

Blue Top Newsletter



Special Points of Note:

Now found on www.fedidcard.gov:

- > Service Order Requests and Test Card Orders
- > Role Holder Web Based Training Registration
- > Deployment Activities and USAccess Center Status Alerts
- > Contact Ken Bandy (kenneth.bandy@gsa.gov) to be added to User Group (UG) distribution list.
- > Contact Jim Schoening (jim.schoening@gsa.gov) for Registrar Classroom Training sign up

Upcoming Meetings and Training

Meeting/Training	Date & Time (EST)	Location	Dial-In Info
CAB	Wed, Mar 2 9:30 to 12:00	GSA Central Office 1800 F St NW Room 3046	No Telecon Provided
User Group	Wed, Feb 17 9:00 to 12:00	GSA Central Office 1800 F St. NW Room G143	888-455-1864 Passcode: 5887966
Registrar Refresher Training	Thu, Feb 11 2:30 to 3:30	Telecon/Webinar	888-455-1864 Passcode: 3611044
Registrar Classroom Training	Wed and Thu Mar 9-10 Apr 13-14	HPE Chantilly, VA	Contact Jim Schoening for information or to Register
Release 9.9 Training	See Release 9.9 Training Schedule on page 3 for more information		

USAccess Software Release 9.9 and Light Installers v4.0

USAccess Software Release 9.9

This release will go to production on Saturday, March 5. An updated draft release notice was posted last week to the Agency Lead Portal that includes screenshots describing the changes with this release. A sample ASR Supplemental Report and an updated Sponsor Quick Reference Guide was also posted as both were impacted by changes included with this release.

As mentioned at previous CABs, User Groups and Blue Tops, the MSO is holding several trainings for Sponsors, Registrars and Activators to help them understand and prepare for the changes with this release. Please see the schedule below listing the training dates and share with your role holders.

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USAccess Software Release 9.9 Continued

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, February 25	10:00-11:30am	Release 9.9 Training Overview for Agency Leads
Tuesday, March 1	1:00-2:00pm	Personal Credential Assistant (PCA) Training Session 1
Wednesday, March 2	1:00-2:00pm	Sponsor Training Session 1
Thursday, March 3	2:30-3:30pm	PCA Training Session 2
Saturday, March 5	Release 9.9 Deployed to Production	
Tuesday, March 8	1:00-2:00pm	PCA Training Session 3
Wednesday, March 9	10:00-11:00am	Sponsor Training Session 2
Thursday, March 10	2:30-3:30pm	Refresher Training – will use this time for PCA Training

Light Installers v4.0

The Light Installers.exe v4.0 files, along with updated Light install and Light user guides, were posted to the USAccess SFTP server for Agency download on Tuesday, February 9. An email was sent to Agency leads announcing their availability. If you need access to the SFTP server or cannot remember your log in information, please email the MSO at hspd12@gsa.gov.

These installers include:

- An update to the enrollment application to enable foreign nationals to enroll in USAccess.
- Removal of unused fields on the Biographic Data page in the enrollment application.
- The Personal Credential Assistant (PCA) application.
- Updated desktop icons for the links to application used to enroll applicants on LA and LCS workstations; the links themselves did not change, nor the way to access these applications, just the look of the icon; the icons were updated to be more identifiable/relevant for role holders.
- An update that changes HP references to Hewlett Packard Enterprise/HPE.
- An update to Java 8 Update 71.
- An update to ActivClient Hotfix 6.2.0.201.

The MSO provided the 4.0 installers a month prior to Release 9.9 so Agencies can test and verify the files. PCA is not available for use (i.e.; an Activator can't activate using PCA) until Release 9.9 goes into production on March 5.

USAccess Software Release 9.9 Continued

Once the Light 4.0 installers are installed (even prior to release 9.9 going in to production), a Registrar will see the new Foreign Document field in the Enrollment application, but it will not be editable. Installing v4.0 prior to March 5 will not interfere with a workstation's ability to enroll and activate (i.e.; it will still work in the existing infrastructure).

NOTE: The current Unattended and Attended Activation applications will still be available on Fixed and Light machines for use following Release 9.9. This will help ease the adoption of PCA to your role holders when you elect to roll it out to them.

A Light Installer v4.0 Release Notice is posted on the ALP. Please refer to that document for specifics on the changes included with the installers.

Release 9.9 Timeline

- **Thursday/Friday, February 4-5:**
MSO UAT of Light Installers v4.0 and Release 9.9. Final prep of documents and Light installer for release.
- **Monday, February 8: Light 4.0 released to field via SFTP:**
These files are for Agency testing purposes only. PCA and the ability to credential foreign nationals will only be enabled once Release 9.9 goes in to production. Agencies can update machines with these installers prior to Release 9.9 as this new software works within our existing infrastructure.

An email will be sent to agencies once the installers are posted. A PCA user guide and PCA install and Light install guides will also be available and posted on this date. In-classroom Registrar training documents will also be updated.

- **Saturday, March 5:**
Release 9.9 goes to production. Fixed workstations will be updated on this date using the automated update system (no Agency action required other than to keep workstations powered on.) Light installers v4.0 should be implemented on LA and LCS machines to take advantage of Release 9.9 and PCA features.

Job Aid Update

The Sponsor Quick Reference Guide has been updated to account for changes in Release 9.9. The updated guide, which covers changes that Sponsors will not see in production until Release 9.9 is deployed in March, can be found on the Agency Lead Portal under the name of *Sponsor Quick Reference Guide GSA March 2016*.

