

VACMS demo environments

An intermediate/advanced training for product teams developing products with content in VACMS

VA.gov CMS Team



DIGITAL SERVICE at VA

Is this training for you?

- ✓ You are a member of a VFS product team that is developing a product with content on VACMS.
- ✓ You are comfortable with the editorial workflow in VACMS, including creating draft content, and the process for publishing it.
- ✓ You have used the “Preview” functionality in VACMS as part of your editorial workflow, and you find it limited for your needs.
- ✓ You are interested in any of the 4 user stories we will be covering.

Intermediate user stories we will cover

1. As a member of a product team, I want **a version of www.va.gov where your product's draft content can be published**, so that you can then send it to stakeholders (peers, platform team, or others) for review.
2. As a member of a product team, I want **a content sandbox** so that you can experiment, and make and preview content changes without worrying about impact on production environments.

Advanced user stories we will cover

1. As a user of a demo or sandbox environment, I want to **refresh it with the latest content from production**, for additional review or experimentation.
2. As a member of a product team wanting to **test content changes along with unmerged VACMS or vets-website code changes**, I want an environment where i can work with CMS and vets-website branches other than master.
 - a. Scenario 1: *VACMS master* and vets-website feature branch
 - b. Scenario 2: *VACMS feature branch* and vets-website feature branch

Agenda

1. How content and code flow in VACMS managed products
2. User stories
3. Questions

Please jump in if you have questions at any point!

How content and code flow in VACMS managed products

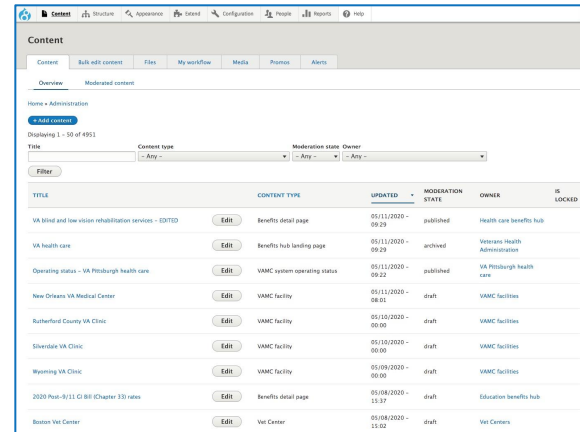
First, some terminology

VACMS aka “CMS”

prod.cms.va.gov

va.gov-cms repo

CMS database



The screenshot shows the 'Content' management interface. It includes a navigation bar with links like 'Content', 'Workflow', 'Media', 'Policies', and 'Alerts'. Below the navigation bar, there's a section for 'Moderated content' with a table of items. The table has columns for 'TITLE', 'CONTENT TYPE', 'UPDATED', 'MODERATION STATE', 'OWNER', and 'IS LOCKED'. Each row represents a piece of content, such as 'VA blind and low vision rehabilitation services' or 'VA health care', with corresponding details and an 'Edit' button.

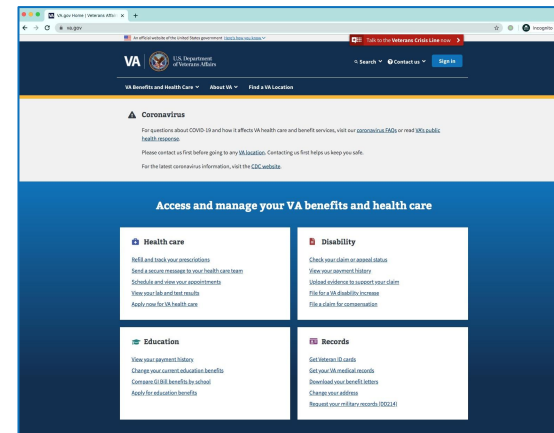
TITLE	CONTENT TYPE	UPDATED	MODERATION STATE	OWNER	IS LOCKED
VA blind and low vision rehabilitation services - EDITED	Benefits detail page	01/11/2020 - 09:29	published	Health care benefits hub	
VA health care	Benefits hub landing page	01/11/2020 - 09:29	archived	Veterans Health Administration	
Operating status - VA Pittsburgh health care	VAMC system operating status	01/11/2020 - 09:22	published	VA Pittsburgh health care	
New Orleans VA Medical Center	VAMC facility	01/11/2020 - 09:21	draft	VAMC facilities	
Rutherford County VA Clinic	VAMC facility	01/10/2020 - 09:00	draft	VAMC facilities	
Schenck VA Clinic	VAMC facility	01/10/2020 - 09:00	draft	VAMC facilities	
Waynes VA Clinic	VAMC facility	01/09/2020 - 09:00	draft	VAMC facilities	
2020 Post-9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33 rates	Benefits detail page	01/08/2020 - 13:37	draft	Education benefits hub	
Boston Vet Center	Vet Center	01/08/2020 - 13:02	draft	Vet Centers	

