

Finance System Leadership Group Meeting Minutes July 29, 2013

Attendees: Cathy Bye, Jean Carr, Catherine Chan, Mike Chang, Mike Glisson, Margie Hattenbach, Debbie Jozwiak, Karin Livingston, Keith Martin, Usha Mathew, Theresa Meneley, Darlene Pullen, Karen Sanders, Jack Tenner, Samantha Yurus

Review Enterprise Systems Roadmap for Large Projects

- Keith Martin distributed and reviewed the Enterprise Applications Road Map, which lists major projects planned for Enterprise Systems. Finance and Research projects on the list were discussed in more detail.

Apply Finance System Patches

- Oracle provides PeopleSoft application fixes (corrections or improvements), which are grouped into bundles and bundles are grouped into maintenance packs. There are currently 12 maintenance packs for PeopleSoft Finance 9.1, which consist of 26 bundles.
- The Finance System is currently on PeopleSoft version 9.1, maintenance pack 1. We need to apply the remaining maintenance packs to Finance so that we stay current with application fixes.
- ES will start reviewing the maintenance packs to determine how they affect the Finance System. Mike Chang will provide Release Notes (or a summary of the Release Notes) for the maintenance packs to the FSLG for review.
- Due to fiscal year-end activity, some functional testing will not be possible until December and January. Therefore, we will plan to implement the maintenance packs by February 28, 2014.

Tools Upgrade from 8.52 to 8.53

- Campus Solutions will be upgrading from PeopleTools 8.52 to 8.53 in the next six to nine months. The other applications should upgrade to 8.53 as well.
- The group agreed that the PeopleTools upgrade for Finance should occur when the maintenance packs are applied in February 2014, so that testing can be performed for both at the same time.

Budget Checking Issues in 9.1

- The budget checking process in Finance 9.1 is different from Finance 8.4. In 8.4, budget checking was a COBOL process that ran instantly when you pressed a button. In 9.1, budget checking is scheduled to run through the Application Engine, just like running a report. ES has improved the speed of budget checking in 9.1, so that speed is no longer an issue.
- However, we discovered that PO encumbrances in 9.1 were being released as a result of late interest payments, which is incorrect. In 8.4, the late interest payment posted as an expense but did not release the PO encumbrance.
- On July 15, ES moved a fix to production so that future late interest payments will not release PO encumbrances. This fix will not correct the PO encumbrance releases that already occurred since the upgrade to 9.1 in December 2012. However, ES modified the 1074 report to display the PO encumbrance release resulting from late interest payments in sections 3 and 4 of the report, so that it is clear what caused the release.
- Another issue with budget checking in 9.1 is how it chooses which BUD_EXPENSE tree to use when budget checking. In 8.4, the Accounting Date or Journal Date determined which

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BUD_EXPENSE tree to use. In 9.1, the date that budget checking occurs determines which tree to use. This is problematic when this year's BUD_EXPENSE tree is different from next year's BUD_EXPENSE tree and you need to budget check transactions in August with a September Accounting or Journal Date or vice versa.

- UHD and UHCL loaded FY14 budgets without the new budget nodes (Purchased Utilities and Debt Service). They plan to enter zero dollar amounts for these nodes until September and override any budget checking errors. Fortunately, POs are not normally created for these accounts.
- Mike Chang is trying to find a fix for this problem in the meantime, so that the correct BUD_EXPENSE tree will be used.

Finance Reports – Current Effective Dated Tree vs. Future Effective Dated Tree

- Custom Finance reports were created by different individuals over several years. Most reports use the date the report is run to determine which department tree to use. If the report is run in August, the report will use the department tree that is effective in August, regardless of whether the report is run for a previous, the current, or a future fiscal year.
- However, the 1016 and 1060 fund equity reports use the most future dated department tree, regardless of the date the report is run. This can create some confusion when comparing reports.
- The group decided that we should modify the 1016 and 1060 reports to use the report run date to determine which department tree to use to be consistent with the other reports.
- Mike Chang also identified several queries that ES will modify to use the query run date to determine the version of the department tree, rather than the most future dated tree.

Next Meeting

- The group decided the next meeting will be in four months (late November), unless other reasons arise that require a meeting.