

Welcome!

Welcome to the second bimonthly PeopleSoft Financials V8, or PSFIN V8, Upgrade Project newsletter. In this issue, we would like to give you an overview of the most important process that must be completed during the Planning and Analysis phase of the project: the Fit/Gap sessions where we compare PeopleSoft version 8.9 with the version used in the current GeorgiaFIRST model and identify the differences between the two versions.

So, What are Fit/Gap Sessions?

Fit/Gap sessions bring users together to look at the functionality in the upgraded software as it compares and contrasts with the current version, and make decisions on its use in the different modules.

In cases where decisions cannot be reached, or where decisions could have a major impact on accounting policy or procedure, the issue is sent on to either the Accounting Issues Committee or the Business Process Steering Committee for discussion and decisions.

In addition to determining the ‘fits’ and ‘gaps’ between the versions, users review any current customizations to determine if new functionality will eliminate the need for these customizations.

Five modules will be examined in Fit/Gap sessions: General Ledger (GL), Purchasing (PO), Asset Management (AM), Accounts Payable (AP), and the new Expenses module. In this newsletter, we will focus on the first two of these. The three remaining sessions will be reviewed in the January newsletter.

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Why Vanilla? Why not Chocolate with Sprinkles?

A common refrain at Georgia Summit 2006 and during the Fit/Gap sessions has been: “Let’s go vanilla!” What is a “vanilla” implementation or upgrade and how does it benefit you?

Vanilla refers to using PeopleSoft-delivered functionality instead of making customizations to the software. Users in the Fit/Gap sessions have looked at the upgraded software to determine if the delivered functionality will meet your needs, or if customizations are required. Because USG has multiple, and in some cases unique, reporting and procedural requirements, a certain degree of customization is to be expected.

However, customizations are costly to maintain and always require extra work in a project such as an upgrade. Fewer customizations means fewer issues with the software itself, more resources are available at OIIT to better assist you with ticket resolution, and more time for value-added activities such as training.

General Ledger (GL) Fit/Gap

The GL Fit/Gap sessions were held in Athens on September 11th to 14th.



Back, from L to R: Carol Gibson and Henry Spinks (Georgia Institute of Technology), Cam Reagin (Georgia Southern University), Jeff Preston (Coastal Georgia Community College), Mike Cole (Southern Polytechnic State University), Charlotte Sherman (Medical College of Georgia)
Front, from L to R: Lougene Brown (Columbus State University), Amy Jurgens (Georgia Gwinnett College), Laura Craft (Medical College of Georgia), Donna Caldwell (North Georgia College & State University)

New or improved GL functionality includes:

1. The Journal Load Spreadsheet now allows you to import journals immediately without having to create a flat file. It can also be configured and is much more robust than our current version.
2. GL/Budget inquiries are very flexible. You can select a wide array of criteria on which to query for budget details. You can also drill-down to view budget journal details, budget transaction types (original and adjustment), and transaction activity for pre-encumbrances, encumbrances, and expenses.
3. Budget journal entry now has more efficient data entry by allowing multiple rows to be added in budget journals. Two additional features are viewing of detail budget journal data and copying budget journals.

Gaps identified include a change in the Project ID chart field, commitment control budgets, and the hard close process.

Purchasing (PO) Fit/Gap

The PO Fit/Gap sessions were held in Athens on September 25th to 28th.



*Back from L to R: Barbara Johnson and Beulah Dorsey (Augusta State University), Bill Fritz (Valdosta State University), Terri Gregory and Justin Teckenbrock (Medical College of Georgia)
Front, from L to R: Sharon Ellis (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College), Debbie Housworth (Georgia State University), Wendy Shindorf (Kennesaw State University), Gayle Stokes (Macon State College)*

New or improved PO functionality includes:

1. You can now check for duplicate vendors when modifying or adding a new vendor. The system will compare the Vendor TIN, Vendor Name, Vendor Withholding Name, and Withholding TIN. The system will provide a warning message if a duplicate is

detected. It will also validate against inactive vendors.

