
ARC Monthly Bulletin – September 2012

Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. Oracle Release 12 Migration Project Update

The Oracle Release 12 (R12) Migration Project is progressing through the deployment phase which will continue through December 2012. Remaining customer agencies are being phased in at the beginning of each month. Agencies migrating October 1 include Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Farm Credit Administration, Inter-American Foundation, Merit Systems Protection Board, National Archives and Records Administration, National Science Foundation and Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Customer agencies will use a new accounting flexfield (AFF) structure on all transactional documents entered in Oracle, PRISM, and systems that feed into Oracle, upon migration. The expanded structure conforms to Common Government-Wide Account Classification (CGAC) requirements and provides the increased flexibility requested by customer agencies to better support their diverse business practices. More information is available on the R12

website, <https://arc.fiscal.treasury.gov/app-support/oracle-r12/oracle-r12-quick-reference/>. Customers need to evaluate all non-ARC systems (e.g., time and attendance, revenue/billing, etc.) they use or administer to determine what changes can or should be made to those systems to accommodate the new AFF structure. Feeder systems supported by ARC have been updated to support this change.

R12 initiated multiple changes to Discoverer and PRISM. Agencies are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the R12 training opportunities offered during the month leading up to their migration.

For additional information, contact us at R12Communication@bpd.treas.gov.

2. HR Efficiency Review Initiative – FOCUS Day

Approximately 170 staff members participated in this month's Treasury-wide FOCUS Day. This HR professional development opportunity challenged participants to reach beyond the technical aspect of

their everyday work and utilize their technical expertise to serve as advisors and strategic business partners for their customers.

Over the next several months, we will continue professional development efforts through future FOCUS Days to further enhance general and technical competencies in the HR community.

We will also hold what Treasury calls "Flash Mentoring" sessions to help raise awareness between HR functions. Flash Mentoring is a new concept where participants share HR challenges and experiences while rotating through 20-minute mini sessions led by seasoned professionals.

For additional information, contact Carla McHenry at 304-480-8228 or carla.mchenry@bpd.treas.gov.

3. Transition to the U.S. General Services Administration's System for Award Management

The Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system was replaced with the U.S General Services Administration's (GSA) System for Award Management (SAM) on July 30, 2012. Since then, we have encountered problems in consistently receiving the necessary output files from SAM to perform our daily maintenance of the vendor file in Oracle Federal Financials. In addition, many vendors needing to register or update their banking information in SAM have encountered problems gaining access to the system to make their changes. As a result, we implemented work around procedures to perform vendor file maintenance and to assist vendors needing to make changes during the interim period until the issues with the SAM system have been resolved. While we have encountered very few improper payments as a result of the problem, there is an increased risk of making an improper payment due to vendor banking changes until the SAM system issues have been resolved. We are actively attempting to resolve the problems with GSA.

For additional information, contact Denise Holbrook at 304-480-8415 or Denise.Holbrook@bpd.treas.gov.

4. OMB Guidance for Promoting Efficient Spending – Best Practice Ideas from Travel Services

Government travel costs have always attracted attention with the President signing an Executive Order last fall called "*Promoting Efficient Spending*". After some recent highly publicized conference spending resulted in Congressional hearings, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued guidance implementing the Executive Order.

OMB mandates that all agencies reduce their travel budgets by 30% from FY 10 levels beginning in FY 13. These reductions are to be maintained through FY 2016.

We created a presentation called "*Best Practices to Achieve Government Travel Budget Savings*" and is now posted on your customer access page.

For additional information, contact Diana Bonnell at 304-480-5573 or Diana.Bonnell@bpd.treas.gov.

5. Domain Name Services (DNS) to Treasury

On June 19, 2012, The Treasury Network (TNet) Program Management Office announced that Public Debt would provide DNS to Treasury bureaus as part of our service offering. Our DNS service for Treasury also includes application of DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC), which is a security mechanism used to verify the information a user gets back from DNS to ensure it is accurate and came from the right place.

Following the announcement, IT Services began working with Treasury to successfully transfer DNS records. On July 29, 2012, the Treasury DNS that was hosted at the TNet was transitioned to Public Debt, thus making us authoritative for all domains previously hosted at TNet for Treasury and the

bureaus. Following this successful transfer, IT Services began working to apply DNSSEC to the migrated domains on a bureau-by-bureau basis to limit operational impact.

For additional information, contact Steve Swarr at 304-480-6460 or Steve.Swarr@bpd.treas.gov.

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