your segment descriptions.

Once installed, AGL can override the standard Account Maintenance window to enforce creation of GL codes from logical segment combinations based on company rules.

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In addition, AGL features tools to clean up an existing Chart of Accounts including the mass deletion of accounts based on segment combination rules. This is a considerable enhancement compared to the standard Mass Modify windows where updates or deletions of accounts need to follow consecutive account ranges. Users also have the ability to define a “Master Chart of Accounts”. This is particularly useful in a group company structure where accountants want control of any GL accounts created to conform to a master chart structure without exclusion.

(See also our complementary product, Advanced SOP/GL Defaulter, which automates coding of SOP documents by segment. Standard GP only allows coding SOP transactions from either the Customer or Item. With SOP/GL Defaulter, transactions are dynamically coded from multiple sources, drawing segment values from the item, item class, salesperson, customer, customer class and more to create the full GL code.)

Features

- AGL is a Dexterity based application, fully system integrated resulting in unaffected standard GP data tables
- AGL is quick to implement and easy to adopt for new or existing Dynamics GP installations
- Quick and easy look-up of complex multi-segment codes
- Preview Charts of Accounts created before committing to Dynamics GP
- AGL has the flexibility to import segments from an Excel template. Users can also export existing segment values for easy updating of values
- Budget Amounts can be entered against individual segments - a new way of analyzing data within GP where Budget vs. Actuals analysis can be completed at GL segment level
- Segment Attributes – allows additional information to be tracked against individual segments
- Powerful rules and templates can be defined based on segment range combinations to create logical groups of accounts
- Copy Charts of Accounts between companies
- Create a Master Company Chart of Accounts for control of GL accounts across all companies
- User-defined fields can be stored at segment level
- Security compliance at all user levels
- Available for previous and latest versions of Dynamics GP (Great Plains)

Benefits of Advanced General Ledger

- Multiple segment charts take only minutes to set up compared to tools such as Excel or Mass Modify
- Significantly faster transaction coding to a chart of accounts containing multiple segments comparing to standard GP windows

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- Zero risk in relation to upgrades or data integrity
- AGL allows users to create a chart of accounts in logical slices so only relevant segment combinations get created. This helps ensure data accuracy by making it impossible to code transactions to a non-relevant code
- Compliments Frx and Management Reporting by segment
- Creates a coherent, structured and periodically summarized data warehouse leading to more informed decision-making
- All in all, a great value module to generate huge efficiency growth and ROI gains

Maintenance of Account Segments (Figure 1)

The design principle behind AGL is simply to create GL full account codes from Segment values and logical segment combinations.

Segment descriptions are concatenated to form the full account description. AGL features utilities to keep your segment descriptions and full GL Account descriptions synchronized.

From the Segment maintenance window you can easily amend or delete a segment and also add or change other segment properties including multiple descriptions and user defined fields.

Segments can also be imported from an Excel template.

Main Segment Co	Subaccount Code	Short Description
000	110400	BMA1104

Long Description	Main1104
Alternate Short Desc.	M1104
Alternate Long Desc.	Mainsub1104

Category	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Balance Sheet <input type="radio"/> Profit and Loss
Typical Balance	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Debit <input type="radio"/> Credit

Level of Posting from Series:	
Sales:	Detail
Inventory Control:	Detail
Purchasing:	Detail
Payroll:	Detail

Include in Lookup:	Sales Inventory Control Purchasing Payroll
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User-Defined 1	
User-Defined 2	
User-Defined 3	
User-Defined 4	