2. Receiving now has the ability to have PO lines that can be ordered and received by amount. The functionality is called “amount only” lines, and is useful for partially receiving against service lines.
3. The new eProcurement module is designed to make it much easier for a casual PeopleSoft user to requisition items and have them sourced to a Purchase Order, as opposed to the present, more complicated requisition process. Participants agreed that the functionality was easy to understand and could see where it will be beneficial.

Find Out More about Fit/Gap

The final ‘product’ of each Fit/Gap session is a document showing the decisions made, and the gaps identified and the recommendations on how best to fill them.

These documents will be posted on the GeorgiaFIRST Financials web site, located at <http://www.usg.edu/gafirst/fin/project/v8/fitgap/>. You are encouraged to review these documents and discuss them with members of the Fit/Gap teams if you see any decisions that you do not understand or have questions about. You can find their names and institutions here in this Newsletter, or in the **Fit Gap Sessions Participants List** posted at the URL mentioned above.

Save the Date!

January 23, 2007

**PSFIN V8 Upgrade Update Meeting
Macon State College**

The purpose of this meeting is for you to find out about the decisions made in the Fit/Gap sessions, hear from your colleagues who participated in these sessions, and ask lots of questions. Details will be published on the GeorgiaFIRST Financials listserv (first-1f).

See you in Macon!

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Fit/Gap sessions or any other aspect of the V8 Upgrade project, you can contact the PSFIN V8 Upgrade project team at: psfin_upgrade@usg.edu.

Introducing Chelle Stringer

You may have received a phone call from someone identifying herself as a member of the PSFIN V8 Upgrade team asking about your expectations for the upgrade project. This is Chelle Stringer, and she will be asking a variety of people throughout the institutions, such as end users like you, the Executive Sponsors, OIIT team members, and other stakeholders to discuss their expectations so we can assess our readiness to use PeopleSoft Financials to do our jobs.



Chelle is using the responses provided during these interviews as the foundation to develop a project success “scorecard.” She will work with sponsors and project team members to produce a customer expectations matrix, an aggregate representation of all your expectations, from which they will build the scorecard.

This scorecard will outline a series of success indicators for the upgrade project and identify how each indicator will be measured. We will assess our progress toward these goals on a

monthly basis. The success indicators and their measurements will be used to determine if the project is on track to meet your expectations and deliver an upgraded application that you can use to do your jobs more efficiently and effectively.

Your time spent talking with Chelle is very important! Please give her your full and honest opinions regarding your expectations and concerns.

Communications Sub-Team



*Standing from L to R: Michael Campbell, David Disney, Michael Barnwell, Phil Raymondo
Seated from L to R: Shelia Sloan, Donna Wooddell (sub-team lead), Sharon Logan, Michael Casuccio
Not in picture: Jeff Evans, Jen Williams*

The Communications sub-team coordinates and implements all general and, in some cases more targeted, communications to end users like you, the Executive Sponsors, Campus Coordinators and Technical Representatives, OIIT team members, and other stakeholders in the project.

See you in January!

Stay in the Know

Here are some of the ways we'll be communicating with you throughout the PSFIN V8 Upgrade:

1. Campus Coordinators: Find yours at: <http://www.usg.edu/gafirst/fin/project/v8/>
2. GeorgiaFIRST Financials web site: <http://www.usg.edu/gafirst/fin/>
3. Listservs: georgiafirst-fs-reps@listserv.usg.edu: includes all V8 Campus Coordinators
georgiafirst-fs-techs@listserv.usg.edu: includes all V8 Technical Representatives
first-lf@listserv.usg.edu: includes all Financials users
first-lb@listserv.usg.edu: includes all Budgets users

NOTE: If you are not currently subscribed to any of these listservs, you can contact the **OIIT HELPDESK** at: http://www.usg.edu/customer_services (self-service ticket submission) or email helpdesk@usg.edu.