

U.S. Department of the Treasury

KFC Dispatch

Spring 2015

Kansas City Financial Center

Save the Date: Fiscal Service Advisory Council Payments Forum

The Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Payment Management is hosting the 2nd annual Fiscal Service Advisory Council Payment Forum on **June 2-3, 2015** at the IRS, New Carrollton, MD. This year's theme is 'Strengthening the Payment Lifecycle.'

The forum provides a unique opportunity for agencies to hear first-hand the current and planned topics related to federal government payment products, services, and initiatives. Most importantly, agency representatives will have the ability to convey their thoughts, opinions, and concerns and to influence how those payment products/services are developed.

Council representation and participation is open to all federal agencies. To allow the council membership to be more efficient, we're asking that agency representatives be limited to a primary and alternate member for each agency processing site responsible for processing and submitting payments to the Fiscal Service. Both the member and alternate may attend the council forum meetings.

If you have questions, please contact:

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Additional information and registration is available at:

<http://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/events/>



2015 Federal Agency User Group Forum

The Federal Agency User Group (FAUG) is a forum that meets annually to discuss changes to applications and initiatives that could impact the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. The group discusses ways to provide feedback on programs and enhancements to better service the community.

Attendance in 2014 exceeded 20 agencies and this year is expected to exceed that number. The primary topic for 2015's forum is ASAP's transition of its certification process to the Secure Payment System (SPS).

This year's Federal Agency User Group Forum will be held on **July 22, 2015** at the Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Service (FS) Liberty Center Building (LCB), located at 401 14th Street SW, Room 107, Washington, DC.

The Tentative Agenda Topics consist of:

- SPS for certification in ASAP
- Reorganization/Transition
- TAS/BETC and CARS Reporting Process
- Batch Interface Process and Format Changes
- PKI Process Updates
- Changes for upcoming Releases
- Dormant Account Updates
- Additions to ASAP

Registration is currently available and must be completed prior to July 6, 2015.

Registration for the 2015 ASAP Federal Agency User Group Forum is located at:

http://www.fms.treas.gov/asap/fpa_training.html





Fiscal Service Payment Initiatives for Federal Agencies

Payment Management is providing training and awareness on payment initiatives for federal agencies at the Liberty Center Building in Washington, DC. The purpose is to provide federal agencies & vendors an update of Treasury initiatives for 2015 & beyond for the following applications:

Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)

Secure Payment System (SPS)

Do Not Pay (DNP)

Payment Automation Manager (PAM)

Post Payment System (PPS)

International Treasury Services (ITS.gov)

Invoice Processing Platform (IPP)



The target audience is individuals who are responsible for programming, managing, or testing of the application changes including: Data Entry Operators, Certifying Officers, Accountants, Programmers, Testers, and Project Leads/Managers. There is no charge for this training.

Upcoming dates are:

Tuesday, July 28, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST

Wednesday, July 29, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST

Note: The July 28, 2015 and July 29, 2015 sessions are identical sessions with the same presenters. You only need to register for one session.

For additional information and to register, please visit :

http://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fstraining/training/fs_payment_fed_agencies.htm.

ASAP.gov changes to SPS for certifications

The Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system is transitioning its certification process to the Secure Payment System (SPS).

ASAP, an all-electronic payment and information system utilized for the request and delivery of award funds is transitioning its certification process due to various Java issues that certifying officers have experienced over the past year. Over the next several months, the ASAP and SPS teams will work with customer agencies to ensure their certifying officers and data entry operators are credentialed, trained, and have access to SPS.

Role Comparisons:

SPS, like ASAP, has specific user roles and limits user access according to each role. Over the next several months as the transition takes place, every agency will provide the name and contact information of at least one person who will be designated as Data Entry Operator (DEO) and SPS Certifying Officer (CO).

ASAP - -> (Old Roles)

Authorization Entry Clerk (AEC): This user enters the authorizations online.

Certifying Officer (CO): This user certifies the authorizations in ASAP by digitally signing the authorizations with their PKI token and PIN.

SPS - -> (New Roles)

Data Entry Operator (DEO): This user is similar to the AEC in ASAP. They will enter the certification information in SPS but will not be able to digitally sign the certification.

