



**eVS/PTS User Group
Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 7, 2012
3:30pm – 4:30pm EST**

Attendees

Vicki Bosch, Dave Guinther, Peter Klausner, and Bobby, Doug Ferguson, Karyn Maunders, Richard Porras, Roger Franco, Kevin Elkin, Shusrut Parikh, Emil Aquino, Kim May, Crystal Stefanco, Levent Gencoglu, Tamara Silberglei, stapenski sp Julian Thomas, Arlene Peterson, Lisa Hyater, Lisa Copeland, John Medeiros, Andy Lundgren, Chris, Wade Stephen, Hally Damm, Heidi Gapinski, Robert Myers

Welcome – Juliaann Hess/Lisa Hyater

- Roll Call

PTS Status – Lisa Hyater

- IMpb Timeline (Juliaann Hess)
 - Juliaann presented a revised slide summarizing the transition periods and direction for mailers if they don't meet the July 2, 2012 date. This slide was presented at the May 2012 meeting.
 - Published Final Rule published September 27, 2011
 - Effective January 22, 2012
 - Free tracking, including confirmation of delivery
 - Commercial parcels only
 - Excludes
 - Standard Mail
 - Package Services
 - Bound Printed Matter
 - Media Mail
 - Library Mail
 - Unique barcode required for presort and destination entry pricing
 - Transition period until July 2, 2012
 - Reminder: Those who can't meet this date need to send a request an extension from Jim Cochrane, Vice President of Product Information. His address information is on the slides.
 - Excludes Standard Mail
 - Includes Package Services and Parcel Select Lightweight

- IMpb required for PC Postage Vendors
 - Transition period until July 2, 2012
 - Simplified banner text for the legacy barcode format
 - “USPS Tracking #” or “USPS Signature Tracking #”
 - Can be used for legacy barcode format also
 - January 7, 2013
 - IMpb required
 - For all package tracking and extra services barcodes
 - To receive presort and destination entry pricing for parcels
 - Shipping Services Electronic Manifest Version 1.6 required
 - ZIP + 4 Code or destination delivery address must be included in the file
 - Customer exception process requested through VP, Product Information
 - Reminder: Those who can’t meet the 1/7/2013 date need to send a request an extension from Jim Cochrane, Vice President of Product Information.
- PTS Legacy Patch Releases
 - June 3, 2012 – Release 12.9.1
 - Simplified logic for generating Dispatched to Sort Facility (SF) and Depart Sort Facility (EF) events
 - Eliminated Depart Sort Facility events for PRS pieces
 - Patch backed out June 6, 2012 due to performance errors
 - Will be reinstalled June 10, 2012 during normal PTS maintenance window
 - June 24, 2012 – Release 12.1.2
 - Interim support for Shipping Services File Version 1.7
 - Accepts 1.7 file version and translates data to 1.6 format
 - Processes and stores data based on Version 1.6 fields and edits
 - Supports only the Detail 1 and Detail 2 record
 - Does not support Detail 3 and Detail 4 records for International
 - Full support will be implemented in the inaugural Product Tracking System – II Release August 19, 2012
 - Store destination delivery address information for all service type codes
- New Scan Event Extract File 1.6 and 2.0
 - Suggested New Fields from customer (Note: no implementation date)
 - Time Zones
 - GMT Time
 - GMT Offset
 - Facility Type
 - GPS
 - Longitude
 - Latitude

- MTAC Task Team #14
 - *Electronic documentation solution that enables verification, postage payment and IMpb tracking for Bound Printed Matter Parcels, leveraging the Mail.dat file.*
 - Comparison was made between 1.7 file and Mail.dat
 - Identified changes required to Mail.dat and PostalOne!
 - Formatted recommendations
 - Requirements development underway
 - Targeting January 2013 release but not prioritized
 - Team sunset June 1, 2012
 - This was effort was considered Phase I which only addressed only Bound Printed Matter parcels. Recommendation was that other parcel classes would follow as the need arises.

- PTS-II New Implementation Schedule
 - New Dates
 - Release 1.1
 - CAT – July 9, 2012
 - TEM – July 16, 2012
 - Go Live Date – August 19, 2012
 - Richard Porras asked about a contingency plan if we don't make this date.
 - Includes New Shipping Services File Format
 - Release 1.2
 - September 23, 2012
 - Internal EDW Extracts
 - This release is transparent to the customer

- Updated Information – Testing in TEM PTS-II (Andy Lundgren)
 - Mailers currently established with Internet FTP are also configured to use the TEM.
 - Mailers who use a secure file transfer protocol must be configured to use the TEM if not already established to do so.

