U.S. Department of Health and Human Services / Administration for Children and Families

MTS FLASH

Office of Child Support Enforcement / Division of State and Tribal Systems

No. 6 July 2013

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

Inside this Issue

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians - Implementing the MTS

By Jerry Sweet, Executive Director, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) was approved by OCSE to operate a comprehensive tribal IV-D program on July 1, 2012. EBCI processes over $2.9 million annually and ranks #1 in collections in the state of North Carolina. Currently, EBCI utilizes North Carolina's Automated Collection and Tracking System (ACTS) to manage a caseload of 1,000 cases. ACTS, like any state system, was not built for tribes.

Having participated in the pilot of the MTS with the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, I understand the benefits and capabilities of the MTS. With the news that the MTS was finally being released, we conducted a presentation to Chief Justice William Boyum and other tribal leaders about the new option that tribal programs will now have. We demonstrated the MTS, explaining the benefits of using a tribal system versus a state system. Realizing that the MTS will not only provide more control over EBCI's cases, it also gives tribes the ability to configure it and make it their own. All agreed that the MTS was the way to go! With full support from the EBCI tribal leaders, an Advance Planning Document was submitted. Luckily, EBCI was chosen as the first tribe for implementation.

Anticipation for the release of the MTS has been building for quite some time. The tribal child support community was fortunate to have two tribes pilot the MTS, Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma and Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, making the MTS what it is today. At EBCI, we want to take it to the next level. Not only are we the first tribe to implement the MTS with the national launch by OCSE, we are also working with OCSE to build an enhancement that allows the MTS to process and disburse Automated Clearing House (direct deposit/debit card) payments. Recently we also entered into an agreement with North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services to explore an interface between ACTS and the MTS.

Here at EBCI, we are all very excited about treading this new water with the MTS and laying the groundwork for the new and upcoming tribal programs!

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The Impact of Open Source: Cost Savings for Tribes

The MTS was designed with Open Source software that is freely available online, resulting in real cost savings for tribes. In this table, we developed two scenarios of what the costs could look like if we were to build the MTS with popularly available commercial alternatives. These scenarios demonstrate that by using the MTS over commercially developed products, tribes are saving up-front costs of $133,820 or $140,527 along with annual costs of $12,712 or $3,950, respectively.

Products Used for MTS		Equivalent Commercial Products Option 1		Equivalent Commercial Products Option 2	
Product	**Cost**	**Product**	**Cost**	**Product**	**Cost**
Apache HTTP Server	$0	Microsoft Internet Information Services	Included with Microsoft server	Apache HTTP Server	$0
JBoss Application Server	$0	Microsoft Server 2012 Standard	$17,000 x 5 (Approximately 5 needed: one web, one application, two backup and one development) $500/year for service and maintenance	Oracle Web Logic Server Enterprise Edition - PC – License per processor	$18,740 x 5 (Approximately 5 needed: one web, one application, two backup and one development) $5,500/year for service and maintenance
MySQL Database	$0	Microsoft SQL Server Standard	$7,526 x 4 (May have 4 or more copies for backup, development, and SharePoint) $750/year for service and maintenance	Oracle 11G - Oracle Database Standard Edition - subscription license	$4,592 x 4 (May have 4 or more copies for backup, development, and SharePoint) $3,850/year for service and maintenance
Jasper Reports	$0	Stonefield Query	$495 per developer	SAP Crystal Reports 2011	$498 per developer
Eclipse Integrated Development Environment (IDE)	$0	Microsoft Visual Studio	$1,199 per developer	Eclipse+ Individual Web Logic license	$5,000 (Store minimum order quantity: 10 x $500) $110/year
Operating System (SusE)	$0	RedHat Linux / support	$1,500/year (4 sockets)	RedHat Linux / support	$1,500/year (4 sockets)
Bugzilla	$0	JIRA	$1,200/year (16–25 users)	Bug Tracker	$1,752/year (16–25 users)
Alfresco	$0	SharePoint	$8,127 x 2 (Approximately 2 servers needed) $7,475/year (16–25 users)	SharePoint	$8,127 x 2 (Approximately 2 servers needed) $7,475/year (16–25 users)
Total cost	**$0**		**$140,527** **+ $3,950/year**		**$133,820** **+ $12,712/year**
All costs are approximate and are based on a tribe with 16-25 users.					

