

22 April 2013

ARM Web Service 12.5.5.0 Release Announcement

We are pleased to announce that a new version of the HCS ARM Web Service (v.12.5.5.0) is now available on the Pilot Platform.

It is anticipated that this release will be available on Production within 15 business days. We will notify you with a more firm date once it is known.

Here is a summary of the changes:

Changes to Web Service Interface

NONE.

Changes to Databag XML Schema

NONE.

Changes to WSDL

1. New simple type has been added:

```
<xs:simpleType name="reportingPeriod">  
<xs:restriction base="xs:int">  
<xs:minInclusive value="2" />  
<xs:maxInclusive value="5" />  
</xs:restriction>  
</xs:simpleType>
```

2. The type of the element **reportingPeriodId** has been changed:

```
<xs:element name="reportingPeriodId" type="reportingPeriod" />
```

Changes to HCS Interface

N/A.

Changes to SDK

NONE.

Changes to Web Service Behavior

- ARM will reject submissions with reportingPeriodId less than 2 or greater than 5;
- ARM will reject submissions of Form 9902 if reportingPeriodID is in the future (greater than the current Quarter for the current Fiscal Year).

Bug Fixes

1. Omission of the **Client_Family_Size** optional element in the client profile caused submission errors.
2. Client IDs with 10 digits but larger than 2,147,483,647 caused submission errors.
3. In some cases, Counseling Purpose/Outcome value combinations resulted in incorrect values stored in the DB.

Advisory

1. There are two XML elements referring to the reporting period: **reportingPeriodId** in the submission header and **report_period_id** in the **form_9902_databag**. CMS are requested to continue to use the latter (**report_period_id** in the **form_9902_databag**), as it is the value of this element that is currently used by ARM. It is a good idea to have these two elements match, as ARM at some point will likely switch to using the element **reportingPeriodId** from the submission header.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

09 September 2012

ARM Web Service 12.2.5.0 Release Announcement

We are pleased to announce that a new version of the HCS ARM Web Service (v.12.2.5.0) is now available on the Pilot Server.

It is anticipated that this release will be available on Production within 15 business days. We will notify you with a more firm date once it is known.

Here is a summary of the changes:

Changes to Web Service Interface

NONE.

Changes to Databag XML Schema

NONE.

Changes to HCS Interface

N/A.

Changes to SDK

NONE.

Changes to Web Service Behavior

In this version of ARM, Form 9902 Section Totals validation has been introduced. Its logic is as follows:

- The sum of the data elements for 3a – 3c must equal the data element for Section 3 Total.
- The sum of the data elements for 4a – 4k must equal the data element for Section 4 Total.
- The sum of the data elements for 5a – 5e must equal the data element for Section 5 Total.
- The sum of the data elements for 6a – 6h must equal the data element for Section 6 Total.
- The sum of the data elements for 7a1 – 7a8 must equal the data element for Section 7a Total.
- The sum of the data elements for 7b1 – 7b17 must equal the data element for Section 7b Total.
- The sum of the data elements for 7c1 – 7c15 must equal the data element for Section 7c Total.
- The sum of the data elements for 7d1 – 7d16 must equal the data element for Section 7d Total.

- The sum of the data elements for 7e1 – 7e9 must equal the data element for Section 7e Total.
- The sum of the data elements Section 7a Total, Section 7b Total, Section 7c Total, Section 7d Total, and Section 7e Total must equal the data element for Section 7 (a-e) Total.
- The values of the data elements for the 9902 form section totals must equal each other according to this equation: Section 3 Total = Section 4 Total = Section 5 Total = (Section 6 Total plus Section 7 Total)
- If any of the checks fails, an exception is thrown with a description of the data section(s) that failed validation; the submission of the 9902 databag is then rolled back and its result code is assigned the numeric code "4" (FAILURE).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

27 June 2012

ARM Web Service 12.1.5.0 Release Announcement

We are pleased to announce that a new version of the HCS ARM Web Service (v.12.1.5.0) is now available on the Pilot Server.

It is anticipated that this release will be available on Production within 15 business days. We will notify you with a more firm date once it is known.

Please note that there are changes in the XML Schema for databag v.4.0 in this release, some of which are not backwards-compatible with the existing XML Schema (v.11.9.6.0).

Here is a summary of the changes:

Changes to Web Service Interface

NONE.

