

Grants Management System and IT Update – August 2011

Grants Management System Update

Grants Management System Development (<http://grants.cirm.ca.gov>)

Recent releases:

- Early Translation III Pre Application
 - Greater complexity over prior single Pre Application release with inclusion of two award types (DC vs. DCF) affecting Co-PI applicability

Current work for Fall 2011 release:

- Early Translation III Full Application
- Disease Team II Full Application
 - Both full applications introduce budget information functionality not included in most recently released Disease Team planning application and visiting scientist supplement application
- PFAR/JIT processing
 - New online post award functionality (previously used PDF) adds to previous releases of online annual progress reporting and publication disclosure

Ongoing work:

- Self-service administrative screens for the GMO and SO

The focus of this ongoing work is to remove software developers from the role of making changes to data in response to customer support issues coming from applicants, grantees, and their organizations. This enables appropriate CIRM staff to become self sufficient to address such requests and allows the development team to focus on programming.

Integration to the Public Website (<http://www.cirm.ca.gov>)

Recent releases:

- Data pipeline between the Grants Portal and the Public Website
 - Enables transmittal to the public website of information such as board approved funding, public abstracts from progress reports, publication disclosures

Ongoing work:

- Public website use of this data pipeline
 - Development being performed by a third-party and not utilizing grants management systems development resources

We have implemented the grants portal side of a communication channel between the grants system and the public website such that data may be kept up-to-date in a scheduled automated fashion without the need for human intervention. Any person overseeing the public website may also trigger an update manually without the need of any IT support by using a button on the administrative screens of the public website to begin such an ad-hoc update.

IT Update

Security Audit

Recently completed:

- First ever external security audit of the CIRM network
 - above average over-all rating
 - two each of “info”, “low”, and “medium” findings
 - zero “high” or “critical” issues found

Both the number of and severity of the findings are what ranks us as currently above average. It is recommended to take action for any findings that are “medium” or higher, but findings of “info” or “low” are often mentioned for our information and awareness and do not necessarily mean that any action should be taken. Those level of findings are to be acknowledged and weighed against organizational benefit provided and provide an insight into where to focus monitoring efforts in the case that they are valid and providing benefit to the organization.

Next phase:

- Focused Grants Management System and Public Website security audit

The same vendor that performed the external security audit of our network will dive deeply into the two most important externally accessible systems at CIRM. The analysis will look for any holes that might exist around system access, data security, and data integrity. The report from this round of testing should be available in the early fall timeframe.

Infrastructure Upgrades

- Network
 - New faster core switches
- Servers
 - More processing and storage capacity

Our recent network and server upgrades are designed to make both external applicant and grantee as well as internal staff access more reliable and efficient.

- Backup System
 - New tape backup system

Agenda Item # 5 / GRANTS MGMT UPDATE
8/25/11 ICOC Meeting

Tape backup and offsite storage is our current main means of disaster recovery. We have replaced an aging system with a new higher capacity one to meet our current and future needs.