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Minor System Changes

In July, the ePM Team applied a handful of fixes to the ePM system and its utilities. Among the notable changes, the ePM User Administration Utility (UAC) has been fixed to automatically alert users by email when new program access requests are initiated.

In Fall 2014 the ePM Team will be installing a small change to ePMXpress providing a warning to users when they have been idle in the application. The warning should help users in avoiding loss of work when user entered data has not recently been saved.



As a reminder, if you have technical questions about ePM, contact ePM Support epmsupport@gsa.gov.

For business line questions contact Nick Gicale, Tom Kollaja or Ralph Abel.

FY14 CAPITAL PROJECTS GUIDANCE

In August 2014, the national Office for Project Delivery issued an “FY14 Capital Project Data Entry Guide” for use on capital projects from FY14 and forward. The Guide describes a process for tracking and reporting all capital project planned obligations within ePM. Previously, under ARRA, tracking and reporting of planned obligations was completed in a Recovery PMO hosted P6 system which has been sunsetted. The use of ePM for program reporting of planned obligations at a project and contract level fills a gap not currently met by other GSA information systems. Regional capital project teams should continue working with their local ePM support contacts to begin populating projects with all FY14 planned obligations. Questions on this guidance can be addressed to Tom Kollaja, ePM Capital Projects Coordinator at tom.kollaja@gsa.gov.

2014 EPM CERTIFICATION

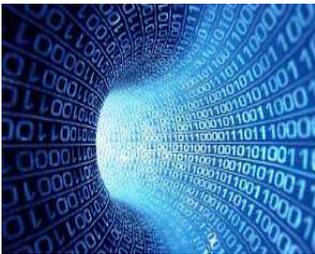
Thank you for your time and effort in this year’s ePM certification. Over the six week period, 24 Programs, 2,256 ePM Users and 17,903 Projects were certified. Great job getting the message out, encouraging participation, and completing this task. If anyone is having ePM access issues, please have them email epmsupport@gsa.gov.



NEW “ALL PROJECT INFO” REPORT

GSA is now utilizing a new Cognos report developed by PwC, with input from Regions 5, 7 and Central Office. The “All Project Info” report exports a complete set of project data across a range of ePM projects. The report is targeted towards reporting on under-prospectus projects, and includes user prompts for ePM Small Project Program(s), Managing Org(s) and Project(s). Report output includes over 70 ePM/ePMXpress fields organized by project including: basic project details, project status, team members, cuff record finances and schedule dates. The report can be found in Cognos within the Public Folders-->Regional Reports-->Region 05 folder. Please contact the ePM Help Desk for additional information.

ePM Project #	Project Title	Status	Building #	Description	PCNI RWA	Managing Org	Customer/ AB Code	Detailed Status	Project Manager	COs	CSs	PAs	Prop Man	Tech Support	BA	Sponsor	Funding Type	Funding Type (ePMXpress)	
1455	IL-CHICAGO- Lignani FB IL0032Z -- Replacement Sprinkler Heads -- Basement & 13th Floor	Active	IL0032Z	Replace aged and/or recalled sprinkler heads in the selected areas of the basement and 13th floor.	RIL00688	Chicago/SC Project Management Branch	000000-Shell 4700-General Services Administration AB-AB	Contract has been awarded.	Ilena Rogatchevsky									Blank	
1892	IL-CHICAGO-CUSTOMHOUSE-AHU-1	Active	IL0032Z	Investigate cooling problems in child care center related to AHU-1 in US Customhouse. Involve AEP subject matter expert for mechanical system.	TBD	Chicago/SC Project Management Branch	000000-Shell	Contracted SLH each to provide a TAB for the AHU.	William Wagner	Catherine Dean								BA54	
1997	IL-CHICAGO-CUSTOMHOUSE-Childcare Center renovation	Active	IL0032Z	Renovation of existing Child Care Center in Customhouse including wall and floor finishes. A/E should have experience with Child Care centers and be familiar with related codes and regulations.	RIL00688	Chicago/SC Project Management Branch	4700-General Services Administration		William Wagner	Michael Little			Gina Carter, Raymond Cobbyler			Marie Roche	BA54		



TEAM CHANGES

Over the last 3 months, the ePM Team has experienced a number of staff transitions:

- Jim Harrington has replaced Kathy Mulligan as the ZSA covering Regions 1, 3 and 6
- Alida Rodriguez has replaced Jodi Harris as the Lead ePM Trainer
- Valerie Pierre has replaced Joel Johnson as the Central Office Program Support POC
- Carol Reynolds has replaced Kirsten Delashmutt as the GSA CIO Project Management Lead
- Allen Matz has transitioned off the ePM Support Team

ePM Resources:

ePM Support
epmsupport@gsa.gov
 1 (866) 367-7878
 M-F 7:30 AM -7:00 PM EST

ePM Login Site
<https://epm.pbs.gsa.gov/proliance>

User Resources
<http://insite.gsa.gov/epm>
<http://gsa.gov/epm>

ePM Contacts:

Nick Gicale
 ePM Senior Project Manager
 Nick.Gicale@gsa.gov

Tom Kollaja
 Capital Projects Rep
 Tom.Kollaja@gsa.gov

Ralph Abel
 Small Projects Rep
 Ralph.Abel@gsa.gov

Carol Reynolds
 PBS CIO Project Manager
 Carol.Reynolds@gsa.gov



USER SPOTLIGHT



Jeff Yoder is a Supervisory Project Manager overseeing the Southern Illinois/Indiana area of the PMSC’s Southern Service Center. Jeff joined GSA in 2003 and has used ePMXpress since its roll-out in early 2013.

Jeff says that the most frequently used ePMXpress modules in the Service Center right now are Scheduling and File Manager. His team is “embarking on the routine use of the Financial module to track estimates, cost allocations, and change orders this coming Fiscal Year.” He says that “it’s beginning to improve our management efficiency in terms of Programs, but still requires some changes to make it a good Project Management tool.” His team has become very comfortable using the tool as time has passed.

Jeff has spent time with his team developing an understanding for its use and discussing the value of the practical application ePM has. Jeff explains the benefits, “It may take a little more time up-front to input the data, but by not having others people from within our Service Center or other Divisions interrupting our project managers with phones calls for project status or information about timelines, I and others are not disrupting their workflow – keeping them on task and more efficient at what they’re doing.”

We asked Jeff to share his lessons learned with ePM. “Additionally, system users need to put time into their weekly schedule to keep their project information up-to-date—especially with weekly reports now being generated for review. Even if nothing has happened, they need to make a comment showing progression is being made. This becomes even more critical as we are trying to move away from the multiple tracking mechanisms currently being used on Program Areas and geographically around the Service Centers. Lastly, in order to effectively manage a Program, we need to be able to extract that data (Reports) in a meaningful format that is both intuitive and easy to read.”

Jeff is currently involved the with National Project Management Systems Team that is investigating Project Management Systems and will be making a recommendation to the National Office of what the future should look like for GSA in terms of Project Management tools.

Jeff is a graduate of Indiana University and holds a BGS undergraduate degree with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. He also has a Master’s Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University and has held several positions in Project Management prior to his GSA career. In his spare time, Jeff participates in the Indiana Construction Roundtable, is on the Board of Directors for both a Cycling organization and his Homeowners Association, competes in Ironman Triathlons around the country, and coaches his daughter’s basketball team.