- Sending Files to TEM (No change from last month)
 - Connect to the Internet, using FTP client software.
 - ***pts-ftp-in-cat.usps.gov*** using your ***logonid*** and ***password***.
 - Change the directory to ***/home/delconf/incoming*** (all lowercase). This is the directory where you will be
 - placing your Shipping Services files.
 - Set the transmission mode to ASCII. Files sent to the Postal Service Internet server must not be compressed.
 - Files must be sent using the following naming convention:
<logonid>.manifest

- Substitute your Logon ID such as the example where the mmcw93 is the Login ID. Example: mmcw93.manifest
- Retrieving Files from TEM
 - The process for Retrieving Files from TEM with PTS2 is not completed and specific information is not available. For some period of time the files may have to be provided in a manual process, i.e. email, etc. The below information is still correct for legacy PTS.
 - Connect to the Internet
 - Using FTP client software go to:
 - *pts-ftp-out-cat.usps.gov* using your *logonid* and *password*.
 - Change the directory to */red/logonid/incoming* (all lowercase). This is the directory where you will be placing your Shipping Services files.
 - The files to be retrieved are
 - Error Warning Report: *errwrno.rpt.1120352* (the suffix being the date/time stamp)
 - Extract File: *detextro1.V15.rpt.MMDDhhmm* (in TEM, only the MA event is provided in the extract file)
 - Offline (Same report from last month)
 - Mailers having difficulty with connectivity or other issues with TEM may contact our Help Desk and have files sent to TEM
 - Your file may be emailed to the Help Desk and they will assist with uploading the file.
 - Additionally they may assist in retrieving the Error Warning Report and Extract File.

eVS Status – Vicki Bosch

- eVS Status
 - 2012 Planned Releases
 - PostalOne! 31.0
 - June 10, 2012 -TEM/Production Software Deployment
 - June 24, 2012 Implementation – new product availability
 - Planned functionality
 - International Mail
 - Shipping Services File Format v1.7
 - PostalOne! 32.0
 - October 14, 2012
 - Finalizing release schedule for 2013
 - June 10, 2012 (Reminder)
 - Improve Navigation for Transaction ID-EFN Pairs by eliminating drill down when there is only one EFN for a Transaction ID

- Update Mailer ID Report to replace upload date with certified date
 - Introduce separate sampling report for content audit samples
 - Revise manifest search will include option to search for international mail
 - Sunset discontinued rate ingredients; bad manifest records will appear in Manifest Errors
 - Processing category - 6,7,8,9
 - Rate Indicators – 1E, 2E, 3E, 1A, 2A, 3A (obsolete for over a year)
 - Testable via PTS TEM in June (for eVS) in (tent. July 16, 2012)
 - International Mail support
 - Shipping Services File Format v1.7
 - Available in production (tent. August 19, 2012)
 - International Mail
 - Shipping Services File Format v1.7
- June 24, 2012
 - Support Express Mail Padded Flat-Rate Envelope
 - Any samples for content audit would appear in content audit sampling report
- Release Update: June 10, 2012 (PostalOne! 31.0)
 - Report Fixes
 - DDU Mis-shipped filtered ZIP Code Matches report column headers will accurately reflect MID and PIC
 - Postage Sampling Adjustment Worksheet from the Postage Discrepancy report will eliminate current display of html code in comma delimited download
 - Reconciled Samples report had single quotes around numeric data in excel download which recognized data as 'text', this will be corrected to be numeric instead of text
 - Postage Due Statement Summary uses the PRS transaction date instead of mailer provided mailing date
 - Daily Postage Statement Summary report will match detail level for report upon drill-down
 - Mis-shipped DDU parcels, line 2d, total pieces appear and postage value \$0.00 – will eliminate data on this line since details appear by mail class
 - Postage Discrepancy report (link from PAF) will accurately display data
 - Adjustments

