

NCURA PRA-III Concurrent Session: Grants.gov Update

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The latest information on Grants.gov, especially for NIH applications.

Download the latest version of this PowerPoint presentation

<http://uidspflood.com/pr-3-gg-update.ppt>

Download the latest version of the complete PDF handout

<http://uidspflood.com/pr-3-gg-update.pdf>

Grants.gov: PureEdge/Adobe Update

- As you know, the scheduled release of the new Grants.gov-Adobe forms in May, 2007, was postponed.
- The first Grants.gov Adobe forms were finally released in July, 2007. *NIH* plans to release ADOBE forms in December, 2008, if a test of the new forms goes well.
- This NCURA PRA III session, scheduled for August 13, 2008, will present the most recent Grants.gov/ Adobe form information available.
- Check the URLs on the first PowerPoint slide for the latest version of this handout and PowerPoint presentation, which will be updated up to August 13, 2008, as more information becomes available.

The future of “PureEdge”

- PureEdge Forms → Adobe Forms
- Grants.gov has begun a “phased deployment” to change over to Adobe forms
- **NIH** will begin to change from PureEdge to Adobe forms in **December, 2008**, assuming that a late summer, 2008, pilot goes well:
<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-08-073.html>

New Adobe Forms: Main Features

- True platform independence regardless of operating system: Windows, MAC, Linux and Unix
- Internet browsers supported
Internet Explorer, Netscape, Firefox, Safari
- Eliminates the need for “virtual workspaces” such as Citrix Server Connection
- Enable you to work off-line (as with PureEdge forms)
- Can attach documents in many formats, including Microsoft Office 2007

http://grants.gov/assets/GrantsGov_Adobe_Solution.pdf

NIH & Adobe Forms

- NIH & Adobe forms April 22, 2008

“Other Federal agencies are moving to Adobe forms, why not NIH? We are getting this question more and more frequently.”

http://era.nih.gov/news_and_events/commons_aor_04-22-08.cfm

Using The New Adobe Forms:

What *VERSION* of Adobe **MUST** we use??

- You **MUST** use the latest version of Adobe Reader (8.1.1 or 8.1.2, or higher) or Adobe Acrobat (8.1.1 or 8.1.2, or higher) to complete and submit the new Adobe Grants.gov forms. These versions are also VISTA compatible.
- Other Adobe products may **APPEAR** to work, **but they do not**. You might be able to **complete** the form but the **submission** may fail validation at Grants.gov.
- Grants.gov PureEdge forms do not currently work with VISTA, **and never will**.
- PureEdge Viewer v.6.0.2 is only compatible with VISTA when using a Citrix server connection. More CITRIX information:
http://grants.gov/assets/Vista_and_office_07_Compatibility.pdf

VISTA Compatibility: PureEdge (no!) vs Adobe (yes!)

- The PureEdge software used by Grants.gov to complete and submit PureEdge forms is not supported by VISTA.
- The Adobe Reader and Adobe Acrobat (version 8.1.2 or higher for both) used by Grants.gov to complete and submit ADOBE forms are both supported by VISTA.
- If VISTA is your current operating system, Grants.gov is not going to support your use of PureEdge. If something goes wrong, you are “on your own.”

OK, I give up:

What is a “Citrix Server Connection?”

- A Citrix Server is a remote “magical box” where everything (*theoretically*) works!
- All you have to do is log in to the “box” remotely from your computer (MAC or PC)
- PureEdge will work even if you are using VISTA
- MAC users can use PureEdge forms

SO WHAT’S THE PROBLEM WITH CITRIX?:

Remote connection lag time can cause unpredictable “saving” errors. Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn’t. Citrix is not a good solution.

Grants.gov Adobe Forms Update

Topics will include:

- Microsoft Windows Vista & Grants.gov
- Adobe Reader & Adobe Acrobat (8.1.2 & higher)
- Filling out and submitting the new Adobe forms
- When will NIH transition to Adobe forms?
- Do Adobe forms really solve the "Mac" problem?
- When will the PureEdge forms be discontinued?
- Adobe Reader - hazards you can avoid
- What is the impact on "system-to-system" vendors?
- Should we have purchased "system-to-system"?

Windows Vista & Grants.gov

- Grants.gov PureEdge forms are not supported by VISTA, and never will be
- Grants.gov Adobe forms are supported by VISTA

Research Administrators:

Don't let your Information Technology (IT) folks switch you to VISTA until all of the PureEdge forms are no longer in use.

Windows Vista & Grants.gov

- What the heck is "VISTA?"
- MS Windows VISTA is Microsoft's latest version of its Windows operating system.
- Your current Windows (= "PC") computers are probably using MS Windows XP Pro, not MS Windows Vista.

