



## 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

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## April: Time for Spring Break and some Major MTS Accomplishments



### April Showers = End of Winter Snow

April could be thought of as the gateway to summer. With so many activities and all the holidays concentrated in the winter months, not to mention the extraordinary number of “snow days” we had this particular winter, it can seem like a long stretch of time until the next major holiday at the end of May. After Spring Break is over for the children, anticipation and planning begins for the end of the school year and summer vacations.

The MTS, on the other hand, continues to crank along, accomplishing goals planned for this time period and learning lessons from completed experiences that will serve to streamline and improve future installations and maintenance operations.

Some of the major accomplishments this month of which the tribes and MTS developers can be especially proud include:

- The Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma has active cases with debit card and direct deposit needs that can now be entered into the MTS. The MTS development team is conducting research



to determine how many of the remaining cases from the state system can be converted to the MTS automatically. To support this effort, Modoc requested a no-cost extension to their budget schedule in order to allow time for their staff to complete the conversion.

- The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has begun MTS installation. (See the article on page 2.)

### Special Announcement: Publication Schedule Change

The MTS Flash will be a bi-monthly publication going forward. This April issue will be the last monthly distribution, resuming in the month of June 2014 and every other month thereafter. As always, comments, suggestions and inputs are welcomed from anyone in the MTS community for consideration in a future MTS Flash issue.





- An Advance Planning Document (APD) was approved for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska to install the MTS. Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin (FCPC) will assist with installation activities since the Winnebago Tribe is now a part of the FCPC-led consortium.
- Regular MTS software releases, now called “sprints,” have been planned and implemented. The MTS is truly a “living” system, dedicated to continuous improvement and timely response to concerns and lessons learned from its primary users.
- MTS documentation is being uploaded to the OCSE website, making it more readily available to a wider audience of MTS stakeholders and interested parties.

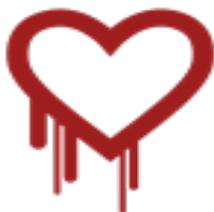
## Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Begins MTS Installation



The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma began MTS installation this month. The Cherokee Nation has the largest number of cases to be entered into the MTS, requiring even more than the usual amount of structured implementation planning. There has been a series of implementation planning meetings and discussions aimed at streamlining existing processes and establishing guidelines for future installations. Major tasks accomplished so far include:

- Approved the Advance Planning Document.
- Developed a Work Breakdown Structure to delineate tasks and to provide a basis for future scheduling and resource assignments for those tasks.
- Demonstrated the MTS using AdobeConnect with several key stakeholders in attendance either in-person or remotely.
- Scheduled training at the Cherokee Nation site. Logistics for the training sessions are currently being worked out. Due to the large number of staff needing to be trained, two separate weeks of training have been scheduled.
- Set up initial training environments to facilitate the beginning of training.
- Discussing hardware requirements and the selection of a supportable operating system.

## Concerns about the Heartbleed Virus



Many internet users are concerned over news early in April of the discovery of the Heartbleed Virus. It turns out that Heartbleed is not actually a virus at all, but rather a code error made by the programmers of OpenSSL; a data encryption utility that is embedded in all sorts of internet hardware switches and routers, as well as a majority of websites. The coding mistake has since been acknowledged by the parties who maintain OpenSSL and accidentally released the bug. It is widely believed now that the code error was small. It was not an attack; it was simply some bad code written by the people who built OpenSSL.



Heartbleed is a bug in the code that leaves open a hole that allows hackers to get in and around the encryption that secures communications between you and the website. Heartbleed affects encrypted communications between web applications, e-mail exchanges, instant messaging clients and some SSL-based virtual private network connections. Via Heartbleed, attackers can access the contents of a web server's memory and other vulnerable services and compromise Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) private keys, configuration file contents, usernames and passwords, session tokens and cookie values.

As destructive as it is, Heartbleed is only a threat to internet sites using OpenSSL. Unfortunately, that's an estimated two-thirds of all internet websites. That is the bad news. However, along with the bad news is some good news and some better news!

*The good news* is that the bug has been registered in the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures database, associated with the US Department of Homeland Security, which gives the problem a large amount of visibility and thus increases the number of contributors who can help fix the problem.

*Better news* is that many fixes are already available; the task at hand now is to inform OpenSSL users of the available fixes and to make patches available for implementation.

<http://heartbleed.com/>

<http://mashable.com/2014/04/09/heartbleed-questions-answered/>

***Now finally the best news:***

The MTS is not vulnerable to the Heartbleed bug!

## In Other News . . .

In response to input from the MTS community, the Change Control Board for MTS will now be conducted weekly instead of monthly.

On April 4, OCSE Commissioner Turetsky issued a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) to "Welcome New Tribal Child Support Programs" that have achieved Comprehensive status, one of the first steps toward the possibility of using MTS. It was announced in the letter that "54 tribes now operate a comprehensive tribal child support program, and 7 more tribes are receiving funding to put a program in place!" DCL-14-06 can be found on the public OCSE website at [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/welcome-new-tribal-child-support-programs](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/welcome-new-tribal-child-support-programs).



## Meet the MTS Team: Chad Sawyer

While the Division of State and Tribal Systems continues to manage the development and implementation of the Model Tribal System, other divisions within the Office of Child Support Enforcement have greatly enhanced its success. MTS is completely committed to adhering to rules specified in the Code of Federal Regulations and to policies set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other departments of the federal government, in addition to the standards that recognize and value the sovereignty of the tribes that are served by the MTS.

Staff members of OCSE's Division of Policy and Training (DPT) add value by providing input and analysis of requests and documentation submitted by tribes. One such staffer is Chad Sawyer.



Chad is a Policy Program Specialist within OCSE's Division of Policy and Training. Prior to joining OCSE, he worked on policy, evaluation, and performance measurement issues for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. He has a Master's of Social Work and a diverse background in the human services field that includes direct practice, research, program development, and project management.

Chad's policy portfolio includes the tribal child support program. He reviews tribal child support plans, amendments, and budget submissions, and he develops policy guidance. Additionally, he provides policy assistance to the Model Tribal System when needed.

For more information or to offer article ideas

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