Changes to Databag XML Schema

1. Updated agency_profile_databag_1_0.xsd

The following elements have been made optional:

- agc_ein
- agc_web_site
- agc_email

2. Updated counselor_profile_databag_1_0.xsd

The following elements have been made optional:

- cnslor_rate
- cnslor_languages

3. Updated client_profile_databag_1_0.xsd

The following elements have been made optional:

- Client_Family_Size

- Client_Mortgage_Type
- Client_Mortgage_Type_After
- Client_Finance_Type_Before
- Client_Finance_Type_After
- Client_HECM_Certificate
- Client_Predatory_Lending
- Client_Counseling_Fee
- Client_Loan_Being_Reported

4. Updated form_9902_databag_1_0.xsd

The following elements have been made optional:

- Attendee_fname
- Attendee_lname
- Attendee_Address_1

5. Updated simpleTypes4.0.xsd

- "hudGrantType" simple type has its lower boundary set to "1" to allow for a new reference value ("MMMSA", ref. ID=1).
- "url" simple type has a new pattern: "[\(\(N/A\)|\(n/a\)|\(\(http\)|\(https\)\)\[:\]\[/\]\[/\]\[\S\].*\)](#)" to allow "N/A" or "n/a" values where the url is unknown.

At the same time, if either [http://](#) or [https://](#) is present, it must be followed by a non-empty string. **This is not backwards-compatible with the previous version and may affect CMS sending only ["http://"](#) or ["https://"](#) to ARM.**

Changes to HCS Interface

NONE.

Changes to SDK

1. File referenceData.txt updated with current values. Please note that "HUD Grant Types" group has a new reference value: "MMMSA", ID=1.

The reference value "Other" (ID=6) has been removed from the group "Counseling Purposes".

Changes to Web Service Behavior

NONE.

Please see attached the latest databag and WSDL files in .ZIP format (renamed to .ZZZ - need to be renamed back to .ZIP).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

10 February 2012

ARM Web Service 11.9.5.0 Release Announcement

Good afternoon.

We are pleased to announce that a new release of the HCS ARM Web Service (v. 11.9.5.0) will be available on the Pilot Server as of COB today, February 10, 2012.

It is anticipated that this release will be available on Production within 10 business days. We will notify you with a more firm date once it is known.

Please note that there are changes in the XML Schema for databag v.4.0 in this release.

Here is a summary of the changes

Changes to SDK:

1. File referencevalues.txt updated with current values. Please note that some groups now feature "None" and "N/A" clauses.
2. Added file referencegroupnames.txt.
3. ICD updated to correct errors and reflect end of support for databags 3.x.

Changes to XML Schema:

1. Updated client_profile_databag_1_0.xsd

The following elements have been made optional to address privacy concerns expressed by some agencies:

Client_First_Name

Client_Last_Name

Client_Street_Address_1

Client_New_Street_Address_1

Client_Phone_Num.

2. Updated simpleTypes4.0.xsd

The following changes have been made to allow "Other" and "N/A" values:

counselingType - increased the upper boundary from 5 to 7

counselingTermination - increased the upper boundary from 5 to 7

Changes to Web Service Interface:

None.

Changes to HCS Web Interface:

N/A.

Changes to Web Service Behavior:

None.

Please see attached the latest databag files in .ZIP format (renamed to .ZZZ - need to be renamed back to .ZIP).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

22 September 2011

ARM Web Service 11.6.0.0 Release Announcement

We are pleased to announce that a new release of the HCS ARM Web Service (v. 11.6.0.0) is now available on the Pilot Server. It is anticipated that this release will be available on Production within on September 30, 2011. Please note that there are changes in the XML Schema for databag v.4.0 in this release; however, the changes are very minor. Here is a summary of the changes.

Changes to SDK:

1. Updated referencevalues.txt with current values

Changes to XML Schema:

1. Removed simple type '*middleName*' from *simpleTypes4.0.xsd*. It was too restrictive and caused customer complaints.
2. All references to *st:middleName* were changed to *st:name* in the XML Schema.
3. Updated *agency_profile_databag_1_0.xsd* where all references to simple type '*middleName*' were changed to simple type '*name*'.
4. Updated *counselor_profile_databag_1_0.xsd* where all references to simple type '*middleName*' were changed to simple type '*name*'.
5. Updated *form_9902_databag_1_0.xsd* where all references to simple type '*middleName*' were changed to simple type '*name*'.
6. Updated *client_profile_databag_1_0.xsd* where the type of elements *Client_First_Name*, *Client_Last_Name* and *Client_Middle_Name*
7. was changed from simple type '*fieldValue*' to simple type '*name*' to make it uniform throughout the databag.
8. 6. Updated *client_profile_databag_1_0.xsd* where the type of element *Client_ID_Num* was changed from simple type '*fieldValue*' to
9. simple type '*refId*' to enforce numeric-only values (thus making it compliant with ICD).

