

New method to access PMIS and BES for agencies that are using IBM3270 emulators

Due to evolving technology, VITA is working to provide a new method for certain agencies to access DHRM systems that reside on VITA's UNISYS mainframe and are being accessed through IBM connectivity. Below is an overview and status update of the upcoming change.

1. Network Connectivity Method to Access PMIS and BES

The IBM mainframe SNA (System Network Architecture) connectivity to the UNISYS mainframe is being discontinued. In response, VITA is working to provide an alternative network connectivity method for agencies that presently are using it.

VITA anticipates that the new method will use the existing, restricted access to Commonwealth Network and a downloadable software product named Web-UTS to provide secure, browser-based connectivity to DHRM UNISYS applications. It is expected that the solution will be "cost-neutral" to participating agencies.

DHRM will send an informational memo on the new access method to agency HR Director contacts in December 2004. DHRM will provide each in-scope agency a list of its recent PMIS end-users who will need to use the new access method.

VITA plans in January 2005 to send information on the new access method and its rollout to technical contacts for affected agencies.

The phased conversion of affected agencies to the new access method is planned to begin after January 1, 2005. VITA will manage the rollout and conversion of affected agencies to the new access method. The "old" access method will remain until all affected agencies have been converted to the new access method or offered alternative solutions.

More information will be forthcoming as additional details and rollout information proceed.

2. Systems and Users in-scope

The Personnel Management Information System (PMIS) and Benefits Eligibility System (BES) that reside on the UNISYS mainframe at VITA are in-scope. This includes the PMIS sub-systems of RECRUIT, Employee Position Reports (EPR) and Performance Management (PM).

Authorized online terminals across about 144 agencies (including colleges, universities) that access PMIS and BES by way of VITA's Commonwealth Network using IBM's SNA network connectivity and **IBM-3270** terminal emulation **are in-scope**.

Online terminals across 8 agencies that connect to PMIS and BES using TCP/IP and HLC, Host LAN connectivity and Unisys **UTS** terminal emulation, **are not in this scope** and they should not notice any change in their access. These agencies are not affected and need take no action regarding VITA's rollout of the new access method.

DHRM and VITA are committed to a smooth transition with a minimal disruption in agencies' work while this implementation takes place. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.

NOTE: *If you have any questions related with the meaning of technical terms above, please contact your network administrator.*

3. PMIS and BES Screens Using Web-UTS

After agencies convert to the new access method and begin using Web-UTS, their PMIS and BES users will see a few noticeable differences in the PMIS/BES screens they have used before.

After logging into Unisys TIP (using your "PER---" userid), from the Home position, enter "PMIS" and transmit. This should present you the PMIS Broadcast.

The following screen differences will be noticed.

Color Functionality: PMIS screens and fields will have color functionality. Changed fields will appear in red. Transactions denoting separation from State service will appear in green. Retracted transactions will appear in pink.

Linked or "Hypertext" Fields: Some fields will appear with underlines. Transmitting or double-clicking on the underlined field will provide additional field-specific information or some other dynamic function. Refer to the following prior PMIS broadcasts on the ITECH web page for more specific information:

- *"NEW DATA ACCESSES ADDED TO ALLOW FASTER ACCESS TO RELATED SCREENS"*
- *"SHORTCUTS CODE TRANSLATIONS ADDED TO THE PSE305, PSE309, AND PSP999 SCREENS TO QUICKLY TRANSLATE DATA CODES"*

Shortcut Screen Transmit Key: This feature should help end-users who do a lot of data entry or other screen type keying. If the user presses the PAGEDOWN key, it will place the cursor at the bottom right of the screen and do a transmit. This is a shortcut to having to tab through the screen to transmit from the bottom right position. DHRM has requested VITA to include this special key function as part of the default configuration of Web-UTS.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding using PMIS-BES after the conversion to Web-UTS, please contact the DHRM help desk at <http://ihelp.virginia.gov> or email us at <mailto:ihelp@dhrm.virginia.gov>

4. Unisys Mapper and PDAS Using Web-UTS

For agencies that already use the DHRM Mapper PDAS system to obtain PMIS or BES information, these functions will still be available using Web-UTS.

After logging into Unisys TIP (using your "PER---" userid), from the Home position, enter "M2" and transmit. This should present you the PDAS Menu for your agency.