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FI$Cal Focus

FI$CAL: TRANSPARENCY. ACCURACY. INTEGRITY.

Wave 2 Officially Kicks-Off

FI$Cal is excited to welcome a whole new group of departments to the Project. On April 14, 2014 FI$Cal officially kicked off Wave 2. Barbara Taylor, Project Executive for FI$Cal welcomed the audience and provided a brief overview of FI$Cal and shared our current progress on where we presently stand in the Project timeline. From there, FI$Cal shared its Change Management approach which revolves around a structured, results-driven and holistic approach to change in organizations, teams, and individuals that enables the successful transition from where departments are today to where FI$Cal will take them. Change is never easy but FI$Cal's team of Change Management professionals is here to help.

Following the Change Management presentation, the Business and Technical Teams shared the "FI$Cal Solution" with departments along with the implementation approach. While this was just a high level overview of the Budgeting, Procurement, and Accounting solutions, along with the approach for Interfaces and Conversions, the solution is being shared with departments at FI$Cal through the Solution Walkthrough (SWT) and Conference Room Pilot (CRP) sessions that are now taking place.

The SWTs provide an overview of the business processes, including key terms and implemented functionality, a list of changes with the "to-be" business processes, an opportunity to begin thinking about updates to internal department processes, and a demonstration of the FI$Cal Wave 1 solution.

The Wave 2 CRPs facilitate interactive discussion on "to-be" State business processes, demonstrate delivered software capabilities to meet State requirements, confirm application requirements and identify gaps where business needs are not satisfied by standard software functionality, and identify critical concerns and issues for each process area.

The FI$Cal team is excited to have our Wave 2 departments on board as we work closely together to ensure a successful go live for Wave 2 on July 1, 2015.

Training Underway!

FI$Cal End-User Training officially began on April 28. The Training Team is providing training throughout the State covering all of the various functionalities that are being rolled out with Wave 1.

We sincerely appreciate all the time that end users are spending in these sessions getting ready to start using the new System.

It's busy but exciting times here at FI$Cal as we move closer to go live.

BARBARA'S PERSPECTIVE

A Message From FI$Cal Project Leadership

One of the more highly anticipated pieces of functionality that FI$Cal will eventually offer the State of California, including its elected officials, employees, and citizens will be a level of transparency into the financial activities of the State that has never before been available. With transparency comes the ability to make better and timelier financial decisions, leading to better resource management, leading to better financial outcomes for the State.

With transparency comes the ability to make better and timelier financial decisions...

FI$Cal wants to ensure that as the Project moves forward with the design of a transparency website for release with Wave 4, that we provide the best tools and information possible to help guide what California's website should be. With that in mind, we are collaborating with the Senate Advisory Commission on Cost Control in State Government for a graduate research project with the University of Southern California on the trends and demands for financial transparency, which is underway.

This research project is just the first step in many that will help design transparency for the next generation; our children and grandchildren who someday may be using this website to better understand how California does its financial business.

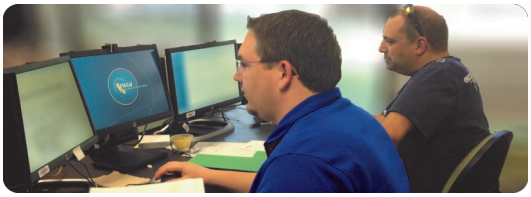
Barbara Taylor is FI$Cal's Project Executive

User Acceptance Testing Underway at FI$Cal

The User Acceptance Testing (UAT) phase of the FI$Cal Project is currently underway and scheduled through June, 2014. Two representatives from each Wave 1 department are invited to participate in testing the System's functionality through the execution of over 200 scripts for various processes in the areas of accounting, procurement, and budgets. These scripts are designed to confirm that the System design and functionality meet the State's financial and procurement reporting needs.

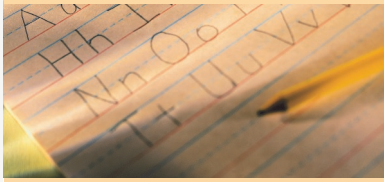
Department representatives attend specific accounting, procurement, and budget UAT sessions held at the FI$Cal Evergreen Building and execute the scripts within the testing environment. Each session has both State and Accenture Business Team members to assist and explain any System functionality or design questions testers may have. The participation allows departments to have exposure and visibility to the System.

To ensure System consistency and integrity, UAT scripts are very precise with specific expected outcomes. Any discrepancies found by UAT testers are documented and addressed by the Project team accordingly to ensure a quality System at go live. While the UAT format is very exact, the Project recognizes the need for departments to test functionality using additional steps and varying data. To address the need, FI$Cal also scheduled Unscripted UAT (UUAT). The UUAT process allows departments to go "off script" to test functionality based on the department's specific business process and need. Feedback is requested after each session to ensure the Project can be responsive to the tester's observations. FI$Cal appreciates the departments' participation in this process.



GLOSSARY

This section features acronyms or definitions for the FI$Cal Project. For a list of additional terms, please visit our website at www.fiscal.ca.gov.



Department Support:
Activities or meetings to update Departments on the FI$Cal Project and support them in their ongoing efforts to prepare for the FI$Cal implementation and transition. Examples of Department Support activities include sponsorship outreach, Department Readiness meetings, Departmental Liaison Network meetings, and engagement, coaching, or working sessions.

FI$Cal Service Center:
FI$Cal's help desk that will support Pre-Wave departments after go live with questions or issues regarding the FI$Cal application.

Test Script:
A set of instructions that will be performed on the system to verify that it functions as expected.

To-Be Processes:
The new or future business processes being designed, developed and implemented for the State as part of the FI$Cal solution.

User Acceptance Testing:
A testing process to confirm that a system meets mutually agreed-upon requirements.

User Productivity Kit (UPK):
An Oracle tool integrated with PeopleSoft used to develop online simulations, used during classroom training to demonstrate process steps to users.

User Support Labs:
Training labs where users will be able to bring in real-life examples and get support as they perform the transaction in the practice environment.