



**eVS/PTS User Group
Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 11, 2011
3:30pm – 4:30pm EST**

Attendees

Dan Barrett, Jody Berenblatt, Crystal Laper, Jaclyn Tubbin, Mark Dropp, Ed Stashluk, Rosie Settles, Richard Daigle, Richard Porras, Larry Molter, Hally Damm, Karyn Maunders, Jeffery Waite, Jay Zeman, Steve (Abol Software), Check (Mail Innovations), Jeff (DHL Global Mail), Emil Aquino, Dawn Whitney, Jennifer Howard, Shirley Konen, Andy Lundgren, Audrey Meloni, Robert Moran, Laine Ropson, Norine Butte, Wade Stephen, Jose Murillo, Priya Nagarajan

Welcome – Tony Wells

- Roll Call
- Agenda was modified to accommodate Dan's presentation.

Scan Based Payment Return Services – Dan Barrett (Manager, New Business and Returns)

- Dan provided a presentation that was distributed to the user group
- Dan co-leads the MTAC work group 147 – Parcel Endorsements and Return to Sender practices
- Background
 - The traditional MRS label features several key elements that can result in slow, expensive processes
 - Customers have pointed to service delays, absence of tracking, and a need for Flat Rate pricing as past obstacles
- Returns Game Plan (5 Key Points)
 - Maximize labels with IMpb
 - Improve scan performance
 - Simplify payment – scans and flat rates
 - Rebrand portfolio
 - Future – better align cost and value
- New Solutions for Returns
 - Create flexible label printing tools (Cloud-hosted)
 - Market enhanced tracking
 - Communicate improved tracking to customers – 100% scan rates, with focus on Acceptance scan for Returns.
 - Streamline payment

- New scan-based payment process with flat rates launched in September
 - Every label features IMpb with merchant MID
 - Scans in USPS network represent piece count based on unique PIC
 - Flat Rates afforded to the customer, validated via sampling
 - Eliminates delays in time-in-transit due to manual rating
 - Reduces error in charges to customer
 - Rebrand the Portfolio
 - Existing service is MRS brand and will continue
 - New branded solutions include the following:
 - Priority Mail Return Service
 - Ground Return Service
 - First Class Package Return Service
 - Future State Capabilities
 - Redirection/Disposal – capability to trap and dispose of low value goods near origin to avoid costs

eVS Status – Jennifer Howard

- November 6, 2011 Release – PostalOne! (Jennifer Howard)
 - Please report any system issues post-release to the eVS Helpdesk at:
 - eVS_Technical_Support@USPS.gov
 - 1-877-264-9693 Option #4
 - Postage Adjustments – under review for November
 - Presort rate validation in eVS
 - Content eligibility adjustment
 - Duplicate PIC packages
 - Reconciliation extract for postage adjustments
 - Contact eligibility adjustment
 - Updated Publication 205 posted to RIBBS November 23rd
- Known Issues
 - Unmanifested Average per Piece Charge Report XLS download from the Monthly Account Summary results in an error
 - DDU Mis-shipped Report and Unmanifested Report download errors if there are more than 40 pages of PIC results
 - PRS Monthly Account Summary piece count and postage totals are not current with processed postage due summary.
- January 22, 2012 PostalOne!
 - Price Change – new products including Standard Mail Marketing and Parcel Select Lightweight
 - Mailers are asked to certify manifests and labels for new products
 - Mailers who cannot meet the January 22nd deadline for manifest changes must request exception from eVS Program Manager
 - Mailers who cannot meet the January 22nd deadline for label markings must request exception from PCSC

- Refund and Reconciliation Management
- Printer-friendly Reports
- Mailers and vendors are expected to certify new products before shipping
 - 10 labels, 100 manifest records per mail class
- November 28th (tentative) Courtesy file testing – eVSHQ@usps.gov
 - eVS Manifest Errors, eVS Payment Extract
- January 8th (tentative) – NCSC begins accepting files and labels for evaluation and certification
- January 8th – eVS/PostalOne! Test Environment for Mailers (TEM) available
- January 22nd – eVS/PostalOne! Release
- Refund and Reconciliation Management
 - e-Mail notification to designate mailer contact (s) at each stage of the reconciliation period (1st, 11th, 21st/actual)
 - Mailer has the ability to request a reconciliation review or refund through eVS
 - Mailer can view status of open reviews/refunds in eVS
- April 1, 2012 PostalOne!
 - Proposed Changes
 - Destination Entry Validation removed from Postage Statement Variance Report and managed as a monthly adjustment for NDCs, SCFs
 - Daily Postage Statement Summary download report
 - Dimensional Weight Averaging PAF for mailers unable to manifest Dimensional Weight Priority Mail
 - 3rd-Party Payment option for approved Logistics Manager and Mail Owner relationships
 - Additional internal enhancements for sampling quality and monthly reconciliation processing
- Future Planned Releases
 - June 24, 2012 (major)
 - Requirements in development (November 25th)
 - November 14th, 2011 publish initial tech specs
 - Tentatively planned
 - International Mail

