

THE FBMS EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FBMS)
JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

PORTAL USABILITY ASSESSMENT REPORT UPDATE

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COMING IN AUGUST:

- August 5, 2008
Project Management Review (PMR)
- August 12, 2008
Executive Steering Committee (ESC) Meeting



We are on the web
<http://www.doi.gov/fbms>

IBM conducted a study to evaluate how well “best practices” and guidelines have been incorporated into the development of the portal and uncovered opportunities for improvement. IBM’s Usability Engineering National Practice led this effort by using a two-step approach to collect the data; an analytic review of D3 screens and “Day-in-the-Life” focus groups. The findings have been presented to DOI and IBM leadership, and some improvement actions are already underway.

The analytic review focused on the interface design of both the Acquisition and Core Finance iViews. The findings indicate that the FBMS portal does a number of things well, for example: it is logical, well-organized, and appropriately utilizes tables, radio buttons, group-boxes, etc. It also uses appropriate font sizes and the design is visually appealing. Some areas that were highlighted as opportunities for improvement include: horizontal scrolling, screen real estate management, required field displays, and color contrast which makes some text difficult to read.

The Day-in-the-Life focus groups assessed the system in context and from a user’s perspective. Many of the issues discovered are inherent throughout the system, while some seem to be transaction or screen specific. Multiple factors can be attributed to these issues; for example, some arise from how SAP is designed, others are the result of end-user’s learning curve associated with the new system’s features, and others are due to how custom transactions were designed.

Due to the multiple deployment phases and varying complexity of the issues, the program team has recommended a multi-level approach to address the findings. In D4, communications are being created to assist the end user by clarifying certain features and functionality. This information will also be shared with the training team for incorporation into D4 material. IBM is also working with SAP to discuss future portal design improvements.

Looking ahead, a portal usability guide has been developed to provide guidance during D5 Blueprinting. In addition, the top transactions and some custom transactions are being analyzed for areas of improvement.

The FBMS program team is committed to continuously improving the system and is hopeful this study and subsequent actions will increase the effectiveness of the FBMS portal.

DID YOU KNOW?

Data Conversion

The Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) program defines data conversion as the transformation of data from a legacy system to a format that is compatible with FBMS. This results in FBMS containing relevant and accurate data necessary for DOI employees to conduct business (e.g. invoicing, contracts, payroll).

The conversion process begins in the software development or "realization" phase with "data cleansing" by the bureau of the legacy data, then moves to development of conversion programs that transform this data. There are a series of formal tests: unit tests that verify individual programs; mock tests, that verify the flow of the total conversion process; and cutover tests that verify that the converted data is ready for implementation into the production environment.

During mock conversion testing, which occurred from April 3 - July 7, 2008, a series of tests were performed with sample data files to ensure no data was lost in the conversion and that the data remains in the required format. The Bureaus participated by determining causes of data anomalies and performing data reconciliation and data cleansing tasks if necessary.

Starting in September 2008, the project team will conduct two sets of cutover tests during the “final preparation” phase that will simulate the transition from the legacy system to FBMS. System activity is closely monitored to make certain no data transferred is compromised.

Contact us at and let us know how FBMS is affecting you.
FBMS@FBMS.DOI.GOV.

Please note that all responses are confidential.

BLM's FBMS Deployment 4 Activities



Financial and Business Management Systems (FBMS) Deployment 4 implementation will result in many changes to the way the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) does business. Managing change in a large organization like BLM is a daunting task. Over the past several years, BLM has

successfully undergone a number of major changes to meet its strategic goals. As a result of BLM's change management experiences, BLM has the expertise, infrastructure, and the management processes to effectively plan, coordinate, and implement complex changes within the Bureau.

FBMS is an integrated collection of software applications that will enable the Department of the Interior (DOI) to standardize and better manage a variety of business functions, and retire a number of unsupported legacy systems. As FBMS is implemented across DOI, it will enhance efficiency and gradually reduce administrative cost.

