



External Data Interface Standards (EDIS) Exchange Collaboration Session #5

On September 14, 2010, USCIS hosted its fifth External Data Interface Standards (EDIS) collaboration teleconference to discuss schedule changes and provide stakeholders with the latest updates. EDIS are the set of technical standards to allow a third party system to transfer immigration benefit request data directly to USCIS. This new system to system interface will be a new electronic filing (e-filing) channel and increase efficiency and improve the acceptance rate for immigration benefit requests. Posted below is a summary of the event and the questions and responses during that session.

Event: EDIS Exchange #5 Collaboration Teleconference
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2010
Participants: Over 50 external parties participated

Agenda/Objectives:

- Discussed moving the implementation date of the system to system interface (via EDIS) capability to summer 2012;
- Explained the strategic and business decision behind the change in date;
- Provided status updates on the work accomplished to date in the development of EDIS;
- Gathered input from the stakeholders on their thoughts of the schedule change;
- Discussed stakeholders' preference in how often and what channel they wish to receive communications from USCIS regarding EDIS and Transformation.

Discussion/Questions and Answers:

Question: Do you expect H2B and H2A filings to be released in A or B?

Answer: All I-129s are in scheduled to be in Release B.

Question: What system will EDIS utilize?

Answer: EDIS are data specifications that describe the technical interface to enable any public system that has been through certification testing to interface with USCIS. For instance, any law firm who creates a software system leveraging these EDIS specifications will be able to create an interface with the USCIS Transformation system for the transmission of benefit requests.



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Question: Which release will have the forms I-90 and I-131?

Answer: I-90 has been moved to Release B and I-131 is in release A.

Question: Can you provide a list of forms in Release A and Release B?

Answer: Yes, we can post the full list of forms/benefit types in both Release A and B. Overall there are 16 form/benefit types in Release A. Release B will implement the remained of the non-immigrant forms.

	Benefit Types Scheduled for Release A
Temporary Visa Holders (Non-immigrants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I-20: Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant Student Status ▪ DS-2019: Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status ▪ I-508: Waiver of Rights, Privileges, Exemptions and Immunities (Under Section 247(b) of the INA ▪ I-566: Interagency Record of Request -- A, G or NATO Dependent Employment Authorization or Change/Adjustment to/from A, G or NATO Status ▪ I-612: Application for Waiver of the Foreign Residence Requirement (under Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended) ▪ I-102: Application for Replacement/Initial Non-immigrant Arrival-Departure Document ▪ I-539: Application To Extend/Change Non-immigrant Status
TPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I-821: Application for Temporary Protected Status
Aliens Needing Identity or Travel Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I-131: Application for Travel Document ▪ I-765: Application for Employment Authorization
All Release A Customer Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AR-11: Change of Address Form ▪ I-601: Application for Waiver of Ground of Inadmissibility ▪ G-28: Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative ▪ I-824: Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition ▪ I-290B: Notice of Appeal or Motion ▪ I-134: Application for Affidavit of Support

Question: How will EDIS interface with I-20?

Answer: EDIS specifications will reflect the data requirements of other government agencies, such as SEVIS. We are working with other government agencies now to develop these interfaces.



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Question: Can you provide the list of other government agency interfaces that you are working with, such as the Social Security Administration?

Answer: USCIS is working with many government agencies. The Office of Transformation Coordination has targeted the end of this calendar year to have interface requirements developed and we can provide you with the outcome. As for what external interfaces we will have, we know Release A will not include an interface with SSA. An interface with SSA is currently scheduled for Release B.

Follow up question: Can you provide us a list of those interfaces?

Follow up response: We can provide a list of other agencies we are currently working with in developing interfaces to the Transformed environment.

Other government agencies we are currently working with for Release A are:

- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Customs and Boarder Protection (CBP)
- US-VISIT
- Department of Justice
- Department of State
- Department of Treasury

Question: Are there different databases and other agencies you are working with for EDIS?

Answer: EDIS is a data requirements specification for the new Benefits Intake technical interface only. EDIS will reflect data requirements for automated Benefit Request Submissions that are developed for the Transformed environment, which may include data requirements that are influenced by business relationships with other agencies. However, if the concern is whether or not Transformation or the EDIS process will replace other agency systems, the answer is no.

Question: Will EDIS connect with SAVE?

Answer: The Transformation Benefits Intake Service and system interface that is standardized on EDIS is not an interface with SAVE. SAVE and other systems have their own web services for user connectivity.



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Question: Do you have defined target dates for Release C, D and E?

Answer: The target dates are approximately a year apart from one another. However, as you all know, when you are working with a large scale information technology project, these target dates are primarily place holders. Within five years, we would like to get through Release E, but we will see.

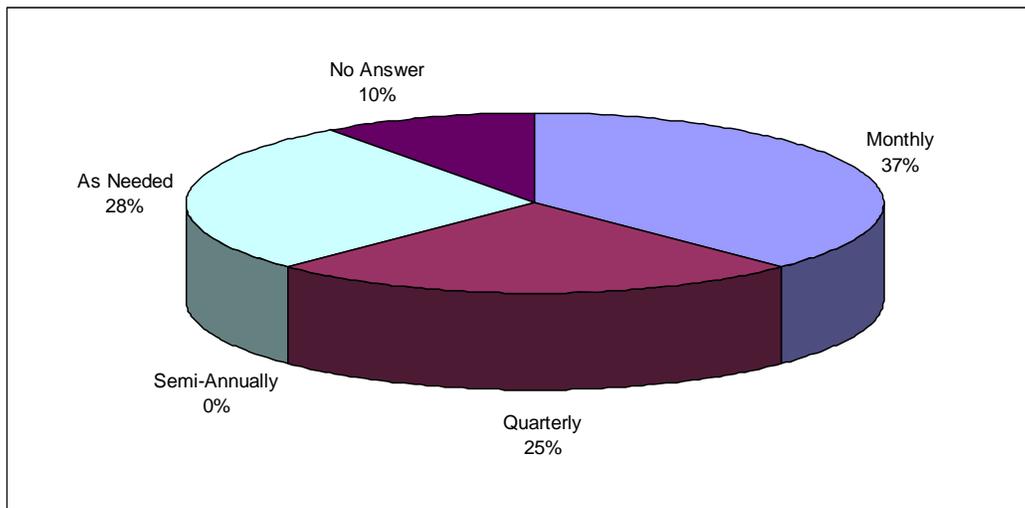
Question: Will practitioners have access to the EDIS model artifacts or data model and if so, when?

Answer: Yes, that is the purpose of our EDIS collaboration efforts. You will be able to see the data model as it is being developed. We want to arrive at these specifications together. The intent is to have the specifications that will be published be well understood by all the stakeholders involved.



Results from Polling Questions Regarding Communications:

1. How often would you like to receive information from the USCIS EDIS team regarding Transformation and EDIS?



2. In what form would you like this communications to be delivered?

