



Celebrating Some Well-Known Holidays and a Few Wacky Ones Too



This season brings Independence Day and also a few lesser-known, “wacky” holidays like National Hammock Day, Cow Appreciation Day and Sidewalk Egg Frying Day! Some of these days of observance came about for practical

reasons while the others were probably declared by interested people simply to provide visibility to certain products or activities or to enlighten and entertain the general population.

The MTS was designed and developed to meet the very practical need for a customizable tribal child support system that was “Designed By Tribes, For Tribes.” The fact that the MTS is still really just beginning to be installed in tribal programs should not belie the fact that the MTS is the result of considerable efforts by many stakeholders over the last dozen or so years.

Independence Day is a very important holiday because it celebrates a sovereign country created by the unity between states and territories with common core values while recognizing and respecting differences between those member states. The MTS earnestly does this as well, as evidenced by the following statements from the policies implementing Part 309 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

- Sovereign tribes must meet the objectives of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and comply with federal regulations to receive funding to

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operate child support programs. This is very similar to federal requirements that are levied upon states.

- These federal policies regarding Indian tribal nations are consistent with other government-to-government relationships and take into account the unique characteristics and circumstances of tribal communities, similar to the respect shown for the governments and cultures of other countries that have similar interests in partnership with the United States.





MTS Change Control Board First Anniversary



The first official meeting of the MTS Change Control Board (CCB) occurred just over one year ago, on May 30, 2013. Each tribe is represented by a designated person either from the independent tribe or the lead tribe if they are a member of a consortium.

Establishing a control board is a necessary and standard best practice in managing any software development project. When the MTS CCB began, the first task was to work through the backlog of bugs, change requests and enhancements that had been documented before the CCB was established.

Following is a brief description of the three main types of items that can be addressed by the CCB:

1. Bug -- An instance in which the system does not function according to the requirements.
2. Change Request -- A minor improvement in usability or a minor addition of functionality.
3. Enhancement -- The addition of major functionality that does not currently exist within the system.

The following table shows how many items of each type were presented for disposition at the CCB during the first year of the board's existence. The tracking mechanism used is called Bugzilla. Reports were designed to organize the data beginning in August 2013.

Month	Bugs	Change Requests	Enhancements
August 2013	104	78	20
September 2013	74	20	2
October 2013	54	9	3
November 2013	18	7	2
December 2013	2	4	1
January 2014	10	4	1
February 2014	25	11	2
March 2014	19	4	3
April 2014	36	15	1
May 2014	9	3	1
June 2014	16	1	0

Although new items are added all the time, the MTS CCB is making steady progress in addressing the number of items that have been submitted over time. In 2014, the following number of bugs were resolved and closed using the Change Control Board process:

Month	Cumulative Total Bugs Resolved and Closed
January 2014	150
February 2014	273
March 2014	382
April 2014	472
May 2014	526
June 2014	562



Status of Tribes Currently Installing or Operating the MTS



The Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma is continuing to convert cases using the Oklahoma system's CSENet functionality in order to extract, convert and populate their copy of the MTS with the demographic and financial case data on their clients.



The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma plans to submit a new Advance Planning Document (APD) to reflect plans to develop an interface between the MTS and the Cherokee Nation's financial system.



DSTS recently received a draft APD from the White Earth Nation of Minnesota. We will review the APD along with the associated draft contracts and monitor specifications to assist the tribe in gaining approval of the document, so that White Earth Nation can install MTS as a member tribe of the consortium led by the Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC).

Speaking of consortium lead FCPC, here are some interesting facts about the FCPC Tribal Child Support Agency, which was the ninth federally funded tribal child support program in the United States. As one of the pioneer programs, FCPC-TCSA provides guidance to other tribes who are creating their own agencies.

According to the FCPC website (<http://www.fcpotawatomi.com/government/family-services/child-support>), the emotional, spiritual and financial support of the Potawatomi children and their care and safety is an important element of Potawatomi culture, tradition and custom. The children are the community's future and parents have the moral and legal obligation to provide for their health, welfare and safety. With this in mind, the Forest County Potawatomi Community – Tribal Child Support Agency was established in 2003. FCPC-TCSA is working diligently to find innovative ways to help other tribal nations that want to use the MTS.

In addition to the tribes that are already installing and operating the MTS, there are many more that could potentially use MTS independently or as a consortium member. A possible future user, currently in start-up status, are the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes located on the Fort Hall Reservation in Southeastern Idaho. In anticipation of possible comprehensive status, a requirement for any tribe wishing to implement the MTS, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes received a high-level demonstration of MTS capabilities earlier this month.





Meet the MTS Team: Mike Haithcock



This month we are pleased to introduce Mike Haithcock. Mike works with Systems Research and Development in the design and development of the MTS as the design architect of the MTS database structure and the team's Database Administrator. Mike specializes in cross platform development using Windows and Unix/Linux based environments. He also provides the MTS team with expertise in hardware configuration and management.

Mike has a strong background in design and development of web applications for child support enforcement, including multistate new hire reporting. When not at his computer, Mike enjoys playing soccer, running, spending time with his family, and keeping up with three active youngsters (daughters 3 and 6, and a son, 8).

MTS History



2000: Interim final rule for tribal child support programs published

2002-2005: Tribal Systems Workgroup studied feasibility of automating tribal child support programs, developed essential system requirements, and created the general system design

2004: Final rule for tribal child support programs published (45 CFR Part 309)

2006: Feasibility study, market study and cost-benefit analysis for MTS completed

2007: Concurrence of ACF Assistant Secretary to build MTS; software development begins

2009: Forest County Potawatomi Community selected to pilot test the MTS

2010: Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma joins pilot testing; tribal system regulations published (45 CFR Part 310)

2012: MTS Pilot ended

2013: EBCI begins installation as the first OCSE-supported tribe

2014: Electronic Funds Transfer functionality is added to current and future MTS Releases. Installations continue for two consortium member tribes, while two consortium lead tribes and two more consortium member tribes continue actively operating the MTS at their respective sites.

The MTS Flash is a bi-monthly publication of the Division of State and Tribal Systems (DSTS), in full collaboration with other divisions in the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information or to offer article ideas

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