
ARC Monthly Bulletin – January 2010

Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. Oracle Release 12 Program

ARC would like to announce the initiation of the Oracle Release 12 (R12) Program. We have formed a team to focus on this very important set of projects, which will ultimately take us from the version of Oracle that most of our customers are currently using (11.5.10) to Release 12. As we move through the Initiation Phase of the Program, we are considering methods for keeping financial management customers and business partners informed. In addition, we will remain focused on understanding the impact this program may have on customers by ensuring all customer questions are answered. For additional information or if you have any questions on the R12 Program, please contact Shaun Willison at 304-480-7286 or shaun.willison@bpd.treas.gov.

2. Treasury's Fiscal Service IT Initiative

Treasury's Fiscal Service, which includes the Bureau of the Public Debt and the Financial Management Service, initiated an evaluation to identify ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its overall IT infrastructure. The bureaus have jointly recommended consolidating data centers and infrastructure, creating a single corporate governing body, in-sourcing select contractor functions, and consolidating application development methodology and infrastructure. A project team has been formed and is actively engaged in planning for the implementation of these recommendations. The plans and resulting project

schedules are targeted for a Spring completion. For more information, please contact Helen Reilly at 304-480-7437 or helen.reilly@bpd.treas.gov.

3. PRISM Training Scheduled for February

ARC provides quarterly PRISM refresher training to assist our customers in their efforts to effectively transition newly hired staff and meet other potential training needs. This training is provided to our customers at no additional charge. We will be conducting Requisitioner and Buyer training February 1 through February 4, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Primary PRISM contacts have received training details via email. For more information, please contact PRISM Support at 304-480-8000 (Option 2) or prismsupport@bpd.treas.gov.

4. Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative for Office Supplies

In an effort to save money, streamline processes, and meet socio-economic goals, GSA is heading up a strategic sourcing initiative for office supplies. Several agencies are participating, including the Department of Treasury, the Veterans Administration, and the Department of Energy. The stakeholder interview guide is located in the Procurement Notices/References section of your Customer Access Page (https://arc.publicdebt.treas.gov/customer_access_pages.htm), and we would appreciate customer feedback. We will also load the working group's notes on the Customer Access Pages as they become available. If you have any questions regarding this initiative, please contact Sandy George at 304-480-7134 or sandyj.george@bpd.treas.gov.

5. GovTrip 2.0: A New Face Coming Soon

GovTrip 2.0 is an initiative being led by Northrop Grumman and customers to re-engineer the GovTrip experience from the ground up. The goal is to design a more intuitive and user-friendly system. Some of the elements the redesign will focus on are improving document navigation, updating screens to address 508 compliance issues, adding help links, eliminating the numerous pop-up windows, and improving system speed and time-out problems. Over the next few months, ARC will be sending information to users through flyers, quick reference pamphlets, new functionality screen shots, PowerPoint presentations, webinars, and demos, and possibly other media.

The GovTrip redesign is projected to be complete by June 2010. For more information, please contact Julie Gilchrist at 304-480-5561 or julie.gilchrist@bpd.treas.gov.

6. OPM Issues Guidance for Military Reservist Differential

On December 8, 2009, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued guidance to implement Section 5538 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. This new law became effective on March 15, 2009. Under the new law, Federal agencies must provide a "reservist differential" payment for eligible Federal civilian employees who are members of the Reserve or National Guard called or ordered to active duty under certain specified provisions. The reservist differential is equal to the amount by which an employee's projected civilian "basic pay" for a covered pay period exceeds the employee's actual military "pay and allowances" allocable to that pay period.

OPM has created a special Web page at www.opm.gov/reservist to provide guidance and essential information regarding the reservist differential program. The ARC HR team is actively working to implement the new guidance and compensate eligible employees.

For additional information, please contact an ARC pay and leave specialist at 304-480-8400 or payroll@bpd.treas.gov regarding this new guidance.

7. TSP Roth 401(k) Feature

Signed on June, 22, 2009, the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Enhancement Act of 2009 provides a provision for a Roth 401(k) feature. The Roth 401(k) will combine all the benefits of TSP retirement savings with the after-tax benefits of a Roth savings plan. The TSP Roth 401(k) feature will take 18-24 months from June 2009 to implement.

ARC's Employee Benefits Branch (EBB) is closely monitoring changes to the TSP Program and will provide additional information as it is received. If you have questions about the TSP Roth 401(k) feature, you may access the Fact Sheet on TSP's website (<http://www.tsp.gov/forms/oc06-5.pdf>) or contact Jennifer Thompson at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

8. OTCnet Collection System

FMS will be consolidating Treasury General Account Deposit Reporting Network (TGANet) and Paper Check Conversion-Over the Counter (PCC-OTC) systems into one collection system called OTCnet by mid-summer 2010. ARC has become a part of the OTCnet focus group and will be participating in the User Acceptance Testing in January 2010. We hope to gain insight of the new collection system to help identify any upcoming changes and to help influence positive modifications to the system that will benefit our customers. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Matt Conrad at 304-480-7004 or matt.conrad@bpd.treas.gov.

9. ITIL Update

ARC continues to adopt processes defined in the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL). ITIL is recognized worldwide as the 'gold standard' for best practices in delivering IT services. Over the past year, ARC has implemented various components of IT Service Management, which is a core component of an integrated ITIL implementation. A new Service Desk tool aligned our Incident Management process with ITIL best practices. ARC IT Services is now able to measure actual service delivery, provide real-time feedback to service technicians and service owners, and further improve the quality, efficiency, and consistency of the services we provide to IT Services' customers. For more information on ARC's ITIL efforts, please contact Joe Gribble at 304-480-7608 or joe.gribble@bpd.treas.gov.

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