During FBMS Deployment 4, BLM, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) will receive personal property and fleet management, E-GOV Travel, Fed-Connect, and Human Resources Mini-Master functions. BLM will also receive acquisition, core financials, financial assistance, and enterprise management information and reporting functions which were deployed previously to OSM and MMS.

BLM's Deployment 4 activities consist of internal and external activities. The internal activities involve planning, coordinat-

ing, and conducting project implementation, stakeholder management, and communications activities with Bureau offices and centers, field offices, state offices, and the US Department of Agriculture and other federal, state, and local organizations that perform missions with BLM. BLM's external activities consist of project implementation activities with the FBMS Program Management Office (PMO), DOI Departmental Policy Offices, OSM, and MMS. These activities focus on project scope meetings, discussions on unique Bureau requirements and standardizations issues, testing of FBMS functionality, participation in quality assurance reviews, and participation in special project events.

The majority of BLM's implementation activities involve working with the FBMS PMO. To date, the PMO and BLM have completed project preparation, business blueprint, and functional specification and system configuration activities. Currently, BLM is conducting activities to assign employees to FBMS user roles, preparing to conduct Cycle 2 (Bureau) integration testing and user acceptance testing, and preparing to support user training sessions. BLM is also planning and scheduling Deployment 4 Go-Live countdown activities that will ensure BLM organizations are ready to perform the critical activities required during the last four months of the deployment.

BLM's FBMS planning, coordination, and implementation activities are contributing to the successful and on schedule completion of Deployment 4 requirements.



NEWS & NOTES



Deployment 4 Cycle 2 Integration Testing: Cycle 2 Integration Testing began on July 21, 2008. During this cycle of testing, the Bureau of Land Management, Office of Surface Mining, and Minerals Management Service subject matter experts will be running test scripts and logging test results. Any defects identified during Cycle 2 testing will be corrected by Program Management Office functional area team members. Cycle 2 testing is scheduled to be completed on August 22, 2008.

Deployment 4 Test Readiness Review-User Acceptance (TRR-UA): TRR-UA is scheduled for August 25, 2008. This is the fourth of seven quality assurance gate reviews that are conducted throughout the program timeline to determine if development is progressing at the rate necessary to meet the Go-Live date. The main objectives of TRR-UA is to confirm that the system was adequately tested internally, and that requirements have been addressed and satisfied. If DOI Leadership and senior representatives from each of the deploying bureaus agree that all requirements laid out in the TRR-UA checklist have been met, UA testing will begin. UA testing is scheduled to take place August 25 - September 12, 2008.

Information on FBMS: Do you have any questions about FBMS? Would you like additional information on the program? Please send any and all questions or requests to FBMS@FBMS.DOI.GOV.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

JULIE BOND: FBMS DATA CONVERSION TEAM LEAD

Julie joined the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) team as the Conversion Lead in October 2007. As Conversion Lead, Julie is responsible for managing the conversion activities from legacy systems to FBMS. She is on temporary assignment from the National Park Service (NPS) where she has worked since 2004. Prior to NPS, she spent fifteen years at the National Business Center (NBC) in Reston.

While at NBC, some of Julie's responsibilities included Test Team Lead for all new releases of the Federal Financial System (FFS) since 1990 and Project Manager for the FFS implementation at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2002. Julie has over 20 years experience with both the technical and functional aspects of FFS. All of this experience is coming in handy now as Julie is challenged with the task of converting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from FFS to FBMS during Deployment 4.

About the FBMS project, Julie stated, "I am very happy to be associated with this project. I believe BLM's FBMS implementation will be the Flagship conversion of the FFS legacy system to FBMS, leading the way for the remaining FFS bureaus. I am proud to be a part of this program and to be working with a great conversion team that has already successfully taken on the entire conversion responsibility."

We appreciate all of Julie's hard work and dedication in helping to make the FBMS program a success.



FEEDBACK

We want and value your feedback on our newsletter. Please send your suggestions and comments to: FBMS@FBMS.DOI.GOV.

Please note that all responses are confidential.

