OTCnet Connect

September 2012
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A publication of the Financial Management Service (FMS) Over the Counter Revenue Collection Division

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 2012:

- ◊ *Agencies need to update firmware to 1.2.1 and 1.5.1*
- ◊ *OTCnet Release 1.3*

October 2012:

- ◊ *Deadline for PCC OTC and CA$HLINK II Agencies to convert to OTCnet*

December 31, 2012:

- ◊ *CA$HLINK II turns off*
- ◊ *PCC OTC turns off*
- ◊ *Manual SF 215 processing no longer available*

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◊ *CA$HLINK II should no longer be used to input agency deposits; Agencies/FIs should use OTCnet instead*
- ◊ *FIs should update their processes/procedures to include the use of OTCnet*
- ◊ *FI central offices should continue to proactively bring branch offices onto OTCnet*
- ◊ *FI central offices should continue to distribute communications to all branch offices that remind FIs of OTCnet's benefits*

QUICK LINKS

OTCnet Website
http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet

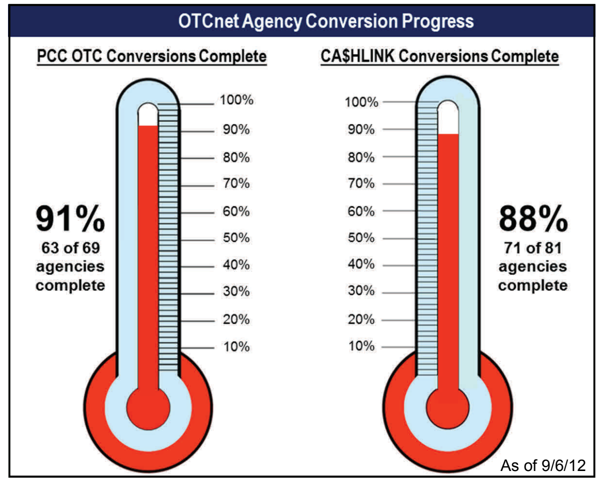
OTCnet Training
www.fms.treas.gov/otcnet/training.html

OTCnet System Requirements
www.fms.treas.gov/otcnet/OTCnet_SysReq.pdf

OTCnet Login
www.otcnet.fms.treas.gov

TRS Website
www.fms.treas.gov/trs

OTCnet and TRS – What Your Agency or Financial Institution Needs to Do to Prepare for CA$HLINK II Shutdown



Only three months remain until December 31, 2012, when both the CA$HLINK II and Paper Check Conversion Over-the-Counter (PCC OTC) systems are decommissioned. Agencies and financial institutions must transition from CA$HLINK II and/or PCC OTC to the OTC Channel Application (OTCnet) to process their over-the-counter collections. In addition, agencies should enroll in and actively use the Transaction Reporting System (TRS) now to be fully prepared when CA$HLINK II is shut down. It is important to note that conversion and enrollment are only the first steps. To ensure full preparation:

1. Agencies and financial institutions must use OTCnet deposit reporting in place of the paper SF 215 deposit tickets that are reported in CA$HLINK II for all TGA and ITGA bank deposits.
2. Agencies must use OTCnet for electronic check capture in place of PCC OTC.
3. Agencies must use TRS to obtain collections information in place of CA$HLINK II.

The following sections provide important information about OTCnet and TRS and explain the importance of these three actions.

What is the relationship between OTCnet and TRS?
OTCnet contains two modules to allow agencies to process over-the-counter collections: Deposit Reporting and Check Capture. OTCnet Deposit Reporting allows an agency to process domestic currency, foreign currency and paper checks by submitting an electronic deposit ticket and sending the physical collections to a financial institution. OTCnet Check Capture allows an agency to electronically process domestic paper checks by scanning and transmitting check data for electronic settlement.

TRS currently receives over-the-counter summary-level Deposit Reporting and Check Capture collections processed by OTCnet. (*see Figure 1 on page 2*)

Agencies and financial institutions must ensure that all over-the-counter collections deposits have been transitioned to OTCnet and are being processed through OTCnet Deposit Reporting and/or OTCnet Check Capture by October 2012. Once transitioned, over-the-counter collections for your agency will be available in TRS.

Why must agencies and financial institutions use OTCnet for over-the-counter collections?
Agencies and financial institutions must use OTCnet Deposit Reporting in place of the SF 215 deposit tickets (deposits entered directly into CA$HLINK II) for all TGA and ITGA bank deposits because, after December 31, 2012, financial institutions will no longer be able to accept manual SF 215 deposit tickets.

Additionally, agencies must use OTCnet for electronic check capture in place of PCC OTC because PCC OTC will shut down on December 31, 2012, and will not be available for check capture. (*continued on page 2*)

CA$HLINK II and PCC OTC Update

***Only 3 months** left until CA$HLINK II is decommissioned!*

FIs using OTCnet are responsible for coordination with local branches to ensure they are prepared to receive agency's OTCnet deposits by October 2012 at the local level. Successful coordination with local branches will ensure an easy transition for both agencies and FIs during the conversion process.

Important Conversion Dates:

- ◊ **Oct. 2012:** PCC OTC and CA$HLINK II Agencies complete conversion to OTCnet
- ◊ **Dec. 2012:** CA$HLINK II and PCC OTC are turned off and the Manual SF 215 process is no longer available

If your Agency has not received its conversion date, contact Angela Smith at (202) 874-4080 as soon as possible.

