
ARC Monthly Bulletin November 2017
Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. Oracle Upgrade to 12.2

The Oracle application will be upgraded from 12.1.3 to 12.2.5. There are no system changes to PRISM or Discoverer as part of this upgrade. Discoverer, Oracle and PRISM will be unavailable from Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 7pm EST until Monday, December 18, 2017 at 6am EST, in order for the system to be upgraded.

The links used to access Oracle and Discoverer will change as a result of this upgrade. Customer Access Pages will be updated prior to Monday, December 18, 2017, to reflect the new links. The upgrade will not affect user names, passwords or roles/responsibilities. The new links are below. Users will need to update any Favorites or Shortcuts that reference the current production links with the new links on December 18th.

Key items to Note

1. Last date for Payments to be made will be December 12, 2017 prior to 5pm. Payment processing will begin on Monday December 18, 2017.
2. The following systems/applications will be operational during this time, however they will not interface to Oracle: ASAP, CitiDirect, Concur, IPP, JFICS and WebTA.
3. The Drop Zones locations are also changing due to this upgrade. Therefore, if you have a FTP process setup with us the path will change. The instance name will change from PBPD6I to PBPD7I.

Any questions regarding this upgrade should be directed to the Oracle Support Team at OracleSupportTeam@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

Links:

Oracle - https://c1pn4fw1.fiscal.treasury.gov/OA_HTML/AppsLogin

Discoverer Plus - <https://c1pn4fw1.fiscal.treasury.gov/discoverer/plus?db=RACPROD122>

Discoverer Viewer - <https://c1pn4fw1.fiscal.treasury.gov/discoverer/viewer?db=RACPROD122>

2. Thrift Savings Plan Contribution Limits for Tax Year 2018

The regular Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contribution limit for tax year 2018 will increase from \$18,000 to \$18,500. Employees may contribute Traditional (pre-tax), Roth (after-tax), or a combination of both to reach the regular TSP limit.

For Federal agencies paid through the National Finance Center—including all of ARC's HR customers—tax year 2018 spans from December 10, 2017, through December 22, 2018. To distribute \$18,500 over the entire tax year (27 pay dates), employees should elect to contribute \$686 per pay period to the TSP. Employees should make this election between November 26 and December 9, 2017, for the change to begin with the new tax year.

Employees who will be age 50 or older during 2018 may also contribute up to an additional \$6,000 (no change) as TSP "catch-up" contributions—only if regular TSP contributions for the tax year will total \$18,500. To distribute \$6,000 over the entire tax year (27 pay dates), employees should elect to contribute \$223 per pay period. This election should also be made between November 26 and December 9, 2017. Please note that a new "catch-up" election must be made each tax year.

Our Employee Benefits Branch will provide 2018 TSP Contribution Limit notices for all customers to send to their employees. In the meantime, if you have benefits related questions, contact the Benefits Service Center at benefits@fiscal.treasury.gov, 304-480-8275 or 1-866-868-4357 (toll free).

3. FY18 Pricing Transparency

Our FY18 Pricing Transparency file is now finalized. This customer insight into budget and pricing detail was initiated a couple years ago. The new file continues the same format and compares 2017 vs 2018 data. Details include: direct and indirect budget, cost model methodology, direct FTE distribution, and ultimately pricing by each of our administrative services.

The presentation of data is provided via two tables. First, the budget table portrays budget detail by object class and direct labor breakdown. Second, the customer allocation and price tables then walk by customer those same budget dollars to customer prices. To assist with customer consumption, a reference guide and walkthrough is included at the start of the file. Links to the Pricing Transparency can be found on the right side of our homepage under "Shortcuts" and within the "Quality & Value" section link from our homepage.

For additional information, contact your customer service representative.

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