PTS Status – Juliaann Hess

- PTS October release (Implemented on 10/16/2011)
 - Updated Functionality for “Dispatched from Sort Facility” EF Event Code
 - The time of the EF event will not be displayed on Track & Confirm or in customer extracts
 - Event description updates included in the customer extracts
 - EF – “Dispatched from USPS Sort Facility”

- OD – “Processed at USPS Destination Facility”
- A1, U1, R1 – “Arrive USPS Sort Facility”
- L1, T1 – “Depart USPS Sort Facility”
- Event Code C1 will no longer be extracted
- Errant container-generated scans are suppressed in the customer extract file
- Changes to Support New Returns Service Portfolio and Scan Based Payment
 - Additional Services Codes
 - 450 – Scan Based Payment
 - 455 – Returns Service
 - New Service Type Codes
 - 019 – Priority Mail Return Service
 - 020 – First-Class Package Return Service
 - 022 – Ground Return Service
 - 040 – Priority Mail Delivery Confirmation with SBP
 - 596 – Priority Mail Return Service Insurance <= \$200
 - 597 – First-Class Package Return Service Insurance <= \$200
 - 598 – Ground Return Service Insurance <= \$200
 - 599 – Priority Mail Return Service Insurance > \$200
 - 600 – First-Class Package Return Service Insurance > \$200
 - 601 – Ground Return Service Insurance > \$200
 - 040 – Priority Mail Delivery Confirmation with SBP
 - 041 – Priority Mail Signature Confirmation with SBP
 - 042 – First Class Delivery Confirmation with SBP
 - 043 – First Class Signature Confirmation with SBP
 - 740 – Critical Mail SBP Letters
 - 741 – Critical Mail SBP Flats
- PTS October release (Implemented on 10/30/2011)
 - eVS Reconciliation Extracts
 - PTS portion done in October Release
 - eVS portion implemented in November
 - Electronic Firm Sheet
 - Providing an automated delivery of a file with firm sheet content to commercial customers
 - EDI Header/Detail Change (Infrastructure Change)
 - Modifications to improve EDI processing
 - The change is **NOT** adding any additional data to the customer files
 - File compression for Extract Files
 - Compressed or uncompressed extract files will be available
 - All Extract Files
 - Confirmation/error/warning files
 - Extract files include the following:

- Electronic Firm Sheet
 - Postage Payment Extract
 - Reconciliation Extract (when implemented)
 - Scan Event Extract File (1.3, 1.5, and 1.6 (when implemented))
 - Unmanifested File
 - The following options for extract files will be provided
 - GZIP
 - WINZIP
 - ZIP
 - Uncompressed
 - AS2 customers will select the same file compression method for both the Confirmation/Error/Warning files and the Extract Files
 - File compression will not be available for EDI customers
 - Input was solicited from the eVS/PTS User Group
 - A customer asked if they would need to do anything to compress their files? Dawn Whitney ans: Customers will have the option to compress. If they do nothing, the files will come as normal (uncompressed).
 - Action Item: Juliaann will send screenshots of what it will look like on Program Registration.
- Shipping Services Program Registration Interface Modifications
 - Interfaces with Program Registration accessed via Business Customer Gateway
 - Allows users to self serve to apply for mailer IDs and other features
 - Retires legacy account management profile system used for package customers
- PTS October Fallout
 - The event time is now being provided for Depart USPS Sort Facility (EF) in the customer extract file
- PTS November release (11/13/2011)
 - Modifications to the Federal Agency Account Validation
 - Capture and report the use of an invalid Federal Agency Account
 - Modifications to the eVS Duplicates Extract - Infrastructure
 - Modified selection criteria for eVS and PRS mail pieces to reduce the number of false duplicates
 - The Duplicate Extract format will remain the same from PTS to eVS
 - Changes to logic for Origin Acceptance Event
 - Changes to logic for Depart USPS Sort Facility (EF)
- Program Registration
 - Launched program registration for shipping customers October 30, 2011
 - Allows customers to self serve
 - Help desk managing “Inflight” applications and inputs for all records

- Webinars will be held to train customers weekly starting the week of November 14, 2011
 - 3 webinars proposed
 - Will send out dial up specifics Tuesday November 15, 2011
- What is PTS-II?
 - Replaces outdated system
 - Provides infrastructure to support:
 - A barcode on every package
 - Additional scan data and tracking events
 - Improved timelines for data availability
 - Increases capacity
 - Enhances reliability
 - Provides collaboration with other systems
 - Consolidates business rules
 - Simplifies infrastructure
 - Speeds time to market for new products, features, and services
- Schedule Overview
 - High Level requirements – October 2010
 - Detailed requirements – January 2011
 - Contract awarded to Accenture – May 2011
 - Preliminary Release – November 2011
 - Parallel operations with major data sources to flex capacity
 - Inaugural Production Release – March 2012
- Impact to Customers
 - As transparent as possible
 - No changes to files or data transmission
 - Outage longer than usual PTS maintenance window
 - Anticipated 24 hours
 - Dedicated deployment lead

Questions / Comments from Industry

- IMpb Final Rule Questions
- Timing of the PostalOne! eVS Interface Changes

Next meeting scheduled for *Thursday 12/15/2011 at 3:30pm.*