- Manual Adjustments – will display comments when adjustments are performed
 - Account Summary and Adjustment View - will accurately reflect adjustments due/collected (single adjustment or multiple by mail class)
- Release Update: August 19, 2012 (PostalOne! 31.1)
 - Report Fixes
 - On the landing page
 - the Destination Entry Validation (DEV) will accurately match the DEV report
 - Reports
 - Postage Statement will accurately display RSCF into the correct section
 - Presort Eligibility Exception report will display correct mail class
 - DEV report - pricing will be updated to accurately price packages destined for the incorrect facility
- Release Update: October 14, 2012 (PostalOne! 32.0)
 - Postage Calculation
 - Bound Printed Matter rounding will be corrected
 - Extract Fixes
 - eVS Reconciliation extract will total manifest postage
 - Report Fixes
 - On the landing page
 - the Postage Adjustment from Manifest Errors count will update
 - eVS variance report will display records for all statements
 - Postage statement summary link will be fixed for the display error “page not found
- eVS Tentatively planned for October 14, 2012
 - Pipe Delimited Format (manifest format 2.0)
 - Ineligible Content Quarterly Adjustment
 - Option to receive reconciliation
- Updates on eVS postings on RIBBS were presented in a screenshot
- New Adjustments - Will begin charging for valid new adjustments in May (from April data)
 - Duplicates
 - Presort Validation
 - Destination Entry Validation
 - Looking at data from May and June
 - Valid data may be charged for June in July
 - Some fixes in August may delay some adjustments
 - Question from Gavin: What level? Ans. SCF and NDC

- Content Based Pricing subgroup update
 - Face-to-face meeting during MTAC on 5/15/12
 - Discussed industry concerns
 - Universe for assessment
 - Time period for assessment
 - Sampling size
 - Error rate
 - We will send out a template to obtain data before evaluating how to address to industry concerns
 - We will have a follow-up meeting with subgroup after we receive data from customers and analyze
 - Content audits will continue to be conducted and assessed under the old policy
 - The spreadsheet will be sent out to everyone within the next week
 - Action Item: Schedule a feedback meeting for mid-July for the subgroup members.

Industry Feedback

- BPM Content Audit Assessment Process
 - Update on BPM Content Audit Process and Assessments (from BPM Content Subgroup Meeting/Discussion)
- USPS Sampling vs Package Shippers Mix & Entry Points
 - Update on Cost/Piece on USPS sampling vs Mailers Actual Average Cost/Piece based on Package Mix and Entry Point (from MTAC Action Items)
 - Action Item: eVS will address this industry concern. This will be addressed by August.
- Destination Entry Validation
 - What is the intent of the 'Waived Destination Entry Validation Exception Report'?
- 99M Container/Pallet Barcode
 - Update on what data is being provided to Package
- 1.7/2.0 File Versions eVS Certification - TEM
 - Is USPS prepared to Certify Package Shippers in Version 1.7/2.0's considering their Release Date and TEM Availability (Oct)?
 - JH: On July 16, we will be able to run these files through the TEM environment.
 - eVS TEM Webinar Outstanding – Can we schedule a date?
 - Request for an eVS and PTS TEM Webinar.
 - Lisa C: your 1.7/2.0 files need to be certified in the TEM environment
- PTS2 Functionality
 - Are there any planned changes in PTS2 functionality? Is USPS scaling back on original robust functionality

- John Gullo's Retirement – Technical Solutions Team
 - John Gullo retired last Friday. John spent many years working and helping Parcel Shippers. He will be missed. (Delcon, Parcel Select, eVS & Technical Solution Team).
 - Parcel Shipper have a strong reliance on the Technical Assistance we receive from the Technical Solutions Team. We want USPS to understand how important they are to the growth of the Package Business and how frequently Parcel Shipper's depend on them to troubleshoot IT issues to keep business moving forward.

Action Item Review

- May 15, 2012
 - eVS team to provide a rate ingredient in Appendix G for machineable standard marketing parcels for destination entry only *In Progress*.
 - PTS will provide the requirement for the new scan event extract file 1.6/2.0 *In progress. Tony will send out on 6/22/2012*
 - Suggestions for increasing bandwidth for reports should be sent to Jennifer, Vicki, and Tony *No suggestions received (Item closed)*
 - Suggestions for open-pipe should be sent to Tony so it can be forwarded to Bob *No suggestions received (Item closed)*
 - Confirm the grace period for the destination validation and the rules for conflicts for the rate ingredients with the service type codes *In progress*

Questions / Comments

Action Items

- Tony will send the latest 1.6/2.0 will be sent to the distribution list.
- eVS – Regarding the adjustments, consider impacts for network optimization
- Tony will schedule a Content Based Pricing Subgroup meeting for mid-July. Email needs to be sent to get a consensus on a date.
- Vicki, Lisa H, Juliaann H, provide a date to the industry to do an eVS/PTS TEM Webinar
- Juliaann will let John Gullo know how the industry truly appreciated him over the years
- Make sure Margaret Choiniere is on the distribution. Be sure that her name and e-mail address is sent out to the eVS/PTS distribution list
- Verify with Jennifer that bullet 1 from the May 15 action items was completed
- Send the updated 1.6/20 extract file

Next meeting scheduled for *Thursday 7/12/2012 at 3:30pm.*