



eRA Program Official Users Group (ePUG)

Date: April 9, 2003
Time: 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Location: Rockledge 1, 3502
Advocates: Bud Erickson, Carlos Caban

Next Meeting: May 14, 2003, Wed., 1:00 p.m., Executive Plaza North, Rm. H

Actions Items

1. (Carlos Caban, Bud Erickson, Chanath Ratnanather) Review list of March release bugs; decide trade-offs between July requirements and March release bug fixes.
 2. (All) Email Chanath to volunteer at a workstation for the April 30 Symposium.
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Program Module Update

Chanath Ratnanather presented the live demo of the March 2003 Program Module. He explained that there are a number of bugs with the version. The group also voiced a series of major problems and expressed concern about presenting the live demo at the April 30 Symposium. ePUG members were worried that Program Officials (PO) would discard the Program Module too quickly if the March version was advertised and presented as a “production” version. The group agreed that the March release could not be considered “in production” because of the reported glitches and the fact that the March release is not as comprehensive and complete as the upcoming July release.

The group suggested marketing the version as a “beta test,” as a “test application using live data” or a “building block” in the envisioned Program Module. Everyone agreed that one way to market the March release as a beta test would be to change the actual title of the March release version to “Program Module Beta Pilot Test Version 0.1.” in time for the April 30 Symposium. The group also suggested including a list of the enhancements scheduled for the July release on the Login page. Everyone agreed that the PO community would perhaps be more patient with the March release if they understood that the version is a beta test.

Chanath explained that it is possible to change the title, add the enhancement list, and remedy many of the bugs with the March release before the April 30 Symposium. However, fixing these bugs and implementing these suggestions before the Symposium will delay several of the requirements scheduled for the July release. There will have to be a trade-off between July requirements and bug fixes for the March release. Carlos and Bud said that they would meet with Chanath and make these difficult decisions.

The group agreed that if these suggestions could be implemented in time for the Symposium, then presenting the live demo of the March release would be acceptable, especially with ePUG volunteers at the computer workstations to field questions, remind participants that the version is a Beta Test, and to highlight the enhancements scheduled for July.

Action: (Carlos Caban, Bud Erickson, Chanath Ratnanather) Review list of bugs with March release; decide trade-offs between July requirements and bug fixes for the March release.

Bugs and Enhancements

The group reported the following bugs and enhancements:

Introduction/Log-In Page

- State on the Login page that the March '03 release is a Beta Test version of the Program Module. Explain that the version is a “test application using live data,” that it is a “building block” in the vision of the Program Module. List the features that the envisioned Program Module will contain. This will ensure that users understand the vision of the Program Module and that they will not reject the Program Module while in development.

All Pages

- Change the title of the product from “Program Module” to “Program Module Beta Pilot Test Version 0.1.” Clearly indicate to users that this version of the Program Module is in development. Without this indication, users may discard the Program Module too quickly.
- Add an “About” page, a new requirement to indicate version number, release date, and other relevant information.
- Fix all links to Oracle forms (QVR, QuickView, etc.). These links are loading a blank page. This bug may be remedied by a correct installation of the correct version of Java Script Initiator.
- Consider using the space required for the NIH graphic, the Program Module title, etc. to display more grant data.
- Fix links labeled “details.” When users click the “details” link, it is formatted correctly. However, when users then click “Show Nested Sort,” the “details” link is no longer formatted properly.
- Fix the “Contact Us” link at the lower left-hand corner of the screens. These links are incorrectly loading the general NIH information page. It should load the Helpdesk information.
- Provide a Feedback link on all pages. In addition to the “Contact Us” link, add a link on each page to provide feedback via the HelpDesk.
- Consider implementing some sort of indicator that users have successfully clicked on a tab, a link, a button, etc. The group explained that without this kind of indicator, users may think that the program is not responding. Chanath explained that the progress bar at the lower right-hand corner serves as an indicator that pages are loading. However, the group argued that this may not be intuitive enough.
- Remove the time (0:00) that appears in many date columns.