Changes to Web Service Behavior:

1. Added automatic Agency Profile physical address verification that also performs County, Longitude and Latitude lookup needed for HUD references.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

20 May 2011

ARM Web Service 11.3.1.1 Release Announcement

The ARM Web Service is available on the Production Server as of May 31, 2011. This is a minor release and contains small corrections. No changes are necessary to your XML files. Version 3.1 and 4.0 databags are still supported. Here is a summary of the changes.

Changes to SDK

1. Update referencevalues.txt with current values

Changes to XML Schema

Modified the phone number with extension field to allow up to 5 digits for extension rather than requiring exactly 5 digits

1. Updated list of values for counseling service types to match actual reference values.
2. Updated activity type id for Form 9902 to only have a value of 4, not 5.

3. Updated language id values to match actual reference values. Two new languages added.
4. Updated Other Training Organization (otherTrainingOrg) values to match actual values stored in database.
5. Added value of 'N' for N/A to indicate that there is no loan for Loan Indicator Type. Previously only 'F' and 'S' were accepted values.

Changes to Web Service Behavior

1. Added additional reference values for the following reference groups:
 - Languages
 - Counseling Service Types

Removed retrieval of reference values no longer used by ARM.

15 December 2010

ARM Web Service 11.0.0.0 Release Announcement

We are pleased to announce the next version of the ARM Web Service, 11.0.0.0, is now available for use on the Production Server as of Tuesday December 14th. This is a major release containing the new 4.0 databag along with a major shift in the processing model of submission files. **However, please be aware that support for the 3.0 and 3.1 databags will continue and there are no interface changes to 3.0 or 3.1 schema.**

The current schedule is for 3.0 to be supported through Spring 2011 and 3.1 to be supported through the end of 2011 fiscal year. As always, please contact us with any questions or concerns.

3.0 and 3.1 Databag Changes

Changes to ARM SDK

1. NONE

Changes to XML Schema

1. NONE

Changes to Web Service Interface

1. NONE

Changes to Web Service Behavior

1. Effective with this release, Group Sessions and Attendees are unique across ALL reporting periods. While they are relevant to the Form 9902 since Section 6 corresponds to the number of group sessions held and the corresponding attendees, the same Attendee can attend multiple group sessions not only within the same reporting period, but also within the same year. Now ARM can accurately represent this business rule. Please note that for 3.1 submissions, these Attendees will need to share information that in reality may be different from one session to the next, and the demographics may change, but we only keep the most current data. (NOTE: This will be corrected in 4.0 - see below)
1. Now when a submission is in error, none of the changes will be applied to the data store. Currently, all parts of the submission successfully processed up to the section

which incurred the error, persisted. This can cause an Agency's data to get in an inconsistent state. This problem has been corrected.

4.0 Databag Release Notes

Changes to XML Schema There are now 4 different XML databags, one for each datamap section. The new files are listed below along with the root elements that they contain and a high level description of the other changes applied.

1. *agency_profile_1_0.databag*

- *AgencyProfileData*
 1. A number of fields have been removed as they were duplicated in submissionHeader. Namely, *fiscal_year*, *agc_hcs_id*, *agc_cms_type*.
 2. *agc_name* was removed all together.
 3. All agency address elements were renamed to start with an *agc_physical* prefix.
 4. A new set of fields was added with an *agc_mailing* prefix to capture an agency mailing address.
 5. *alternate_phone_nbr* was renamed to *agc_toll_free_phone_nbr*.
 6. *agc_counselin_budget_amt* was renamed to *agc_counseling_budget_amount*.
 7. *agency_counseling_methods/counseling_method* group added. Each agency should specify all the counseling service types offered.
- Identical web service is also available on production environment.

Changes to Web Service Behavior

1. Updated behavior for client profile processing. As of this release, the *Client_Counselor_ID* specified in *Client_Profile* must correlate to an actual Counselor Profile for that agency, otherwise an error is returned. Previously, a submission with an invalid *Client_Counselor_ID* was allowed but this meant that we had no correlation between the actual Counselor and their Client(s). This does not mean that the Counselor data and Client data need to be sent together in the same submission, as long as your *Client_Counselor_ID* refers to a Counselor provided in the same or earlier submission, it will be fine.