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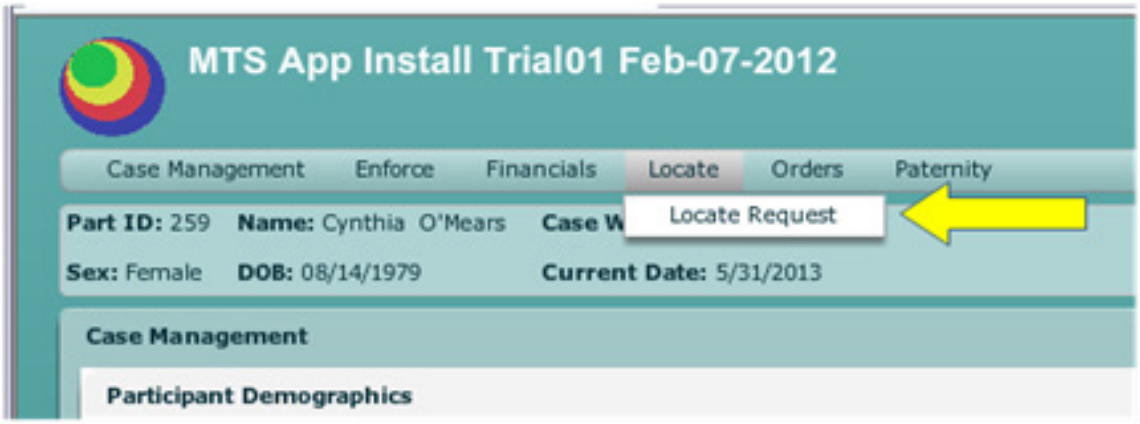
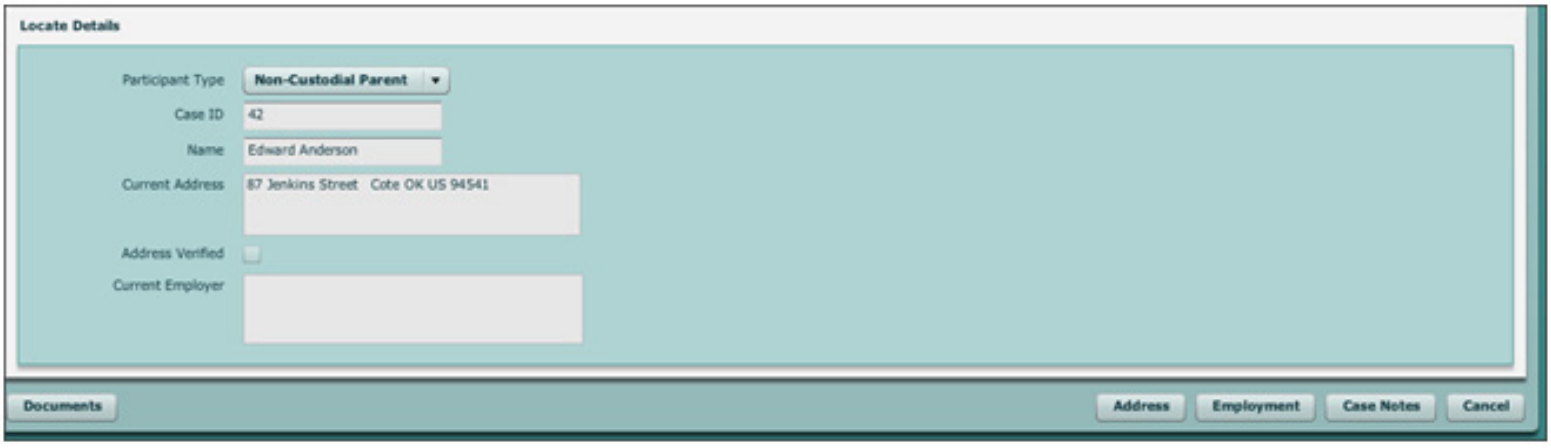
MTS Spotlight: Locate Function



The Locate Module provides an easy way to update participant address and noncustodial parent (NCP) employment information for all cases in the locate function. The locate screen is primarily designed for child support programs where most locate work is performed by one worker. For this reason, the top section of the screen displays all cases in the locate function, even if they are assigned to different caseworkers.

The bottom section of the screen (below) is labeled “Locate Details” and performs many of the functions that can be done from the Case Management Module. The Locate Details portion of the screen allows a worker to select a case, update or add participant address information, and update or add NCP employment information. This screen also provides a quick way to create a case note to document the actions taken and provides access to the Documents Module to create documents such as Locate letters.



If you have any questions on this or any other MTS function, please contact us at: MTSProject@acf.hhs.gov.

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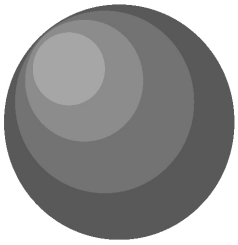
Meet the MTS Team: Rama Kodumagulla

Each month we will highlight a member of our team so that you can get to know the people behind the system. This month we are pleased to introduce Rama Kodumagulla who works as a contractor with Systems Research and Development Inc. (SysRAD). Rama is an enterprise architect specializing in automated child support enforcement systems. He has extensive experience in building scalable enterprise applications utilizing the Java/J2EE architecture. In addition, he has over 18 years of experience with development and implementation of state child support systems. He has been involved with the design and development of the MTS from initial design through development and remains actively involved in development activities today.

Rama started working with traditional mainframe-based child support applications and successfully enabled web-based access for participants to view their financial accounts. Since then, he has created innovative methods to utilize the enterprise Java platform to design frameworks and components. Rama also pioneered an innovative framework to automatically generate the entire CRUD (Create, Read, Update and Delete) layer for new Java Enterprise applications significantly reducing the initial project start times.



For more information or to offer article ideas

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