Grants.gov Adobe Information

- Adobe and PureEdge FAQs
<http://www.grants.gov/assets/AdobePEFAQs.pdf>
- Grants.gov Deployment Concept of Operations
<http://www.grants.gov/assets/CONOPS.pdf>
- Grants.gov System Architecture
<http://www.grants.gov/assets/SystemArchitecture.pdf>
- Grants.gov Deployment Release Notes
<http://www.grants.gov/assets/ReleaseNotes062507.pdf>

Windows Vista & Grants.gov

- The new Grants.gov Adobe forms require Adobe Reader 8.1.2 or higher to be FILLED OUT and SUBMITTED correctly
- Is the required Adobe Reader 8.1.2 (and higher) supported by VISTA?

YES! Adobe Reader 8.1.2 (and higher) is supported by VISTA

Adobe Reader version 7.0.9

- Adobe Reader 8.1.2 has been "packed" with special "Grants.gov" functionality to make the new Adobe Grants.gov forms work properly.
- Can you use other Adobe Readers (e.g., 8.0) or products to complete Grants.gov forms?

NO. **Some** features may work when FILLING OUT the Adobe form, but problems can arise during SUBMISSION – a bad time to find out you have a form problem.

Adobe Form Irritations:
Mandatory Documents for Submission

- Pure Edge:
The ORDER of the documents *stays the same* when you move them from left to right.
- Adobe:
The ORDER of documents *changes* depending on the order in which you move them over, from left to right.

When will the PureEdge forms be discontinued?

- The termination date for the PureEdge forms depends on the timing of the roll-out of the Adobe forms.
- There will definitely be a period of overlap so we will need to support BOTH PureEdge forms and Adobe forms for (guessing) the next 6 months to a year.

Adobe Tutorial – for all agencies

- Adobe On-Line Tutorial ~10 minutes (takes a while to load but it's pretty good)
http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/files/adobe_transition.pdf
- Adobe Reader and PureEdge Viewer FAQs:
<http://www.grants.gov/assets/AdobePEFAQs.pdf>

When will the PureEdge forms be discontinued?

- IMPORTANT! Keep PureEdge.
- Any archived PureEdge forms in your local systems will still require PureEdge to open them, so we will all need both PureEdge and Adobe Reader 8.1.2 (or higher) on our machines for the foreseeable future.

Does this really solve the “Mac” problem?

Yes. The “Mac” problem will be solved. Mac users will be able to fill out Grants.gov Adobe forms using Adobe software.

(THAT was easy!)

Adobe Reader & Adobe Acrobat:
CONFLICTS

If both **Adobe Reader** and **Adobe Acrobat** are installed on your computer you may experience these difficulties:

- You right-click on a file and select “Open With” Adobe **Reader** 8.1.3 but, instead, the file is opened with Adobe **Professional** 8.1.3.
- You select “Start” and “Programs” and select Adobe **Reader** 8.1.3 but, instead, Adobe **Professional** 8.1.2 launches.

SOLUTION? Contact your local IT for help.

Adobe Form: Impact on System-to-System?

- What the heck is a "System-to-System" vendor?
- Several vendors (InfoEd, Coeus, Cayuse, etc.) have developed software that is used to assemble and check Grants.gov applications.
- Instead of opening and saving a PureEdge (or, someday, Adobe) application package, you would use their software to complete the package, check it, and submit it to Grants.gov.

Since system-to-system software does not use PureEdge or the new Adobe forms, they are not affected by changes in those forms (in theory at least).

Should we have purchased a system-to-system product?

At the University of Iowa, we developed our own simple "drop box" for handling Grants.gov application package from all agencies:

UIRIS/Grants.gov Uploads
<http://uiris.research.uiowa.edu/>

This is a password protected site. I can do a live demo if there is time and interest.

Should we have purchased a system-to-system product?

System-to System Software Pros:

- Forms pre-filled with institutional data
- Error checking PRIOR TO SUBMISSION
- Works with PC, MAC, UNIX etc.
- Generates a PDF of the entire application prior to submission
- Most offer some form of institutional routing
- Some permit the PI to keep tweaking the research text after the administrative forms are "locked."

Cayuse at the University of Iowa

The University of Iowa is currently conducting a CAYUSE pilot, submitting real applications...

Cayuse at the University of Iowa
<http://research.uiowa.edu/dsp/main/index.php?get=cayuse>

Should we have purchased a system-to-system product?

System-to System Software Cons:

- Does not currently work for ALL Grants.gov opportunities, so you still need a way, in the short term, to deal with the individual PureEdge/Adobe packages .
- This requires training for TWO systems
- Price (initial price + **yearly maintenance**)
- As with any proprietary system there are issues regarding **software upgrades** (who decides what and when?) and **long-term viability** of the company.

Grants.gov & the New Adobe Forms: Conclusions:

- Don't install MS WINDOWS VISTA until PureEdge forms are no longer in use by Grants.gov
- The Adobe form solution should solve the MAC problem.
- Check out the System-to-System products to see if they make sense for your organization.

The University of Iowa is currently evaluating CAYUSE. Stay tuned...