PPMI Presents at the Payments Forum 2021


The Post Payment Modernization Initiative (PPMI) participated in the forum via a presentation and breakout session; this provided an opportunity for federal agencies to provide feedback. In the morning, Philip Tropea, PIVOT Product Owner, provided an overview of changes associated with the re-engineering, agency impacts and implementation timeline. Questions and comments were submitted during the session via the chat feature.

During the afternoon, PPMI held two breakout sessions that featured a “LIVE” demonstrations of PIVOT via an interactive session that allowed active participation and questions. Each breakout session had over 100 attendees. PPMI team members, Kathyne Gave, Diane Poeggel and Juanita Stokes walked through how the menus operate, payment history query, agency cancellations, on-line claims processes, and viewing correspondence attached to a return check in the QA Region. The attendees expressed their excitement about the new application being developed and are looking forward to hearing more in the future.

Collaboration between Modernization Initiatives

Payment Management has two large scale modernization projects that are working together to build team dynamics and share lessons learned; the Disbursement Services Modernization Initiative (DSMI) and the Post Payment Modernization Initiative (PPMI) projects. This partnership ensures a foundation of success to benefit payment modernization and directly ties to the bureau values of learning, collaboration, and excellence.

Fiscal Service and the agency community will both be able to take advantage of the teams building dynamics allowing for planning of future integration opportunities, identifying common capabilities and reusable services. As the teams move forward, they will focus on strategic direction and alignment between both projects. This ensures that the modernization of the full end-to-end payments lifecycle is represented in one forum, and that both projects are meeting enterprise strategic goals and policy objectives.
PIVOT IT Corner…

Welcome back to the PIVOT IT Corner, where the different areas of IT regarding PIVOT are highlighted. Last quarter we discussed how PIVOT is working on the Standard Cancellation File (SCF). This quarter the focus is on when the SCF is generated and how that plays into the end of day processing.

At a highest level, PIVOT receives input files from the Federal Reserve Bank on “paid” check data that were negotiated through financial institutions. PIVOT also receives input data (or files) for check returns, expired checks, and claims (or stops) placed on checks. So you are probably wondering "when or where does the SCF come into play?" long story short, at the end.

PIVOT depends on different various inputs to create the outputs agencies need to successfully load into their systems. As with most outputs from PIVOT, the infamous SCF is generated daily at end of day but the data represents successful cancellations, if any, that were received during the day.

So, What is PIVOT’s “End of Day”? End of day represents the timed cutoff, agreed by all parties, at which PIVOT will stop processing inputs and start generating outputs. In our next IT Corner we will get into another type of input PIVOT receives.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.” – Aristotle

EPIC 9 Work Completed

PPMI has completed Epic 9, which started on March 3 and ran through June 1, 2021. During this timeframe, the development team’s focus was working out the "bugs" with migrating the data from legacy systems to PIVOT production in preparation for internal validation.

- Migrated legacy data for internal validation
- Continued to build out end of day functionality
- Architecture updates
- Site reliability engineering for monitoring of APIs
- Continued outreach to agencies on the standard cancellation file format to ensure agency adoption
PIVOT Agency Outreach

During the past quarter we held some one-on-one discussions regarding requirements, file formats, new process flows with the following agencies at their request:

- SSA/SSI
- DOD
- HUD
- TSP
- VA
- USDA

Agencies are welcome to contact our Outreach Team to schedule a session.

Internal Validation of Operations Underway

Internal validation of the functionality completed in PIVOT began the end of June. The goal of this effort is to ensure that the check reconciliation, file monitoring and Treasury initiated cancellation processing are working as re-engineered. This provides our Fiscal Service users an opportunity to test drive the application’s automation and built-in intelligence during the designated timeframe and provide feedback. The internal validation helps the PIVOT team to ensure quality and reliability of the system.

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”
– Nelson Mandela

Word Search

AGILE TERMOLOGY

Agile: Is a development methodology based on iterative, incremental and transparent approach.

Epic: Work to be completed based on a set of features. PPMI started using three-month timeframes for each Epic. It is a helpful way to organize and prioritize work.

Sprint: An iteration that lasts two weeks. A sprint is a single cycle in the iterative development process used by Scrum.

Scrum: A framework for team collaborating using an interactive process referred to as sprints.

PIVOT TERMINOLOGY

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IMSDINEFLLMMMTX
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CLICK TO PLAY ONLINE: PIVOT TERMINOLOGY Word Search (thewordsearch.com)
Please note if you play online the puzzle will changes each time you access it. Happy searching!
UPCOMING EVENTS

The PPMI project team is holding the next Benefit Agency Summit on Thursday, July 29, 2021 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (ET). Space is limited so registration is first come, first serve. Please note that only government emails will be accepted and receive link for virtual session.

To register to attend this agency summit, please visit: https://fiscal.treasury.gov/training/ppmi-pivot-agency-benefits-summit.html

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