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RECERTIFICATION



The ePM Team will launch the start of the end user recertification process on July 15th. They will use the new automated recertification tool to assist with this effort. All ePM users will receive an automated email asking them to recertify and a link that will redirect them to the login recertification page. Please make sure to respond to any requests by the Regional System Administrator or ePM Regional Coordinators over the next few weeks. End User Recertification is an annual system process and is required for all GSA IT Systems. In addition, we appreciate your efforts, patience and cooperation during this process.

ePM Version 4.1 is now available! This installation primarily focuses on enhancements that improve ePMXpress 2.0, Earned Value, Cognos Reporting and the End User Recertification process. Cognos has been optimized for faster reporting, and the ePM end user annual recertification process is now automated. We hope that these changes will make your experience using ePM a positive one.



REGION 8



In November 2012 Region 8 rolled out ePMXpress 2.0 to the Small Projects community. Jonathan Bringewatt, ePM Small Projects Regional Coordinator, said “each Project Manager’s ability to create and update projects quickly and easily in the Google Chrome environment has increased the use of ePM in the region”. The schedule tab allows for simple updating and baselining of project schedules to meet the small project delivery measure. The cuff record financial section allows the Project Manager to keep track of the project budget and provide more accurate reporting. Jonathan explains that when the region receives the small project delivery measure reports, it is simple to make updates to schedules. He notes that if you have forgotten to baseline your projects you can work with the authorized people in your region to go back and set that so that it can be included in the measure.

ASSESS BARRIERS

When using ePM if something comes up that does not seem right take a moment to assess the situation. Ask yourself a few simple questions: Is this a system problem or an equipment problem? Why does ePM not allow me to do something? Why am I not able to see something that I should be able to? Who is the contact that can help? Questions like these can get the definitive results a user needs to move forward.



Often a perceived issue can be quickly addressed by the ePM Regional System Administrator (RSA) or ePM Regional Coordinator. Many times there is a difference between the way a user would like the application to work versus the way the system has been designed to function. Or it is a simple matter of a step that has been overlooked. Sometimes the problem is an equipment related issue that can be resolved by adjusting certain settings on your laptop. Lastly some problems that are encountered are easily resolved by an RSA. There are a lot of parts and pieces to ePM which take the RSA time to ensure all of the system settings are properly maintained. These are typically related to templates/pick-lists and only take an email to the help desk or an administrator to correct.

The ePM Team is working diligently to address system related issues. In fact with the recent release of ePM v4.1, several identified “bugs” related to Earned Value tracking, ePMXpress, and Reporting were corrected. Our goal is for ePM to provide a reliable user experience. As with any newly embraced application it takes time for the tool and organization to get comfortable with one another. This team is committed to continual improvement of ePM to assist project teams in managing their projects and to meet GSA’s priorities.

