

DELIVERED! FEBRUARY-JUNE 2008 DEPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE IO LAB

The Infrastructure Deployment Branch/Infrastructure Operations Division/OCIO, also known as the Interoperability Lab (IO Lab), is responsible for keeping the ITS computing system up-to-date through the careful deployment of new software applications and hardware, security patches, and software upgrades. Each IT change is evaluated, tested, and deployed in a way that assures the computing system will remain secure and stable.

These *highlights*, compiled periodically by the ITS Communications Team, are selected from over 300 projects completed from February through June 2008. Projects include those requested by and for ITS customers as well as improvements to the core ITS system. An *Initiator* represents the group requesting the project and works directly with the IDB *Release Manager*, who leads the project through all the required IO Lab phases. Once completed, the change is deployed to end-users through the ITS Technical Support Division.

Note: An article about Managing IT Change will be in the next issue of OCFO-OCIO Connections. More information about the IO Lab is featured in [ITS Connections #5](#) and [ITS Connections #6](#).

Agency/Initiator and ITS Release Manager	Project Name	Deployment Description
<p>FSA/Large Office</p> <p>Initiator: Denise Stukes</p> <p>Release Manager: Robin Kasemeyer</p>	<p>Enterprise Content Management (ECM) Outlook Add-in, V.2.0</p> <p>ECM Outlook Add-in is a tool for helping a large organization manage Outlook email. End-users will be able to channel, archive, and locate email content. With the eventual consolidation of USDA email, ITS and FSA are piloting ECM Outlook Add-in in the Washington, DC Large Office.</p> <p>Users will be able to easily move emails to folders, create new storage files, and maneuver large quantities of email.</p>	<p>FSA's WDC Large Office, with 500 employees, is the test site to optimize and identify standards for the rest of FSA.</p> <p>Prior to deployment, the project had an extensive design and training period so the product that is now being tested could be as useful to FSA-WDC as possible.</p> <p>ITS used SMS (the Systems Management Server) to automatically load ECM Outlook Add-in and further enhancements on end-user computers.</p>
<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</p> <p>Initiator: Frank Geter</p> <p>Release Manager: Bev Gray</p>	<p>ArcEditor 9.2 Update for Customer Service Toolkit SP4</p> <p>This update matches the current versions (9.2) of ArcEditor and Customer Service Toolkit, the key mapping tools for natural resource management used by NRCS and conservation district personnel.</p> <p>ArcEditor is a powerful GIS desktop system for editing and managing geographic data. Customer Service Toolkit, commonly referred to as Toolkit, is the primary tool used to help NRCS staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess resource information, • Plan where conservation practices can be applied, • Develop and document a conservation plan, and • Use a contracting wizard to generate resource management contracts. <p>Customer data is saved to the National Conservation Planning Database (NCPDB) where it will be available for subsequent reviews and updates. In addition, the customer data is made available to the Performance Reporting System (PRS).</p>	<p>This update combines ArcEditor 9.2 with a package of associated geographic applications and patches, (including the installation of ArcGIS 9.2 SP4; Soil Data Viewer 5.2 and the projected release of DNR Garmin 5.3.2; SP4 Help files; Raster Patch; and a Reconcile Patch for ArcGIS 9.2 SP4).</p> <p>To streamline and improve deployment to more than 12,000 NRCS employees and partners, the IO Lab optimized this package into a set of files located in a Distributed File System so they can be deployed automatically across NRCS.</p> <p>Note: USDA's GIS programs have been featured in ITS Connections:</p> <p>📄 ITS Connections #9</p> <p>📄 ITS Connections #10</p> <p>See also the following Web sites:</p> <p>📄 NRCS Maps, Imagery, Data, & Analysis - http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Technical/maps.html</p> <p>📄 FSA Geographic Information Systems- http://www.gis.sc.egov.usda.gov/support/fsa.html</p>