9 June 2010

ARM Web Service 10.7.1.0 Release

This release provided performance improvement for processing the client profile portion of a submission. We should see an 80% performance improvement. Most of the changes were internal and had little to no impact on your development efforts. Please find the release notes below.

Changes to Databag XML Schema

1. The *HECM_Certificate_ID* value in *Client_Profile* MUST be numeric. This was previously not the case, however all submissions were using numeric values.
2. The *Client_ID_Num* value in *Client_Profile* MUST be numeric. Again, this was not previously the case, however all submission were using numeric values.

Changes to Web Service Interface

1. WSDL now displays version number of ARM in a *wSDL:documentation* tag.
2. *ping* now displays version number of ARM in its response.
1. *getReferenceGroupNames* returns a set of reference group ids and their corresponding names. The reference IDs returned can be used in subsequent calls to *getReference*.

Changes to Web Service Behavior

2. Updated queries for inserting, deleting, and selecting client profile data to improve performance by 80%.

26 April 2010

ARM Web Service 10.6.0.0 Release of Glassfish Application Server Upgrade

The release of ARM Web Service 10.6.0.0 upgraded our backend server to the latest **Glassfish** Application Server from an older version of the **Sun ONE** Application Server. This release was implemented on production server on 26 April, 2010.

This upgrade improves performance, reliability and stability of our web service. The connectivity issues experienced with the Sun ONE Application Server have been corrected in the latest Glassfish server. We had previously addressed this issue by adding support for compressed submissions - this feature will remain the same. We highly recommend continuing using the compressed submission method.

The ARM Web Service 10.6.0.0 is now available on production and pilot systems. This was the first time that a pilot release was available prior to the production release. This benefited CMS vendors by allowing pilot testing before production release was rolled out.

Most of the changes are internal to ARM interface and will not affect your submissions and processes in any matter. Please find the release notes below for information about what has changed.

Changes to Web Service Interface

1. Removed unused *throwFault* method.

Changes to Housing Counseling System (HCS) Web Interface

1. Corrected defect whereby *ARM Submission Validation* page displayed the status instead of the Agency HCS ID.

Changes to Databag XML Schema

1. Added validation of date fields so that the year must be meaningful and valid, namely between 19XX - 20XX. This is the only change with potential impact if you have invalid dates in your submissions - they will now fail whereas they previously passed.
2. Modified dateTime schema definition to allow timestamps starting with 00 hour for 24-hour clock.

Internal Changes to Web Service Behavior

1. Updated logic to make sure that all Agency Names are stored in upper case.
2. Updated submission tables to contain *agc_profile_id* for easier searching capability.
3. Upgraded to Glassfish 2.1.1 from Sun One Application Server 8.2.

4. Updated index for *submission_log* table to reflect new table structure.

All CMS vendors are encouraged to test submissions against the pilot system. The latest SDK (1.30) is available for download on [CMS Requirements Guidance](#) web page. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.

19 January 2010

The large submission size limitation

The current ARM Web Service has a known limitation when attempting to submit a XML file larger than 5 MB in size as an attachment to the SOAP message.

The behavior of the system is as follows.

- Submit your XML databag for processing to the ARM Web Service
- After some period of time (around 2 - 3 minutes), you may receive an error back to the effect of *'Connection reset by peer'*.
- No submissionId is returned.

The HTTP Preemptive Authentication must be turned on in your HTTP request in order to submit uncompressed data files up to 35 MB in size.

If you are using SOAPUI, this is achieved by changing configuration as follows.

- From File Menu, Select Preferences.
- In soapUI Preferences dialog box, check the box labeled *'Authenticate Preemptively'*. Text following checkbox is *'Adds authentication information to outgoing request.'*
- Select *'Ok'*

If you are using .NET, please follow in the recommendations outlined below to configure your client correctly.

Implementing a WCF SOAP Client that uses Basic Authentication at first request.

To increase transaction performance and to allow processing of larger volumes of data, you can submit compressed (zipped) files using the *postSubmission* method as described in the Interface Control Document (ICD). Compressed data files may be up to 35 MB in size which typically contains up to 150 MB of uncompressed data.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know and submit a ticket via the HUD National Help Desk at (888) 297-8689 or (202) 708-3300 and choose option 9.

Tell the Help Desk specialist that you need assistance with application ARM (F11M) - Agency Reporting Module.

Return to [CMS Requirements Guidance](#) web page.