- Add the links “Next,” “Back,” “1,2,3,4,5,” etc., that appear at the top of the hitlist to the bottom of the hitlist as well.
- Remove the “Exclude PO Assigned Grants” function/capability from the July release requirements. This will allot more time and resources for fixing bugs with the March ’03 release.
- Include Active Grants from fiscal years earlier than 2002. The Program Module portfolios only include grants for the current FY. This is problematic because several grants that were activated earlier than the current FY and are still currently active are not included in the portfolios. These grants “fall through the cracks.” The portfolio needs to include Active Grants from earlier fiscal years. This is a requirements change.
- Correct SRA details (email and phone number). Right now, the SRA details are blank in most cases. The SRA’s preferred work email and phone need to be featured here. This is a requirements clarification.
- Display more grants per page. Right now, only 10 grants are displayed per page. The requirements stated that 50 grants should be displayed per page.
- Grant Number Sort needs to be broken down into Activity Code, Institute (IC), and Serial #.
- Ensure that filtering on duals and re-sorting are consistent across the page navigation in the same portfolio. Users should not have to remember the specific sort of filter criteria across pages in the same portfolio.

Pending SRG

- Include meeting time and date in the link under the column labeled “SRG Meeting Location.” This information is crucial and will allow users to update their Outlook calendars.

Pre-Council

- Correct IC Store link. Right now, this link carries users to IMPAC II documentation.

Post/Award Pending Type 5s Page

- Fix ICO Program Approval link. It loads a blank page.
- Add additional sorts on Type 5 Receipt Date, E-Snap, Budget Start Date (a new requirement).

PO Notes

- Replace the title “Notes” with “PO Notes” at the top of the screen.
- Consider implementing some sort of indicator that PO Notes have been successfully saved. Right now, no such indicator exists, making it difficult to know when Notes have or have not been saved successfully.
- Investigate the “Error” message that several users are experiencing when they click on “Save.”

Grant Snapshot

- Correct the display of Dual POs. They are displayed incorrectly. The Primary PO name is repeated for Dual PO name.
- Display actual meeting dates on the SRG & Council Meeting Detail section. Right now the “IRG Mtg. Date/Time” and “Admin. IC Council Meets” reflects the council round.

eRA Symposium

Chanath reminded the group that the Symposium will be held at the Natcher Auditorium, beginning at 8:00 a.m. for registration and speakers from 8:30 to 12:15. There will be a 30-minute presentation about the Program Module as part of the Symposium. After the speakers, there will be an hour of hands-on demonstrations where symposium attendees can demo the latest eRA products, including the Program Module, the new Web Query Tool, QVR for Budget and the NIH eRA Commons. The Program Module workstation will feature two computers for live demonstrations.

Carlos asked the group for suggestions regarding the structure of the one-hour demo session. The group decided the following—

- Station two or three volunteers from the ePUG group at the demo workstation. Be sure that volunteers field questions, remind participants that the March version of the Program Module is a Beta Test, and explain the enhancements scheduled for July.
- Limit demo sessions to twenty minutes so that the Program Module can be demonstrated three times, and symposium participants can visit multiple demos in the hour allotted for hands-on demos.
- Feature a live demonstration (no Web cast) in a building other than the Natcher Building, for off-site participants. A volunteer is needed.
- Distribute handouts listing the Program Module enhancements for the July release.
- Feature a sign-up sheet for Program staff interested in joining the ePUG and becoming more involved with the development of the Program Module.

Finally, Chanath asked group members to email him directly if they would like to volunteer at the Symposium.

Action: (All) Email Chanath to volunteer at a workstation for the April 30 Symposium.

Attendees

Armistead, Allyson (LTS)	Erickson, Bud (NCI)	Musson, Bob (NHLBI)
Asanuma, Chiiko (NIMH)	Finkelstein, David (NIA)	Ratnanather, Chanath (eRA)
Caban, Carlos (OER)	Heath, Anne (NCI)	Jose Servauo (NIDDK)
Duncan, Rory (NIAID)	Martin, Carol (NHGRI)	Tabor, Derrick (NIGMS)