Windows 10 Planning and Information Request

The USAccess MSO is updating its multi-year roadmap, which consists of technical, strategic and programmatic items. One of those items is upgrading the system and credentialing infrastructure to Windows 10. Several Customer Agencies have informed the MSO of their intent to move forward with this upgrade. The MSO and its core services provider are investigating the components of the system that are currently ready to upgrade and the components that need additional development efforts before moving forward with Windows 10.

The MSO understands that there are many factors involved with decisions such as this, and that our Agency Leads may not be the people making those decisions. In an effort to ensure we are moving at an appropriate pace with our Customer Agencies, the MSO needs to better understand agency plans for upgrading to Windows 10. We are asking with our agency leads to coordinate with their CIO organizations to determine the agency's overall Windows 10 strategy. Once we have this information, the MSO will add it to our draft roadmap and discuss with the Agency Leads at a future CAB meeting before scheduling release activities or committing major resources to development efforts.

Agency Leads have been sent an email requesting them to respond to the MSO with their agency's plans for upgrading to Windows 10 no later than March 18, 2016.

USAccess V8 PIV Card Testing

The USAccess MSO is considering moving from the Oberthur V7 PIV card to the V8 card. The V8 card comes in either low speed, already on the GSA Approved Products List (APL), or high speed, in development/testing and not yet on the APL. The high speed card offers many benefits, such as faster read times with Physical Access Control Systems (PACS) and additional features. One of the outstanding issues with the high speed card is that not all PACS are able to read it, and the card itself is not able to slow down for those readers.

The MSO and Oberthur have discussed preliminary testing needs and understand that this would be a heavy lift, both technologically and financially, for many USAccess Customer Agencies. Test cards will be available in packs consisting of a V7 (currently deployed USAccess PIV card), a V8 low speed and a V8 high speed.

Agency Leads have been sent a Test Card Order Form to request these cards. Please reference the email, sent by GSA MSO on Jan 27 for more information.

Oberthur will present information about the comparison between the card types at the March Customer Advisory Board (CAB). The March User Group meeting will include a discussion about the technical aspects of the cards and implications of implementation. The MSO will provide cost information once it is available.

Collecting USAccess Site Manager Information

It is critical for security and potential core services provider transition purposes that USAccess has a complete record of all credentialing stations within the enterprise.

Customer Agencies must register all Light Credentialing and Light Activation equipment currently deployed and actively in use within their agency in Site Manager. All equipment not currently deployed or not actively in use must be inventoried and documented (type of equipment, number of LA or LCS, location, Agency/Sub-Agency, contact information for POC responsible for equipment).

Agency Leads are responsible for ensuring their agencies have:

- Accurately registered all deployed and active credentialing sites in Site Manager.
- Accurately documented non-deployed or inactive credentialing equipment.

Agencies must either register their credentialing sites in Site Manager or return non-deployed/inactive equipment inventory lists to the MSO no later than March 1, 2016. The MSO will only be able to consider sites for transition that are in Site Manager or inventoried with the MSO by March 1, 2016.

The MSO will consider requests for additional support on a case-by-case basis.

Reminder—Invoice Dates Changing

Due to changes to GSA's finance system, IPAC billing dates for the HSPD-12 program will be shifting from the 20th to the end of the month. In order to accommodate this change, the MSO will be sending agency invoices on the 25th of each month. This change will take effect starting with the December Invoice cycle, taking place in February 2016.

Service Enhancements

Changes/Updates since last Blue Top

- Routine maintenance and security scans completed as scheduled on January 30-31.
- Light Installer v4.0 was posted on the SFTP server for Agency testing on February 9th. Please see release 9.9/Light Installer v4.0 section for more details.

Service Enhancements Continued

Planned changes

For any maintenance downtime periods, please schedule some buffer time to resume enrollment and activation appointments to account for any unanticipated delays in service.

- **Saturday-Sunday February 13-14:** Routine maintenance planned for this Saturday, February 13 from 7am through Sunday, February 14 3:00pm Eastern. During this time, the USAccess Service and role holder portals will be unavailable.
- **Saturday-Sunday, February 27-28:** The USAccess portals will be unavailable for most of the day on Saturday, February 27 for maintenance, and on Sunday, February 28, role holders may experience issues with being logged out. An advisory will be posted and emails sent out per usual process.
- **Saturday, March 5:** USAccess Software Release 9.9 is scheduled for production on March 5. The USAccess Service and portals will be unavailable for much of the day. Light installer v4.0 should be implemented on LA and LCS machines to take advantage of Release 9.9 and PCA features. Fixed workstations will be updated on this date using the automated update system (no Agency action required other than to keep workstations powered on).

Security Tip

Proper Approach for Moving Equipment

For fixed stations in credentialing centers, it is very important that we protect the USAccess network gear and ensure that no troubleshooting or relocation of this equipment is performed without USAccess knowledge. Never change the connections or relocate the Cisco router or Linksys switch box. This goes for all USAccess equipment. Please do not relocate any of it without an approved order.

Additionally, never troubleshoot the Cisco router or Linksys switch box without a USAccess representative on the phone. Changing the cable connections or connecting another pc/laptop to these devices is a security breach and may cause your site to be out of service for an extended period of time. Please remember that there is a lot of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) being passed through this system. We are collecting PII for hundreds of thousands of Government employees, yourselves included. For this reason, we must all take privacy and security very seriously.

If you need help or information about moving LAS or LCS stations, please contact your Agency Lead or point of contact who gave you the kits and machines.