Certifying Officer (CO): This user will digitally sign the certification in SPS.

In March 2015, ASAP started offering webinar training every third Wednesday of each month through June 2015. In addition to the webinar sessions, the ASAP and SPS teams will also provide on-site training at the Liberty Center in Washington, D.C. in May 2015 and the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, CO in June 2015. There will be two half-day sessions at each location.



Have You Heard?

United States Savings Bonds Have Arrived at the Kansas City Financial Center

In 1986 Treasury began issuing marketable securities exclusively in electronic form. The program encompassed all Public Debt and Federal Reserve activity to establish and service book-entry accounts for marketable securities in Legacy Treasury Direct (LTD). Treasury Security Services is responsible for the administration of the United States Savings Bonds. Treasury Security Services provides services for more than 55 million individual investors in Treasury securities. These customers hold more than \$67 billion in 348,000 accounts.

In November 2014, The Kansas City Financial Center (KFC) officially added United States Savings Bonds to print production environment. KFC assumed responsibility for processing, printing, and mailing United States Savings Bonds and statements on behalf of Treasury Security Services (TSS) at our Fiscal Service location in Parkersburg. Previous to the transition, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia provided the printing service for the Legacy Treasury Direct (LTD) U.S. Savings Bonds, dividend checks and related legacy statements issued to investors.

The Payment Mail and Operations Branch (PMOB) started talks in March 2013 and developed a comprehensive solution for this transition. The collective group agreed on a staggered or phased approach to help facilitate the arrival of this new workload. The first

phase included the printing and mailing of Series HH Bonds, which commenced in November 2014. PMOB is projected to print and mail 80,000 HH bonds annually in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000. Phase two was completed by January 30, 2015, with the printing and mailing of 510,000 1099 statements to investors. The third and final phase was completed for production in March 2015, which involves the printing and mailing of Series I Bonds in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500 or \$1,000. PMOB is projected to print and mail 174,000 I Bonds for 2015.

To build better synergy with our business partners (Treasury Security Services and the Federal Reserve Bank), PMOB created an internal Savings Bonds Inventory (SBI) web-based application to manage Savings Bonds stock and inventory from which daily, monthly, and annual reconciliation reports are generated and reconciled with the FRB. Further, new 1691 configurations had to be completed in order to accommodate savings bonds and track the workflow. In addition, procedures were developed and staff were trained.

KFC is proud to leverage this new relationship with Treasury Security Services, and expand the printing operation to include this very important product.



Farewell to our Finest

A few years ago, the Kansas City Regional Financial Center (KFC) faced the end of an era as we bid 'Farewell' to three of our very finest. In the spring of 2011, KFC retired its Check Wrapping System (CWS) machines. Those three machines, affectionately referred to as 'Yellow', 'Blue' and 'Green', for obvious reasons, grew alongside KFC for nearly forty years. They withstood the move to a new state, endured building remodels and partnered with numerous employees all while maintaining a consistent level of production.

In 1973, Yellow and Blue arrived in Kansas City and were put into full production mode by 1974. With the transitioning of the Birmingham Financial Center into a debt center in 1998, KFC welcomed Green with open arms. Although these machines ran impeccably up until their retirement, they weren't always the work horses we came to rely upon. Green arrived barely recognizable and if it wasn't for the skilled hands and know-how of local mechanics, the machine might never have enclosed another check. The fact that these machines, which were designed to have a life span of 10-15 years, ran for nearly forty is a testament to both the mechanics and operators who cleaned, maintained, modified, enhanced, fixed, pampered, and believed in them.

At one time, KFC issued over 100 million paper checks annually, utilizing 20 intermittent positions to accomplish that volume of work. However, with the introduction of the direct deposit program in 1975, the enactment of congressional law requiring all federal payments to be

issued electronically by the start of 1999 and, most recently, Treasury's "All Electronic" initiative requiring all benefit payments to be made electronically beginning March 2013, the number of paper checks has decreased each year. In fiscal year 2014, KFC processed just over 64 million paper checks and the once necessary intermittent positions are a thing of the past.



