
ARC Monthly Bulletin – April 2011

Valuable information for ARC's customers

Article headlines appear below. Scroll down for full stories.

HEADLINES

Division of Franchise Services

1. Fiscal Year 2012 Customer Agreements
2. Annual Customer Conference
3. Customer Visits
4. Release 12 (R12) Project Update—Reimplementation of the Oracle e-Business Suite

Human Resources Services

5. TSP Roth 401(k) Feature—Delayed Implementation

Travel Services

6. FTR Amendment Affects Relocation Rules

Financial Management Services

7. Form 1099 Record Keeping Update

Business Technology Services

8. PRISM Training Scheduled for May

Information Technology Services / Human Resources Services

9. HR and IT Services Migrate E-52 Application to New Platform

----

FULL STORIES

1. Fiscal Year 2012 Customer Agreements

We are finalizing Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 annual agreements, which will be migrated to the OMB standard Interagency Agreement Form. You can expect our cost structure to be very similar to FY 2011, with definitive pricing provided for FY '12 and estimated prices for FY '13. We are happy to report that we have been able to control costs to a level below systemic cost increases (e.g. rising non-labor costs and schedule grade/step increases). Another change is that the price schedule provided will include an in-depth explanation of how your costs are derived. All customer agreements will be distributed by May 31, 2011.

For more information, contact Shaun Willison at 304-480-7286 or Shaun.Willison@bpd.treas.gov.

2. Annual Customer Conference

Results of the customer survey regarding our annual conference revealed the overall preference to participate in virtual events and "in person" conferences in Washington, D.C. With these results and everyone's current budget realities, we have canceled the 2011 conference that was to be held in Parkersburg, WV. Instead of an "in-person" conference, we are planning alternative customer outreach programs involving webinars and video recorded presentations. We will revisit the conference next year, with an eye to holding an event in the Washington, D.C. area.

For more information, contact Michelle Hickman at 304-480-7234 or Ida.Hickman@bpd.treas.gov.

3. Customer Visits

We have been making a series of customer service visits to Washington DC on a monthly basis. Our goal in these meetings is to build relationships, obtain feedback on the quality of service we provide, and understand the realities of our customers' needs.

If you are interested in a visit, or if you believe that a video conference with our staff would be helpful (or preferable to an in-person visit), please let us know. If your agency doesn't currently have video conference availability, we may be able to arrange a session in a downtown DC location.

For more information, or if you would like to request a visit from your customer service representative, contact Shaun Willison at 304-480-7286 or Shaun.Willison@bpd.treas.gov.

4. Release 12 (R12) Project Update—Reimplementation of the Oracle e-Business Suite

After careful evaluation of core financial system requirements and other mandates, we have determined that reimplementing the Oracle e-Business Suite (Oracle) application, as a part of the R12 project is necessary. With this decision, we position ourselves for enhancement of the chart of accounts structure, cleanup of obsolete data, and improvements to the total solution design.

This will impact you in a variety of ways. The most significant impact is that we are taking this opportunity to redesign the Accounting Flexfied (AFF) structure. We reviewed the Common Government-wide Accounting Classification (CGAC) structure to identify components we felt would be most beneficial to our customers. We also considered customer feedback we have received in identifying areas for improvement. With the reimplementation of R12, the AFF structure will contain 15 segments that will provide more customer flexibility and align better with the intent of CGAC.

We recently contacted customer accounting offices to begin developing R12 AFF values, provide additional information, and offer an opportunity to participate in a teleconference on the topic.

We will regularly communicate regarding this important project in a variety of ways. Besides articles like these, we will keep the R12 website (https://arc.fiscal.treasury.gov/app-support/oracle-r12/oracle-r12-quick-reference/) up to date with the latest announcements and relevant information. We will also meet directly with customers and send periodic e-mail messages regarding specific related topics.

For more information on the R12 reimplementation and the redesign of the AFF structure, contact Jackie Pettit at jackie.pettit@bpd.treas.gov.

5. TSP Roth 401(k) Feature—Delayed Implementation

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) recently announced a delay of the availability of the Roth 401(k) option to allow payroll offices more time to prepare for the change. The Roth 401(k) will combine all the benefits of TSP retirement savings with the after-tax benefits of a Roth savings plan. The new target implementation date for the Roth 401(k) feature is the second quarter of 2012.

Our Employee Benefits Branch (EBB) continues to closely monitor changes to the TSP Program and will provide updates as received.

If you have questions about the TSP Roth 401(k) feature, you may access the Fact Sheet on TSP's website (https://www.tsp.gov/tsp-basics/) or contact Jennifer Baldwin at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

6. FTR Amendment Affects Relocation Rules

The General Services Administration (GSA) published Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) Amendment 2011-01, a compilation of two previously proposed rules, in the Federal Register on April 1, 2011. This final rule incorporates private industry policies and best practices that fit well into the Federal setting. A major change is the reduction in time to complete relocation from two years to one year. The planned effective date of the final rule is August 1, 2011. We will provide guidance as we revise our policy.

For questions concerning this final rule, contact Lee Buckingham at 304-480-8420 or lee.buckingham@bpd.treas.gov.

7. Form 1099 Record Keeping Update

We submitted 7,188 Form 1099s to the Internal Revenue Service for calendar year 2010 before the March 31 filing deadline on behalf of our 34 customer agencies. Payments made for services in amounts exceeding $600 are reported to the IRS on Form 1099.

For more information, contact Connie McCloy at 304-480-7097 or ARC1099@bpd.treas.gov.

8. PRISM Training Scheduled for May

We provide 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 at no additional charge for our customers. We will conduct Requisitioner training May 17 through May 19, 2011, in Silver Spring, MD. Active requisitioners will receive training details via email.

Dates:	Class Title:	Time:	Place:	Duration:
May 17	Basic Requisitioner	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	EEI Communications	1 Day
May 18	Advanced Requisitioner	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	EEI Communications	1 Day
May 19	Basic Requisitioner	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	EEI Communications	1 Day

For more information, please contact PRISM Support at 304-480-8000 (Option 2) or prismsupport@bpd.treas.gov.

9. HR and IT Services Migrate E-52 Application to New Platform

The E-52 application is used by many small human resource customers as a cost-effective means to electronically route requests for personnel actions. While functionally sound, the operating environment for the system had become outdated and in need of an upgrade. To ensure the integrity, security, and reliability of E-52, the web front end was ported to a new secure server and the database was migrated from the MS SQL 2003 environment to MS SQL 2008. This upgrade should give additional years of viability to the application.

For more information about this upgrade from an IT perspective, contact David Givens at 304-480-7437 or David.Givens@bpd.treas.gov.

For more information about the upgrade from an HR perspective, contact Stacey Pryce at 304-480-8273 or Stacey.Pryce@bpd.treas.gov.

ARC Websites: Homepage I Customer Access Pages I Bulletin Archives

---

Administration: Subscribe I Unsubscribe I Bulletin Feedback
