

**Mailer Technology Advisory Council (MTAC)
Meeting Report
07/06/2016 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM**

USER GROUP 4 (UG4) SESSION

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome to New Members
 - Links to RIBBS Resources for MTAC and IV™
- 2) IMB Tracing® Issue
- 3) IV Update
 - RIBBS Document Updates
 - Feedback on circulated draft documents (IV™ Data Dictionary and Sample Data Set)
 - Release 1 Pilot Feedback Form
- 4) July Meetings Calendar
- 5) Any Other Business

DISCUSSION POINTS

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an ongoing forum to facilitate communications between the Postal Service and the mailing industry on Mail Visibility and Informed Visibility, and to define and review improvements in process/production functionality and to address and resolve issues.

Welcome to New Members

- Himesh extended a warm welcome to Jim Lombard and to all new members of UG4.

Links to RIBBS Resources for MTAC and IV™

- The MTAC RIBBS page can be accessed at the following link: <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=mtac> or users will need to click the MTAC tab on the RIBBS left navigation.
- The MTAC RIBBS page provides access to the Quarterly MTAC Meeting agendas and schedule, past Quarterly MTAC meeting presentations and notes, as well as the link to the MTAC Issue Tracking System (MITS).
- Click the [MTAC Issue Tracking System \(MITS\) Login](#) link to view the library for MTAC User Group 4, which includes the user group charter, and meetings notes and presentations from past meetings. To request a login ID and password for MITS, email MTAC@usps.gov.
- The IV RIBBS page, can be accessed via the following link: https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=informed_visibility or from any RIBBS page, members can go to SITE Index A-Z > I-M tab > Informed Visibility™.
- Scroll to bottom of the IV RIBBS page to access the following documents:
 - *Latest News: IV™ Overview and Mail Tracking Data Migration Process; IV™ Program Updates*
 - *IV™ Program Information: IV Overview; IV Mail Tracking and Migration Timeline*
 - *IV™ User Guides and Training: IV Technical Guide*
 - *IV™ Reference Materials*
 - *MTAC User Group 4*

IMb Tracing Issue – Update on FSS Scan Data Issue

- The significant drop off in flats scan data coming out of an FSS operation was determined by Engineering to be due to a software issue with the IOS controller (a communication link) that was losing connectivity. Other flat sorters were not affected.
- A fix is going to be put in place as Release 3.4 in the August- September, 2016 timeframe.

- It was recommended that alerts be put in place to identify when scan data is not transmitted through IOS.
- The IV™ system, which also uses IOS data, will temporarily receive FSS data through MPT until the fix is implemented.

IV™ Update – RIBBS Updates

- The IV™ Web Page on RIBBS was updated on 7/1 to include a new document entitled *IV™ Program Updates* which can be found under “Latest News”.
- The *Draft IV™ Technical Guide* has been updated and can be found under “IV™ User Guides and Training.”

IV™ Update – MTAC UG4 Feedback on circulated documents

- The Draft IV™ Data Dictionary and Sample Data set were circulated for MTAC UG4 review on 6/28.
- Any additional industry feedback on draft documents was requested by COB today.

IV™ Update – Release 1 Pilot Feedback Form

- The Pilot Feedback Form was reviewed and discussed.
- It will be circulated for offline review.

IV™ Data Dictionary

- The IV™ Data Dictionary was reviewed. The document includes an introductory section and four tables on data attributes by mail object type.
- It was requested that a release document reference be added to the data dictionary.
- The layout for the data dictionary as well as the tables for Container Data Attributes, Handling Unit Attributes (Trays/Tubs/Sacks), Flat Bundle Data Attributes, and Mailpiece Data Attributes were discussed.
- The following comments were made during the Data Dictionary review:
 - Questions regarding the eDoc IDs for pallets and handling units were raised. Amy explained that IV provides the Container ID, Parent Container ID, and Sibling Container ID as provided in the Mail.dat eDoc. Angelo asked how we can tell the relationship between physical containers or handling units within a logical container or handling unit, and Amy explained that according to the Mail.dat definitions, it appears that Sibling Container ID provides that association.
 - Angelo recommended that the Mail.dat attribute field ID be included in the Data Dictionary (e.g. CSM-001).
 - Since letter bundles do not receive automation scans, it was recommended that the IV™ Data Dictionary revise the section heading for Bundle Attributes to specific Flat Bundle Attributes.
 - It was asked again how the new event for yard arrival will be provided through IV. Which system captures this event, and if it is already received and processed by IV needs to be reviewed. If it is a transportation-level event, and the container-transportation association is known, this could potentially be provided as an assumed event for containers and other nested mail objects. We would need to define which Scan State it would map to.
 - Bob Rosser raised a question regarding handling events, and whether a listing could be provided of the Handling Unit scan states mailers should receive from each facility. Some facilities do not have mechanization, and therefore we would not expect to receive a mechanized tray event at those sites.
 - Angelo – Regarding Bob’s comments about identifying handling unit scan states mailers should receive from each facility, could the list be posted on the FAST page?
 - Himesh – In keeping with current practices IV™ will try to avoid posting information in two separate locations; most likely the IV™ website would be the appropriate place to post the list or to post a link to the list if hosted elsewhere.
 - Angelo – Will there be an ability to retrieve a single record for a particular container or to break it down and get piece level information so that numbers of pieces or handling units are differentiated (viewing nested mail objects with mail objects)?
 - This is not included in Release 1. Amy and Angelo discussed the possibility of using either Mail.XML or a secondary delimited file in a future release.

- Discussion continued about the ID of the tray or handling unit, and how to determine the mail class of the mailpieces contained in a bundle, whether they be a periodical or a standard mail piece. Would these be considered a “mixed class?”

July Meetings:

- The following meeting schedule was announced:

Date	Meeting?
July 13	Cancelled due to Quarterly MTAC Meeting
July 20	Yes
July 27	Cancelled due to IDEAlliance

- Himesh reminded the group that any questions or feedback that comes up in between scheduled UG4 Meetings can be sent by email.

The meeting was adjourned.

- **Action Item:** Himesh to check if SV captures the new scan event for yard arrival.
- **Action Item:** Amy will determine when/how the new yard arrival event will be made available through IV™.
- **Action Item:** Amy to investigate options for viewing nested mail objects with parent mail objects.
- **Action Item:** Himesh suggested the group pick up discussion on the mail class of a mailpiece in a mixed bundle at the UG4 meeting, week after next.