OTCnet Connect

NEW ON THE OTCnet WEBSITE

- ◊ *Added resources to the OTCnet 1.3 Information Page*
- ◊ *1.3 Section added to the Common Questions Page*
- ◊ *Updated Agency Conversion Progress Graphic*

OTCnet SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- ◊ *Internet Explorer 7 or 8*
- ◊ *Windows 7, Vista, XP*
- ◊ *Java 1.20 or 1.24*
- ◊ *32 Bit operating System*

Remember to inform your IT specialist EARLY!

CONTACT US

Agency Outreach Team:
(703) 377-5365
FMS.OTCInformation@citi.com

24/7 Customer Service:
(866) 945-7920
FMS.OTCChannel@citi.com

Deployment Team:
(703) 377-5586
FMS.OTCDeployment@citi.com

TRS Agency Outreach:
(301) 699-6814
TRSAgencyOutreach@pnc.com

TRS Call Center:
1 (800) 346-5465 or
(301)887-6600
TRS@pnc.com

Once OTCnet conversion is complete, the next goal is for all agencies to fully utilize OTCnet for their agency's over-the-counter deposit needs. Financial institutions should encourage their agencies to use OTCnet, and FMS will reach out to agencies that do not have an increased level of activity in OTCnet to help them achieve full OTCnet utilization.

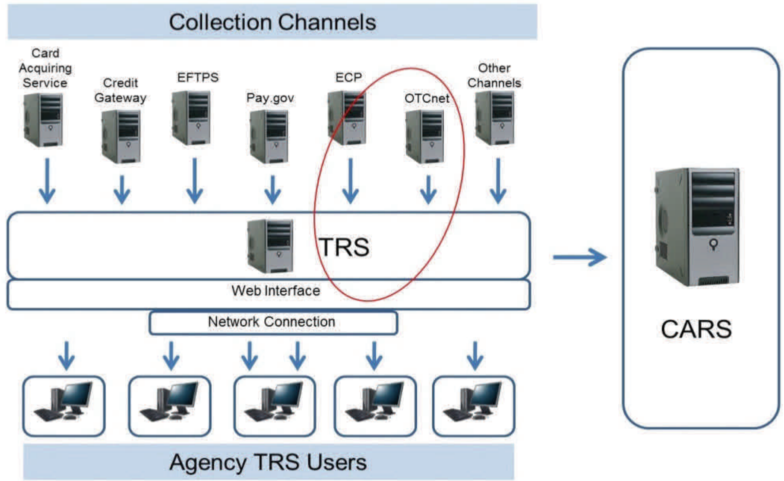


Figure 1: Transaction data flows to TRS from Collection Channels; TRS provides transaction reporting data to CARS and Agency TRS

Why must agencies use TRS to obtain collections information in place of CA$HLINK II?
With the shutdown of CA$HLINK II on December 31, 2012, TRS will be the only FMS system where agencies can view all of their collections information. Agencies and financial institutions currently converted to OTCnet need to act now to make sure that all over-the-counter collections are being processed using OTCnet Deposit Reporting and/or OTCnet Check Capture and are no longer being entered manually in CA$HLINK II. By taking steps now to confirm this, agencies will have the opportunity to verify that all required data is available in TRS to support their business processes. It is critical to identify and confirm that all OTCnet collections are reflected in TRS prior to the CA$HLINK II and PCC OTC shutdown in December 2012.

For more Release 1.3 information and resources, visit http://fmsq.treas.gov/otcnet/releaseinfo.html

Additional Information - OTCnet Release 1.3
OTCnet Release 1.3 will be implemented in late September 2012 and will expand the existing data flow from OTCnet to TRS. With Release 1.3, OTCnet will begin reporting summary and detailed data for Check Capture and will continue to report summary level data for Bank Deposits. Release 1.3 will also provide classification information for check transactions at the summary and detail level which helps agencies meet requirements to become CARS Reporters, required for all agencies by October 2014.

After OTCnet Release 1.3 is implemented, TRS users will be able to retrieve summary and detailed data for OTCnet Check Capture and can continue to retrieve summary level data for Bank Deposits in TRS reports and data files. TRS will continue to report this transaction information to the Central Accounting Reporting System (CARS) and to agencies, consolidating and streamlining the transaction reporting for all over-the-counter collections.

CA$HLINK II and PCC OTC will shut down on December 31, 2012.

Are you ready?

OTCnet Hosts Informational Booth At FMS Annual Conference

On August 20-22, the Financial Management Service hosted its annual conference, which offers the latest topics and the most interesting developments in financial management. Over 800 individuals representing 90-plus federal agencies attended the conference. These attendees included federal government accountants, auditors, budget specialists, financial analysts and IT professionals. The conference provided an opportunity for these individuals to gain financial leadership perspectives from plenary speakers, to network with financial colleagues, and to attend breakout sessions in the areas of accounting, reporting, auditing, investment and budgeting.

OTCnet team members Reggie McKinney, Angela Smith, Tameka Leonard, Ava Singleton and Mike Zeigler represented OTCnet at the conference to help promote the system and address individual user questions and requests. To engage with conference attendees, the OTCnet team hosted an information booth and spoke with attendees about converting to and using OTCnet. They also provided informational handouts, including the July *OTCnet Connect* newsletter and an OTCnet fact sheet, to people who visited the booth.

Conference attendees stopped by the booth to request to be set up in OTCnet, to provide feedback on the OTCnet system, and to obtain educational information from the FMS OTCnet subject matter experts. The OTCnet representatives were able to help address all of their questions and requests. For more information, please contact FMS.OTCInformation@citi.com.