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This patch is part of the IFCAP/eCMS Interface project, which is establishing bi-directional communications between the Vista package Integrated Funds Distribution, Control Point Activity, Accounting and Procurement (IFCAP) and the commercial Electronic Contract Management System (eCMS) located at the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) in Austin Texas. The goal is for the VA to benefit from eCMS's ability to consolidate multiple requests, electronically prepare and issue solicitation documents, receive electronic offers, automate contract administration, and provide interfaces to the Integrated Acquisition Environment initiatives.

The Phase 1 patch (PRC*5.1*167) created an interface to send via HL7 messaging a 2237 from IFCAP to eCMS and another HL7 interface to send 2237 Return or Cancel transactions from eCMS to IFCAP. This patch makes modifications to several existing IFCAP options to support the business process changes required to maintain the interfaces and also implements improvements to the Transaction Report - eCMS/IFCAP [PRCHJ TRANS REPORT]. This is an IFCAP-only patch and does not rely on associated changes in eCMS.

Among the enhancements are:

1. During edit sessions in options New 2237 (Service) Request [PRCSENRB], Edit a 2237 (Service) [PRCSEDTD], Change Existing Transaction Number [PRCSANTN], Copy a Transaction [PRCSECP] and Approve Requests [PRCSAPP] the software checks if the Requesting Service field is populated and each Line Item has an item description. If not, the user is notified and instructed to correct the 2237 before it can move to the next level of review. This will prevent the 2237 from being sent to the Accountable Officer with missing field entries.
2. Currently, when an Accountable Officer (AO) attempts to send eCMS a 2237 that is missing required data fields, the IFCAP software blocks the 2237's transmission and displays a warning message reporting the first error encountered, but not any additional errors until the previous one has been corrected and transmission re-attempted. The software will now display all required field errors together at one time. All missing required fields on the 2237 will be output to the screen and included in a MailMan message to the AO. This allows the user to correct each error within a single edit session and potentially avoid multiple transmission attempts when the 2237 has more than one missing required data field.
3. During the building of the HL7 message for the Send 2237 to eCMS interface, the hard error due to a missing Line Item Description will no longer occur. The 2237 cannot be forwarded to the Accountable Officer for processing if a Line Item Description is missing.
4. A Supply employee identified as Manager also is now able to execute the Retransmit a 2237 to eCMS [PRCHJ RETRANS 2237] option on the Accountable Officer Menu [PRCHUSER PPM].
5. Three additional user groups can now execute the Transaction Report - eCMS/IFCAP. A Supply employee identified as Manager now can run the report from the Accountable Officer Menu [PRCHUSER PPM]. The report can also be run by Fiscal users holding the new security key PRCHJFIS. Accounting Technicians will access the report from the Accounting Utilities Menu [PRCFA UTILITY], and Budget Analysts, from the Budget Utilities Menu [PRCB UTILITIES].
6. The interface for 2237 Returned by eCMS and for 2237 Cancelled by eCMS will now accept a transaction when the status of the 2237 is one of the following: 'Assigned to Purchasing Agent', 'Sent to eCMS (P&C)', 'Returned to Service by PPM' or 'Returned To Service by P&C'.

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Previously it would reject the transaction if the 2237's status was not 'Sent to eCMS (P&C)'.

7. The existing report Outstanding 2237s [PRCHOUT OUTST 2237/PA] now includes 2237s whose status is 'Sent to eCMS (P&C)' and excludes 2237s with status 'Returned to Service by eCMS (P&C)', as is appropriate.
8. The eCMS identifier at the 2237 header level has been changed from 'Sent to eCMS' to 'Accepted by eCMS' to reduce confusion with the displayed document's status. This value is also more accurate as the identifier is populated in IFCAP after eCMS successfully imports the 2237 into the eCMS database and then sends the internal PR identifier back to IFCAP in the Application Acknowledgment.
9. When a 2237 is renumbered using option Change Existing Transaction Number [PRCSANTN], the eCMS identifiers (file #410 CONTROL POINT ACTIVITY, field #103 ECMS ACTIONUID and subfile #410.02 ITEM, field #100 ITEM UID) are now removed from the entry receiving the new transaction number.
10. When the Accountable Officer (AO) in Process a Request in PPM [PRCHPM REQST] is editing a 2237 which already has eCMS identifiers, as would be the case for a 2237 returned to service by eCMS, edited and then resubmitted to the AO, the AO can only accept the default status of 'Pending Accountable Officer Sig.', or change it to one of: 'Returned to Service by PPM' or 'Sent to eCMS (P&C)'. The AO will not be able to direct the 2237 elsewhere.
11. When a Control Point User in IFCAP cancels a 2237, or triggers cancellation by changing a 2237's transaction number, the user's identity and the date/time of the cancellation are now stored in the 2237 record (in the CONTROL POINT ACTIVITY file (#410), fields CANCELLED BY (#104) and CANCEL DATE/TIME (#105)). When a Control Point User runs the existing Transaction Status Report [PRCSTS] option on the Display Control Point Activity Menu [PRCSD], the data in these two fields will be displayed for those transactions cancelled after the installation of this patch.