Agency/Initiator and ITS Release Manager	Project Name	Deployment Description
<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service</p> <p>Initiator: Jim Carrington</p> <p>Release Manager: Dan Snyder</p>	<p>ArcGIS 9.2 Service Pack 5</p> <p>This Service Pack, which was integrated by USDA, is for the ArcGIS 9.2 Desktop suite and is intended to address several issues identified by the vendor that were not addressed by Service Pack 4.</p> <p>This package also includes the ArcGIS 9.2 SP5 Help Files. A complete listing of the updates can be found at: http://downloads.esri.com/support/downloads/other_/ArcGIS-92sp5-issues.htm</p>	<p>The testing and packaging of this project is complete. It is now in manual deployment phase by TSD, which means a specialist works on-site with each NRCS workstations to load ArcGIS 9.2. As of Aug. 26, 2008, upgrades have been completed on approximately half of 14,000 workstations.</p>
<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service</p> <p>Initiator: Ken Rojas</p> <p>Release Manager: Dan Snyder</p>	<p>MS Silverlight 2.0 Beta for CRM 4.0 Project Workstations</p> <p>Microsoft Silverlight is a cross-browser, cross-platform, and cross-device plug-in for delivering the next generation of .NET based media experiences and rich interactive applications for the Web. This plug-in will support an agency geospatial data viewer called SilverMap, which will be used to view and navigate through various geospatial layers.</p> <p>Initially the LSGP-Easements and the Field Office CRM applications will benefit from this tool. Since this is browser based there are many online applications that can also draw benefit from this fast and innovative tool.</p>	<p>The product was approved to be installed on workstations that are part of selected pilot programs by the SCA agencies. An example is the NRCS Customer Self Service (CSS) project and the potential installation with CRM 4.0 for the NRCS Lean SixSigma Grant Program (LSGP) pilot. To date, this version has been deployed on 29 workstations.</p>
<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service</p> <p>Initiator: Ken Rojas</p> <p>Release Manager: David Pfaffenberger</p>	<p>RUSLE2 1.26.64 -</p> <p>RUSLE2 is an advanced, user-friendly software model that predicts long-term, average-annual erosion by water. This software allows NRCS to help property owners predict soil erosion from a hill slope.</p> <p>Getting accurate and consistent erosion estimates are key to maintaining the long term viability of the farming system and enhancing conservation and stewardship of the land. This project allows NRCS to ensure that all the soil erosion estimates are consistent from office to office since they are all using the same version.</p>	<p>RUSLE2 had been deployed on the Team Services Web site 2 years ago. This release was deployed using SMS to update all previous versions that were not current. This process saved TSD countless hours of manually locating and updating older versions of RUSLE2.</p>
<p>Rural Development</p> <p>Initiator: Ed Plourde</p> <p>Release Manager: David Pfaffenberger</p>	<p>RDContacts 1.1 Removal</p> <p>RD Contacts is a windows application written for field and state office users within Rural Development. The application is used to maintain RD's partner contacts and outreach activities.</p> <p>The application was replaced with a web version so the uninstalling of the windows based application was needed.</p>	<p>A SMS Deployment automatically removed the RDContacts 1.1 application from all workstations that had it installed. This saved TSD time in manually removing the application. Quote from one customer, "My experience with the removal of the existing application exceeded my expectations in ease and effectiveness."</p>

Agency/Initiator and ITS Release Manager	Project Name	Deployment Description
<p>Core/ITS</p> <p>Initiator: Jack Zechman</p> <p>IDB Release Manager- Steve Lucas</p>	<p>Office 2007 Compatibility Pack Service Pack I</p> <p>The Compatibility Pack allows users of earlier versions of Microsoft Office to open documents produced in Office 2007 such as .docx, .exlx, and .pptx files. It also contains significant security, stability, and performance improvements and combines previously released fixes into one update.</p>	<p>The Office 2007 Compatibility Pack Service Pack I was distributed automatically throughout the country using SMS. It has been delivered to 48,631 workstations.</p>
<p>Core/ITS</p> <p>Initiator: Chuck Fleury</p> <p>IDB Release Manager- Dan Snyder</p>	<p>Clean up of SYSVOL</p> <p>The System Volume (Sysvol) is a shared directory that stores the server copy of the domain's public files that must be shared for common access and replication throughout a domain*. <i>Clean up of SYSVOL</i> is a procedure to streamline and maintain the start-up script that helps to manage ITS Group Policy.</p> <p>Group Policy is a feature of Microsoft Windows operating systems that provides centralized management and configuration of computers and remote users in an Active Directory environment**. This allows ITS to perform a variety of system maintenance, upgrade, and security activities.</p> <p>*from Microsoft **based on Wikipedia</p>	<p>As part of the project to deploy Advanced Group Policy Management (AGPM), the startup script and the files in SYSVOL were analyzed for clean up. As part of the clean-up process more than 109MB of files were removed. The size of the startup script folder has been reduced to 5MB. Removing the files will dramatically decrease the time it takes to back up Group Policy.</p>
<p>Core/ITS</p> <p>Initiator: Vinod Gulati</p> <p>Release Manager- Dan Snyder</p>	<p>Disk Imaging Phase II</p> <p>In order for a workstation to join the ITS network, it must be loaded with certain basic operating system components, standard applications, network settings, and end-user specific applications.</p> <p>Disk Imaging Phase II is the process of manually performing a workstation build with all of the standard applications and allowing the system to be patched with all Security and Application updates.</p> <p>A snapshot of the workstation hard drive is taken to create an image file. The image can then be applied to a clean hard drive in the same make and model of workstation from which the image was taken.</p>	<p>The image file is restored to a clean hard drive on specific makes and models of workstations procured for use on the ITS network. Within 5 minutes the image file is restored to the hard drive and the unit can be placed on the network within 10 minutes.</p> <p>Supplemental applications that are needed for the user can then be applied and the unit turned over to the end user within 30-60 minutes. This process previously took over 7 hours to complete. Followed by another 24-48 hours for all of the SMS Advertisements, a process that makes programs available for use, to be applied to deliver the Security patches.</p>