THE FBMS EXPRESS

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

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE ADVISORY BOARD

COMING IN June:

June 10, 2008
Project Management Review (PMR)

June 16, 2008
Executive Steering Committee (ESC) Meeting

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

All systems must grow and change to maintain relevance. This growth is managed through change requests (CRs) that resolve system problems or enhances a system's capabilities. The Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) Software Advisory Board (SAB) is responsible for reviewing and making disposition decisions on change requests for the production environment. The SAB is also responsible for the classification and scheduling of Production Support Landscape CRs (PSL CRs) for implementation. The SAB is the final approving organization in the Production FBMS governance structure.

The SAB is comprised of board members representing each bureau using FBMS in production, currently this includes the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the Minerals Management Service (MMS), plus representatives from the FBMS Operations & Maintenance Organization, which consists of the National Business Center (NBC) and FBMS Program Management Office. The SAB is chaired by the FBMS Production Support Manager. The SAB members are subject matter experts in specific production support functions; Bureau Production Support Operations, Operations and Maintenance, IT Hosting, Security, Reporting, and eGrants. SAB members review in detail, discuss, and vote on each CR submitted to the SAB for disposition.

A workflow automation tool called ClearQuest is used to create and submit PSL CRs to the FBMS governance structure for disposition. PSL CRs are created to support helpdesk tickets concerning system users' issues or to support proposed changes to system configuration items. PSL CRs are submitted by a variety of sources; system users, bureau staffs, members of the system integration team (IBM Inc.), the program management staff, and the organization and maintenance staff.

In order for a PSL CR to be approved by the SAB, the board membership must be in agreement that the PSL CR will fix a known problem or enhance FBMS's operations and can be achieved within the system's existing infrastructure. When a PSL CR is approved, the PSL CR will either be classified a Severity 1 change request and scheduled for implementation as so as possible or scheduled for implementation through regularly scheduled point releases. The point release process enables effective control of software changes, the efficient use of programming resources, the coordination of release notes, and consistency in the testing of software changes. The point release process includes detailed process flows and descriptions of the change steps. Forty-four PSL CRs were released on May 23, 2008, and a number of CRs are scheduled for release in June, July, and August 2008. The SAB is making significant contributions to the enhancement of FBMS capabilities by acting on software issues and recommendations to change software configurations.

DID YOU KNOW?

Within the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS), the acknowledgement of goods delivered or services rendered requires both the receipt and acceptance of the goods/services. Upon acknowledging receipt of all goods and services, the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)/ Receiving Officer will reference an existing Purchase Order and enter a Goods Receipt or Service Entry Sheet into the financial system of record. Some goods/services will be simultaneously received and accepted while others (e.g. seeds, computer server) will be "received" on the day they arrive and 'accepted' at a later date (e.g., germination rate is determined, software loaded and tested). Once acceptance is complete the Accounts Payable Technician will post the invoice, the COR and will then approve/reject the invoice before it is sent to the Contracting Officer for final approval/rejection.

Contact us at and let us know how FBMS is affecting you.
FBMS@FBMS.DOI.GOV.
Please note that all responses are confidential.

TEST READINESS REVIEW—INTEGRATION

The Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) program is quickly approaching the third major quality gate review of Deployment 4, the Test Readiness Review – Integration (TRR-I). FBMS quality gate reviews are strategically placed throughout the program timeline to determine if development is progressing at the rate necessary to meet the Go-Live date. Each quality gate review focuses on a particular aspect of FBMS development within the various phases of SAP methodology and provides a valuable assessment of a program's progress at a given time.

The purpose of TRR-I, scheduled for June 9, 2008, is to make certain the system has been developed properly. The FBMS program management team members (DOI and IBM personnel) must concur that the previously agreed upon items/objects have been created/completed in order to successfully pass this quality gate review. This information is jointly presented to the Program Sponsor, DOI Leadership and Senior Representatives from the each of the deploying bureaus. A decision is made as to whether or not the requirements have been successfully met. If they have, then the project moves to the next phase, Integration testing.

Integration testing has two cycles, Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. During Cycle 1, DOI team members will run the test scripts and log any defects. IBM team members will address these defects in preparation for updating documentation. During Cycle 2, test scripts will be administers to deploying bureau's testers who will then become Subject Matter Experts (SME). These SMEs will support the other bureau testers during User Acceptance Testing (UAT) scheduled for September 2008.

In preparation for TRR-I, the program management team members are collaborating to bring new testing tools online for use. ClearQuest Test Manager (CTQM) will be used for test planning and metrics and Rational Manual Tester (RMT) will be utilized for test script development and execution. Together these tools will assist the testers by improving performance and experience. In addition, the project team is completing unit testing and creating test scripts around the functional requirements and business process definitions. These test scripts are intended to simulate a day-in-the-life of the FBMS end-user, therefore, they look at end-to-end processes rather than discrete transactions. Months of hard work and collaboration are necessary in order to successfully pass one of these milestones. We are looking forward to a successful TRR-I as we march toward to Go-Live!

Benefits of New Testing Tools:

- A more defined approval process for Test Scripts
- Ability to reuse data and test steps
- Test Scripts under Change and Version Control
- Improved Performance and Improved Tester Experience
- Automated metrics for Test Script Development and Execution
- Ability to report on Business Process Procedures, Transaction Codes (T-Codes), Portal Paths and Security Roles being tested
- Improved Reporting to Satisfy Audits

NEWS & NOTES

Deployment 3 End User Acceptance Survey Results:

The purpose of the survey conducted April 7th—May 2nd, 2008 was to gauge the level of acceptance of Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) among Deployment 3 end users, to get feedback on the effectiveness of go-live training, and to identify areas for improvements. Over 1,000 end users (716 MMS and 317 OSM) were asked to participate. A detailed analysis of the survey responses is being conducted by the FBMS Program Management Office and the a synopsis of the results will be presented to the FBMS Steering Committee in June.

Reporting Improvement WEBEX Workshops:

A financial Assistance Reporting Workshop is scheduled for June 3, 2008, and a Personal Property Reporting Workshop is tentatively scheduled for June 5, 2008. These workshops are the last in a series of eleven functional specific reporting workshops conducted by the FBMS Enterprise Management Information System (EMIS) team. The workshops will focus of refining reporting requirements and improving the exposure of financial assistance and personal property information in EMIS needed at various FBMS reporting levels. Representatives from BLM, OSM, MMS and PFM will be attending.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sally Walkinshaw, DOI Program Management Office

For over the past two years, Sally Walkinshaw has been an integral member of the DOI FBMS program team. Her responsibilities include Requirements and Test Management, support of the Production Support Landscape (PSL) Change processes, dealing with process changes to the production environment, and the Rationale Tools Suite. Sally comes to DOI with over five years of experience in large scale SAP implementations, so she is no stranger to the challenges of such a large project.

To facilitate Integration and User Acceptance Testing, starting next month, the FBMS project is introducing ClearQuest Test Manager (CTQM) for test planning and metrics and Rational Manual Tester (RMT) for test script development and test execution. As a result, Sally's main focus has been working with Team IBM to configure the new testing tools and create training materials in support of test case development.

Sally is very excited about the new functionality and capabilities these new tools will bring to the testing environment (see box in article above for tool benefits). While aware of the time constraints to be prepared for D4 integration testing, Sally is confident they will be ready and the user will be pleased with the improvements. In addition, she is looking ahead to additional functionality to be incorporated for D5 testing.

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.