



## **UFMS NEWSFLASH: May 27, 2003**

In this edition . . .

- 1. Configuration Workshops Clarify System Design**
- 2. May 9, 2003—NIH: Partners in Progress Event**
- 3. UFMS Development Hardware Arrives**
- 4. Got a Bug? Get a Patch.**

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### **1. Configuration Workshops Bring Clarity**

The global design process for HHS's new financial management system continues, now focusing on software configuration and business processes. During three weeks in May, the UFMS Program team held global configuration workshops with agency representatives as a forum to identify the basic UFMS configuration for the first Conference Room Pilot (CRP). The workshops were conducted by module and agency, enabling the specialized groups to answer questions that helped identify the Oracle U.S. Federal Financials configuration attributes. A second facet of the workshops included high-level looks at the initial global business process designs. Each module lead on the UFMS Project Team will take the information gathered from these workshops and complete the initial design of their software module. These initial configurations will be demonstrated in the first CRP in August. Matt Zakielarz, UFMS Global Business Analysis Lead, said, "Thanks to every agency for making the Configuration Workshops a great success! The continuing support from our subject matter experts throughout the Department will prepare us well for our first CRP."

This was just the first of this type of workshop. As the sites enter implementation (see [www.hhs.gov/ufms/projecttimeline.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ufms/projecttimeline.html) for project timeline), the site teams will add their agencies' specific system configuration needs to the global configuration.

### **2. May 9, 2003—UFMS and NIH: Partners in Progress**

Kerry Weems, Acting Assistant Secretary for Budget, Technology and Finance teamed with Dr. Elias Zerhouni, NIH Director, on May 9th to give an HHS update on the progress and plans of UFMS. Dr. Lawrence Tabak, NIH Administrative Management Systems Steering Committee co-chair and Director, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, discussed the NIH commitment to the UFMS project and reinforced the need for science and management to work together to achieve common goals and objectives. "We are all working together to make this vision a reality", said Weems. NIH OD and UFMS Global staff also attended the meeting in Bethesda.

To see the complete presentation, visit [http://intranet.hhs.gov/ufms/library/ufmsnih\\_pip.pdf](http://intranet.hhs.gov/ufms/library/ufmsnih_pip.pdf).

### **3. UFMS Development Hardware Arrives**

In early April, the UFMS project took another major step forward with receipt of the development hardware that will be used to design the new Unified Financial Management System. The Sun Fire [tm] Server 15k, is one of the most technologically advanced high-end servers; it provides 6 domains, 24 Central Processing Units (CPUs), 3 firewalls, and a backup system. The new hardware will host the domains or environments (the combination of hardware and software in a computer) for the development of UFMS. It has the flexibility to direct resources as needed



across the physical memory of the server, thereby enhancing the hardware's performance. This hardware also has the capability to accommodate future HHS development requirements by growing simultaneously to meet those needs. This development environment is where UFMS software configurations are finalized, interfaces with feeder systems are developed, conversions of legacy core financial data into UFMS are developed, and extensions to close some gaps identified during the Fit/Gap analysis are provided. The UFMS development hardware is currently housed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. It is planned for the Center for Information Technology (CIT) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to initially host the production environment.

#### **4. Got a Bug? Get a Patch.**

What exactly is a "patch"? Patches are released, updated solutions for a software package which some software vendors call service releases. Patches may provide solutions for "bugs" that are identified in the software and may also provide enhancements to the software functionality. Patches are released by Oracle, typically on a quarterly basis, in mini-packs (bundled "patch" releases) and as often as needed for specific "fixes" between mini-packs. The UFMS technical team members monitor patches to determine their benefits and download them as needed. The most current patches that UFMS received are beneficial for the project in that they help satisfy several of the known "gaps" identified in the recently completed Global Fit/Gap Analysis. Thanks to "patches", UFMS will continue to be updated to include the latest functionality.