

..THE CONNECTIONS WEEKLY..

June 6 - June 13, 2008



CONNECTIONS BUILD Ran Successfully

The implementation of a new Build (SIR 8443) was successfully deployed on May 30th. It addressed two recent, intermittently occurring problems in the CONNECTIONS application:

- When workers are in the FASP in a Family Services Stage and access the Case Summary Tab, the Assigned Worker Grid at the bottom of the tab window may be blank.
- When workers are in the Health Tab, and have opened the “Designating Health Responsibility” Window, the Responsible Agency List may be blank.

Both problems have occurred intermittently for some users and are the result of the upgrade to Oracle 10 which was implemented several weeks ago.

Oracle 10G Upgrade Issue

As you are aware, a major CONNECTIONS database upgrade to Oracle 10G was implemented on May 2, 2008 which required the technical team to copy the current production data into the new, upgraded database. While the overall implementation was successful, we have determined that scripts to load data in tables that were created in Build 18.9.6 were not completed. While no data was lost, any information entered in these specific tables between the implementation date of 18.9.6 (March 07, 2008) and 18.9.5 (May 2, 2008) is not currently viewable in production. The areas of impact are: AFCARS Foster care and Adoption Information, FASP Comments for Life Skills, Out of State Check for Fingerprints in FAD homes, and Bridges to Health - all waiver, assessment scores and services data.

We are currently taking steps to complete the load of these tables and anticipate completing this effort imminently. It is not necessary for users to re-enter any information since the steps to address this issue will load impacted data into production. Please contact the triage unit if you have any questions via ocfs.sm.conn_app_help@ocfs.state.ny.us.

Upgrading CONNECTIONS Workstations to Windows XP

On June 3, 2008, New York State Office for Technology(OFT) issued OFT/CIO Customer Bulletin (08-CNS-01) to inform that by the end of 2009, all OCFS owned

workstations on the Customer Networking Solutions(CNS) managed network will need to be upgraded to the Windows XP SP2 operating system.

On June 20, 2005, Microsoft Windows 2000 moved from mainstream support to the extended support phase. Under extended support, Microsoft continues to provide critical security updates; however, free technical support, design changes, and updates to core components like Internet Explorer are no longer provided. **Windows 2000 support will be discontinued in 2010.**

Windows XP SP2 provides a variety of programming changes and takes advantage of hardware features to provide a more secure computing environment.

OneImage will be used to upgrade workstations to Windows XP SP2. **Upgrading workstations will begin on June 1, 2008, and it is expected that all workstations will be upgraded to Windows XP by May 31, 2009.**

At sites having 20 or more workstations and requiring an operating system upgrade, CIO/OFT staff will perform the necessary work at your agency's site. A member of the CIO/OFT Coordination Center will contact each site to coordinate a date for the upgrade.

In sites having less than 20 workstations, The Coordination Center will contact each site and work with the local LAN Administrator or site contact staff to determine the best method for upgrading the devices. In addition to clearing the hard drive (as noted above) it may be necessary for LAN staff to assist in the upgrade of each device.

Prior to the operating system upgrade, staff will need to move any material stored on their computer's hard drive onto a network drive. The movement of files and folders should be timed to ensure all required files have been copied; for example, that morning if the upgrade is that afternoon. No new files/folders are to be saved on the computer once files/folders are copied to the network drive. Agency staff should delete old files no longer needed and any "non-business" files, such as photos, prior to moving files and folders to the network drive. Staff will need to copy files/folders back to the computer's hard drive after the XP upgrade has been completed. Instructions for this process are included in the Attachment portion of this Bulletin.

The Bulletin and attachments are attached to this e-mail and posted to the OFT website: <http://www.oft.state.ny.us/Services/Bulletins/bulletins.htm>



08-CNS-01 Windows
XP UpgradeFinalAppr

The Portable Information Technology Demonstration Project -

OCFS received requests to participate in the Portable Information Technology project from thirty-six Local Districts. The proposals will be reviewed by an inter-divisional OCFS team and notification to districts will be made shortly. Judging from the response, there is a very high degree of interest in the use of portable technology to support the work of CPS caseworkers.

Q2-08 (Build 18.9.7) Impact Analyses

Two impact analyses have been posted to the home and implementation pages of the CONNECTIONS website to assist Local Districts and Agencies implement new features being introduced with Q2-08. These impact analyses describe the new Prior Case Summary Report that will be available to CPS workers and the new MAINT EDUCATION Business Function.