Yellow

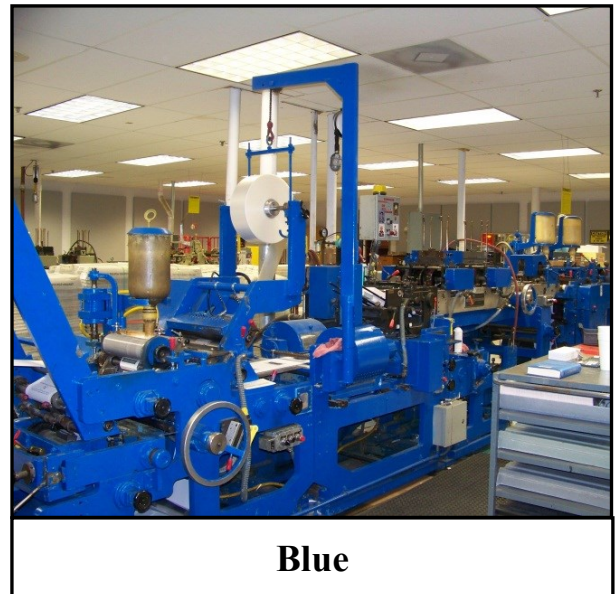
Farewell to our Finest (continued)

KFC bid a final 'Farewell' to the last remaining CWS machine. 'Yellow' as it was dismantled and packaged – awaiting pick-up by its new owner – in October 2014. On a path to its final resting place and destined for who knows what, there's no question about its (and the others alike) remarkable past as a substantial part of Treasury's history. Neither Fiscal Service nor KFC would have the reputations we do today without the iconic CWS machines. And certainly, we've relied upon them to issue our payments on time, every time!

Like everything in life, time moves on and business needs shift. The same can be said about KFC and Fiscal Service as a whole. With its paper check production declining at an average rate of 12% annually since fiscal year 2002, the Fiscal Service has had to adapt to its customer's demands.

Because of this shift in business, KFC incorporated the use of intelligent inserting machines – known as KERNs – into their daily production starting in October 2009. The KERN machines receive rolls of printed checks, which they then cut before enclosing

each individual paper check into a pre-manufactured envelope. The 'intelligence' behind these machines lies in their ability to verify a unique barcode on every printed check against a data file received from the COMBO machines where the checks are printed. The KERN machine then generates a verification report that enables each print job to be balanced, taking accountability to a higher level. The first KERN began daily production at KFC in October 2009.



Blue

Farewell to our Finest (continued)

FUN FACTS:

- The CWS machines were originally designed by F.L. Smithe to be envelope manufacturing machines. The company modified these machines for Treasury by adding a bridge, which made check enclosing possible.
- The legacy of the CWS machines – and the records they set – will remain forever in the history of the Treasury Department. In particular, 3 of the CWS machines at the Kansas City Financial Center set the all-time Regional Financial Center single-7 hour shift production record of 613,030 checks enclosed on February 26, 1991. As we continue the move towards an all-electronic Treasury and the decline of paper check payments increases, it's safe to say this record will never be broken.



Kern

Kansas City Financial Center

Directory

GARY BEETS, DIRECTOR

SUSAN ROBINSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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DIVERSIFIED PAYMENT SERVICES BRANCH (DPSB)

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ASAP Help Desk	(816) 414-2145
ITS.gov Help Desk	(816) 414-2125
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SPS Help Desk	(816) 414-2340
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STATISTICAL COLLECTION & REPORTS BRANCH

Tom Nelson , Acting Manager	(816) 414-2056
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Have You Heard?

**WE'VE BEEN WORKING EVEN HARDER
TO MEET YOUR AGENCY'S NEEDS!**

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS:

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Gates Brown

CERTIFIED TESTING FOUNDATION LEVEL:

Operations Support Branch (OSB)
Victoria Dorsey, Margaret Flynn, Dayna Harrison, Lou Ann Hughes, Patrick
Koontz, Tyrone Toney, Jerome Verdusco, Denise Ballard

LEAN SIX SIGMA BLACK BELT CERTIFICATION:

Diversified Payment Services Branch (DPSB)
Billy Huntsman, Bill Snyders



BUREAU OF THE
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