
ARC Monthly Bulletin – April 2010

Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. ARC Services Conference

The 2010 ARC Services Conference is coming up on June 9, 2010. We are pleased to hear that so many of our customers are planning to travel to Parkersburg, WV, to attend. The agenda is now available at <https://arc.publicdebt.treas.gov/arccustomerserviceconference.htm>. We will continue to provide details at this location. If you have not yet registered or have questions about the conference, please contact Jessica Metz at 304-480-5527 or jessica.metz@bpd.treas.gov.

2. Semi-Annual webTA Training Scheduled for April

ARC provides semi-annual webTA training for timekeepers and supervisors in Washington, D.C., at no charge to our full-service pay and leave customers. This training is designed to assist our customers in effectively integrating newly hired staff and meeting other potential training needs. ARC will conduct this training on April 27 and 28, 2010. Timekeepers and supervisors have received training details via email. For more information, please contact Theresa Sayger at 304-480-8266 or payroll@bpd.treas.gov.

3. National Defense Authorization Act – FERS Redeposit Provision

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently announced the procedure for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) redeposits, a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2010. Before the 2010 NDAA was passed, FERS employees who took a refund for a previous period of FERS-covered service were prohibited from redepositing the money to restore retirement credit for the refunded service. Effective immediately, OPM will accept the current Standard Form 3108, FERS Application to Make a Deposit, from employees wishing to make a FERS redeposit. Payment of the redeposit will allow credit for the previously refunded FERS service in the retirement computation.

ARC will continue to share detailed NDAA information as it becomes available. If you have questions about your eligibility to make a FERS redeposit, contact Jennifer Thompson at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

4. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). A major provision that affects Federal employee benefits is health care coverage of a dependent until age 26. This provision is effective on January 1, 2011, for those enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will take the necessary steps to comply with the new law and to provide any additional information about the changes to FEHB plans for the 2011 year. OPM anticipates updating their website in the near future so employees have enough time to prepare for the Open Season that will begin in November 2010.

ARC will continue to share the PPACA details with all customers as we receive them. If you have questions about the PPACA, contact Jennifer Thompson at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

5. GovTrip 2.0 Training Reminder

ARC is pleased to announce the deployment of GovTrip 2.0, tentatively scheduled for June 12, 2010. GovTrip 2.0 is a more intuitive, easy-to-use system. The basic functionality of GovTrip remains the same, but users will see the new application design upon login and experience the ease of use with step-by-step navigation instructions for document preparation.

ARC will be conducting GovTrip 2.0 demonstrations in the Washington, D.C., area the week of May 17, 2010, at the United States Mint facility. These demonstrations are open to all customer GovTrip users at no charge. Attendees will need to sign up for a session in advance and present their agency government ID the day of the demonstration. Primary agency travel contacts will receive further training details via email. For more information, please contact ARC Travel Services at 304-480-8000, Option 1 or travel@bpd.treas.gov.

6. OMB Issues Guidance on OMB Circular A-123 Appendix C (Part III)

On November 20, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13520. The intention of the order was to reduce improper payments made by government agencies by increasing transparency, holding agencies accountable for reducing improper payments, and increasing penalties for contractors who fail to disclose improper payments in a timely manner.

On March 22, 2010, OMB issued government-wide guidance on the implementation of this order. This guidance is in the newly created Part III to Appendix C of OMB Circular A-123. The primary sections of this guidance include:

- Specifying responsibilities for agency accountable officials;

- Determining the programs subject to the Executive Order 13520 (High priority or Susceptible to significant improper payments programs);
- Defining supplemental measures and targets for high-priority programs;
- Establishing reporting requirements under Executive Order 13520; and
- Establishing procedures to identify entities with outstanding improper payments.

This guidance is effective for all agencies to use immediately and for Fiscal Year 2010 reporting. For more on the guidance, see "Issuance of Part III to OMB Circular A-123, Appendix C," at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/a123/a123_appx-c.pdf or contact Michael Adams at 304-480-7183 or michael.adams@bpd.treas.gov.

7. Discoverer Viewer and Plus training in April and May

The Oracle Support Team is conducting Discoverer Viewer and Plus training in April and May. This training is provided to our customers at no charge. There will be hands-on training in Washington, D.C., as well as a web-based demo session using the WebEx application for those people unable to attend the training in Washington D.C. Current active users have received the training announcement. Training classes and dates are as follows:

April 27, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm – Discoverer Viewer Web-Training Session 1, WebEx via Local Computer
 April 27, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm – Discoverer Viewer Web-Training Session 2, WebEx via Local Computer
 April 28, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm – Discoverer Plus Web-Training, WebEx via Local Computer
 May 11, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm – Discoverer Plus Training, Microtek Washington D.C.
 May 12, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm – Discoverer Viewer Training Session 1, Microtek Washington D.C.
 May 12, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Discoverer Viewer Training Session 2, Microtek Washington D.C.

For more information, please contact Oracle Support at 304-480-8000 (Option 3) or oraclesupport@bpd.treas.gov.

8. PRISM Training Scheduled for May

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 charge. We will be conducting Requisitioner training May 25 through May 27, 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.

9. PRISM Upgrade Being Evaluated

ARC is currently evaluating PRISM version 6.5 with a potential implementation date of early June 2010. The primary benefits from the upgrade will be the addition of Recovery Act related fields and system compatibility with FPDS-NG version 1.4. Compusearch plans to end support of the current version of PRISM (6.3) in January 2011.

The software vendor will not be releasing the FPDS-NG compatibility patch until the end of this month. At the conclusion of internal ARC testing, user testing will be available for customers in May. In the near future, ARC will provide testing and implementation schedules as well as release notes related to changes and enhancements in the new version.

The impact to end users is expected to be minor and no additional training needs are anticipated. For more information, please contact Dave Weekley at 304-480-7009, or email at paul.weekley@bpd.treas.gov.

10. System Outage Lesson Learned

In early March, a customer experienced an outage for their users of the Oracle e-Business Suite and PRISM applications resulting from a change to their outbound IP addresses that was not coordinated with ARC. As a reminder, please coordinate planned infrastructure changes, such as outbound IP address changes with ARC. To do so, please contact Tammy Saiko at 304-480-7256 or tamela.saiko@bpd.treas.gov.

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