GIS Message GIS 08-#005-New Income Eligibility Standards 6/1/08-5/31/09

This is to advise that the new income standards to be used in determining eligibility for Services are scheduled to migrate to production and will be reflected in WMS Services case processing effective June 2, 2008.

The new income standards were promulgated in 08-OCFS-INF-05, issued on April 16, 2008 which can be found under "Informational Letters"

The new standards are as follows:

| Family Size | Income |
|-------------|----------|
| 1 | \$10,400 |
| 2 | \$14,000 |
| 3 | \$17,600 |
| 4 | \$21,200 |
| 5 | \$24,800 |
| 6 | \$28,400 |
| 7 | \$32,000 |
| 8 | \$35,600 |

Add \$3600 per person for family size over 8.

The new standards have been incorporated into an updated Eligibility Determination spreadsheet (Version 9 Eligibility Worksheet 2008) used in Title XX under 200% of poverty calculation. The updated spreadsheet is located in: *All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/Finance/Eligibility/ Automated Eligibility.*

The new standards are also be reflected in the Eligibility Manual for Child Welfare Programs, located in: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/eligibility/>

Program questions should be directed to the appropriate regional office, as noted in the INF.

Systems questions should be directed to OCFS IT Operations at 1-800-342-3727.

The GIS message is attached to this e-mail and GIS messages are available in public folders:

*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ ***Services systems Reference Documents/ GIS (system change notices)*



WMS Discrepancy Report

The report for June was not run earlier this month as scheduled due to issues encountered with the Oracle 10G upgrade. Those issues have been resolved and it has been posted and is now available for your use.

Multiple Person Report

There was an error with the June report due to issues caused by the Oracle 10G upgrade. The report is currently not available for use and work is currently underway to resolve those issues. Once the report becomes available we will communicate that status.

Postponement of Upgrade to Internet Explorer Version 7-- New Implementation Date...

Last week we announced that an upgrade to Internet Explorer 7 was planned for June 6, 2008. However, this upgrade has been postponed. The new implementation date for local districts and voluntary agencies is August 29, 2008.

When it does occur, this upgrade will EXCLUDE customer machines running Windows 2000, because Internet Explorer Version 7 does not run on Windows 2000 machines.

Phenobarbital Added to Medications list in CONNECTIONS Note: This item was also included in last week's Bulletin)

The Medication field in the Health Tab of CONNECTIONS is populated by a list of medications that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Users enter the name of the medication (or a part of the name) and then select the medication from this list. The drug Phenobarbital, a medication that is commonly prescribed to control seizures in children, is not included on the FDA list because its use pre-dates the current FDA approval process. However, it has become apparent that because of its wide use, it needs to be part of the medication list. As of Friday May 23, Phenobarbital has been added to the list of medications that displays on the Medication Tab. It can now be selected and it will be recorded in the Medications tab and will display on outputs listing medications.

New Names for CONNECTIONS Builds Note: This item was also included in last week's Bulletin)

Fixes and improvements to Connections usually are designed, developed, grouped together and implemented periodically through "Builds." Each Build receives a numerical designation, such as Build 18.9.7, planned for the end of June. As of the start of 2008, these improvements will be implemented on a quarterly basis. Therefore, to simplify the naming system and enable users to more easily keep track of each Build, they are now being called Quarterly Improvement Plans and are referred to this year as Q1-08; Q2-08; Q3-08 and Q4-08. The "Q1,2,3, or 4 refers the quarter of the year beginning in January and "08" means this year. Build 18.9.7 to be released in June is also called "Q2 -08." In the future, after Build 18.9.10, the "Build" designation will be dropped and the improvements will be referred to as "Q1,2,3,or 4- the year."

Preview Refresh... Note: This item was also included in last week's Bulletin)

Just so that you know, the Preview environment will be refreshed Sunday evening, June 1 and every Sunday evening for the foreseeable future. This refresh will update the cases and data in Preview to what is in the Production application data base as of the refresh date. We will keep you posted if this schedule changes.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

The following document(s) were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly for the week of June 6, 2008
- Impact Analyses—Prior Case History Report & Maintain Education Business Function

Weekly System Maintenance...

Due to regularly scheduled system maintenance, the CONNECTIONS application will not be available on...

- Friday, 6/6/08 from 4:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- Wednesday, 6/11/08 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- Friday, 6/13/08 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM