

Detailed Information

(Updated: 09-15-2006)

The “Web-UTS” Access Method for PMIS and BES Replaced the Old IBM3270 Emulator Method

VITA and DHRM have completed the conversion project to provide the browser-based Web-UTS access method for certain agencies to access PMIS and BES. The scope of the conversion effort affected 148 agencies and over 950 users of PMIS and BES. Below are sections covering PMIS and BES screens using Web-UTS and an overview of the conversion project.

1. Help: 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 archived PMIS broadcasts on the ITECH web page for more specific information. Both broadcasts can be found under “Archived Messages” for November 16, 2004.

- **“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. At DHRM’s request, VITA has included this special key function as part of the default configuration of Web-UTS.

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.

Additional Questions or Help: If you have questions or need additional information regarding using PMIS or 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>.

2. Conversion Background: Why It Was Necessary and Who It Affects

Why It Was Necessary: 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 in concert with DHRM has worked to provide an alternative network connectivity method for agencies using SNA (IBM3270) connectivity.

VITA requires that the new method use the existing, restricted-access Commonwealth Network (or a comparable secure connection) and a downloadable software product named Web-UTS. This method provides secure, browser-based connectivity to DHRM UNISYS applications. The expectation is that the new access solution will be “cost-neutral” to participating agencies.

The “old” access method will remain until all affected agencies have been converted to the new access method or offered alternative solutions.

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

In January 2005, VITA sent brief overview information on the new access method to in-scope agency HR Director contacts. Later, VITA sent specific information to technical contacts at each agency as it began the conversion process.

The phased conversion of affected agencies to the new access method began in early February 2005. VITA continues to manage the rollout of the new method to affected agencies, while DHRM monitors the conversion process.

On 10-13-2005, VITA released a new version of Web-UTS. For most agencies the new version is neutral; however it will help some agencies that had not been able to use the new access method. As the new Web-UTS version is rolled out, it may prompt users to “re-install” and update the Web-UTS ActiveX components. Also, a security window may pop-up warning the site name does not match the certificate. If users get such prompts, just click OK to proceed with the new version update.

In September 2006, the last in-scope agency completed their conversion to Web-UTS.

Who It Affects: 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 145 agencies and 800+ authorized users (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, Host LAN connectivity (HLC) and Unisys **UTS** terminal emulation, **are not in scope** and 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 used above, please contact your network administrator.