



News, Notes, & Reminders

Your source for information, updates, and training related to HCC Fiscal Services

March 24, 2016

What's New?

For starters, this newsletter is new. Our intent is to start publishing these on a periodic basis and distribute to HCC's Fiscal user groups (treasurers, payroll and accounting staff). We'll include a variety of content including upcoming training opportunities, tips and tricks, and general information related to our software offerings.

You may have also noticed that we're going through somewhat of a re-branding process. "HCCA" is now "HCC" (see new logo below) and our website will be



Your Partner For
Worry-Free Efficiency

getting a major facelift in the near future.

We hope you find this form of communication valuable and the content useful. Suggestions and feedback are always welcome as it's our goal to increase your efficiency without the worries.

Did You Know?

If you have a Cherwell account with HCC, you don't have to log into Cherwell to create a ticket. You can simply send an email to financesupport@mail.hccanet.org for tickets regarding accounting, payroll, USAS/USPS/EIS, or other Finance issues/questions. Questions related to OnBase should be directed to onbasesupport@mail.hccanet.org and tickets related to DUCK should be directed to ducksupport@mail.hccanet.org. You can also log comments on tickets by responding to the email notifications you get for Cherwell tickets.

MCOECN ERP Project Update

State Software has many loyal users, based in no small part on the affordability and other advantages previously noted. At the same time, current unknowns with State Software "Redesign" may impact future adoption. Two issues commonly cited are:

- Not currently production-ready and no guarantee when it will achieve this status
- Districts' needs and desires for additional features

For many districts State Software "Redesign" remains a viable alternative with a low total cost of ownership (TCO) and a straightforward conversion path. Other districts express the desire for "more features, mature software, ready to go". Regardless of this choice one outcome is clear – districts will need to move to a new fiscal package.

What is an "ERP"?

Historically, State Software has proven to be a stable platform with limited "frills" that meets the basic needs of

Upcoming Dates

March 31st - Deadline for filing Form 1095-C

April 6th - ACA Roundtable (CCESC)

April 6th - USPS-R Demo

May 7th - End of Initial Offering Period for SunGard

most districts. To complement the basics, many districts have licensed add-on products to extend the feature set. This approach is called “best of breed” when the market for a given function is large enough to allow choice among several possible alternatives – the district can select the product which best fits their local requirements.

The extent to which these packages integrate with State Software – and the quality of those integrations – can vary significantly from one vendor to another. Other aspects, like the type and design of the user interface, hardware needed, or where the software is hosted create boundaries between applications. Still another type of boundary may occur if different departments or centers within the district acquire their own solutions. Collectively these logistical, technical, and political boundaries form operational silos built around different software and/or functions in the district.

The Enterprise Resource Planning “ERP” tool differs greatly from the “best of breed” or independent silo environment described above. An ERP system is created from close alignment of modules within one software package, each sharing a common user interface design, common database tool, common hardware platform, common security management, and common reporting tools. This tight integration creates a more efficient and effective software solution. An ERP package is typically comprised of a base functionality plus an extensive set of modules. Districts can choose which modules are needed to meet their operational requirements, with the potential for greater cost savings and operational efficiency than can be achieved by the best of breed approach.

Districts needing an expanded feature set expressed an interest in further exploration of ERP systems as an alternative to State Software.



After an extensive evaluation process the MCOECN and Member Information Technology Centers announce a partnership with SunGard K-12 to acquire eFinancePLUS Enterprise Resource Planning System for Ohio’s K-12 schools.

Information was sent out to district Treasurers earlier this week detailing project details and pricing. Districts interested in being part of one of the initial implementation “waves” can reach out to [David Downs](#).

For additional literature, videos, and information related to this ERP solution, go check out the [Program Portal Webpage](#).

How Can You Use OnBase?

OnBase, a Hyland Software solution, is a document management software hosted and supported by HCC that can significantly increase your district’s efficiency by automating your financial and HR records.

With OnBase, you’ll be able to route requisitions and/or invoices through a workflow for fast approval, purchase order creation and payment. Additionally, OnBase integrates with State Software to archive payroll documents and also integrates with banking software to archive cancelled checks.



To learn more about OnBase and how it can help you manage your financial and HR records, please reach out to [Laura Gallogly](#) for a demo.

State Software Redesign

As you may be aware, SSDT released a preview release of USAS-R on 12/29/2015 and a preview release of USPS-R on 1/19/2016. The purpose of these releases is to put the direction of the software back into the hands of the users. Feedback from districts and ITCs is essential during this juncture as it will determine future development.

For those of you who have volunteered to test out the new software, we appreciate your efforts. In evaluating the software, the most important question is “What incomplete or missing features would you require before using the applications as replacements for Classic USAS or USPS?” If you’ve begun testing using the demo sites provided to you by HCC staff, please feel free to post your suggestions, questions, and feedback via [Cherwell](#).

Demos have been taking place and others are scheduled. If you have additional questions or need more information on the state of this project, please don’t hesitate to reach out to [David Downs](#).

Meet the Team

For those of you who've had the pleasure of working with Marcia Wylie, you know what an asset she is to HCC and its member districts.

Marcia Wylie, Financial Software Specialist, came to HCC two years ago from the Greene County ESC where she held the payroll position for 11 years. As Marcia can attest, working at HCC challenges the knowledge acquired in the district and aspires each of us to expand that knowledge to provide our districts with "Worry-Free" customer service.



Marcia lives in Xenia, Ohio. First and Foremost Marcia is a Nana of 2 little girls (ages 2 and 4). They both enjoy helping Nana do *everything*. Two hobbies she dabbles in are home improvement projects and photography. Capturing a lightning strike with a digital camera can be quite exhilarating and Marcia has had two of her lightning strikes featured on a local news station!