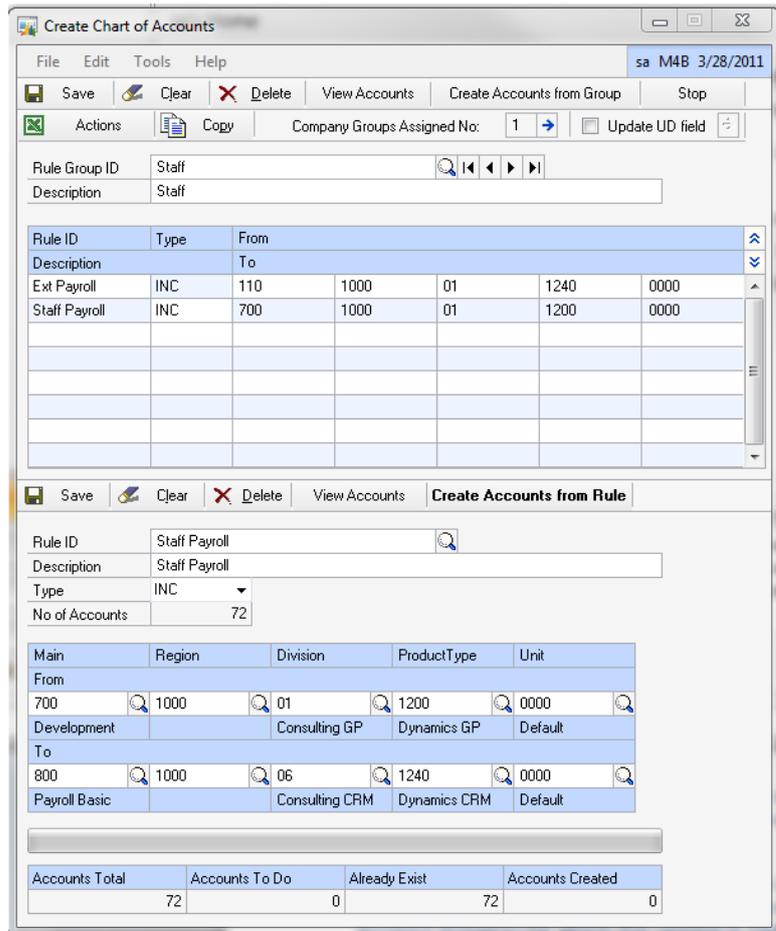
(Figure 1)

Creating Accounts from Rules (Figure 2)

The screenshot provided shows a deceptively simple looking, yet very powerful form which enables complex Charts of Accounts to be rapidly built within literally minutes using logical group of rules. The rules define the relevant segment range combinations for a particular company.

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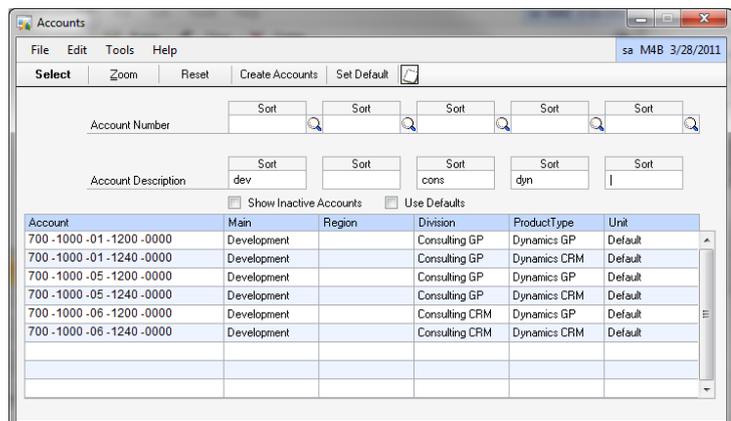
You can copy a rule by saving an existing rule under a different name, very useful and powerful as previous rule selections are retained allowing you to simply change one of the ranges. Rules can be grouped together and stored as a Rule Group enabling accounts to be created for a single rule or the whole rule group.



(Figure 2)

Coding Transaction (Figure 3)

Typically users will get to know very quickly individual segment codes and descriptions, but even if they don't, our system enables them to very rapidly look them up, with instant 'mid-string' description lookups per segment. The lookup is powerful because it allows the user to restrict the display of valid code combination.



(Figure 3)

So even with a complex 5 segment code, the user may typically only have to enter 2 or 3 short strings or values to find the code.

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