Content release

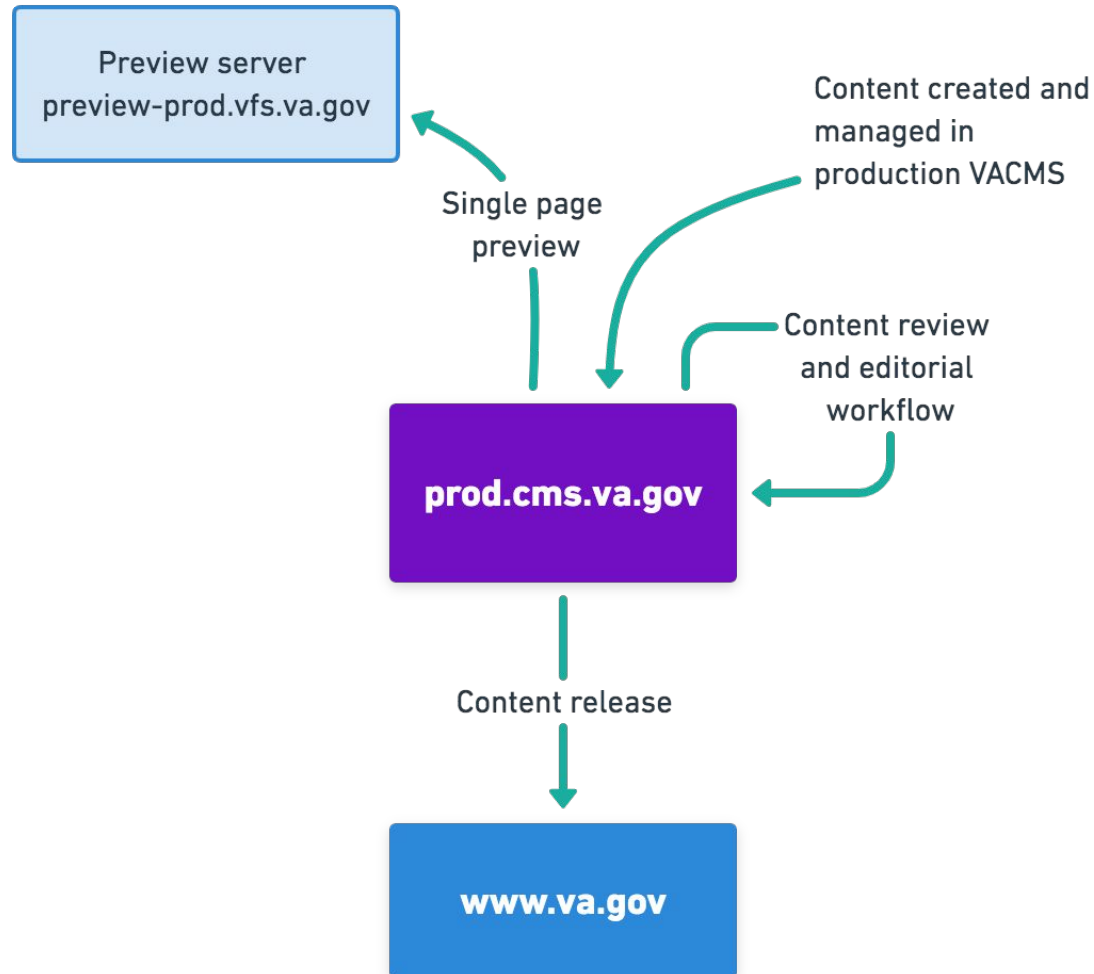
VA.gov aka “Web”

www.va.gov

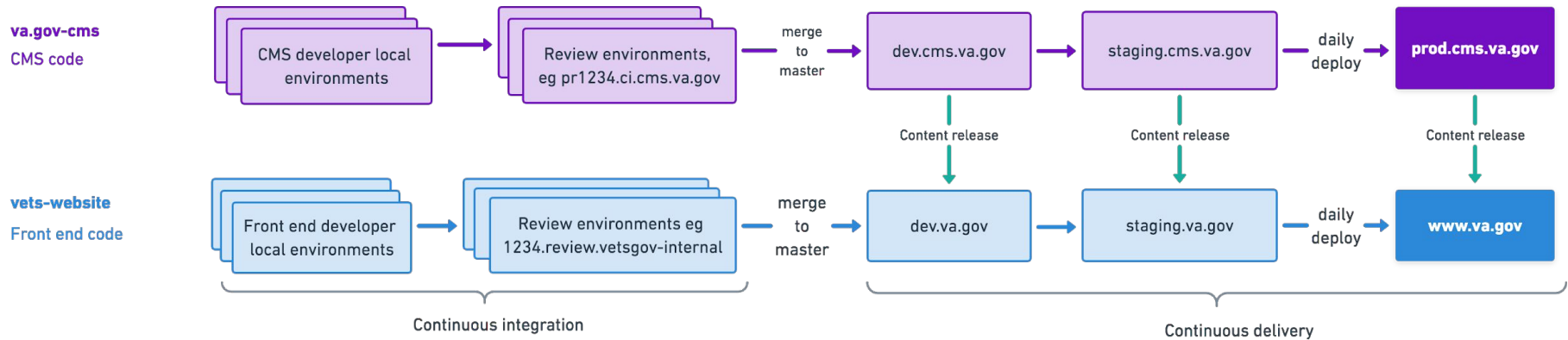
vets-website repo



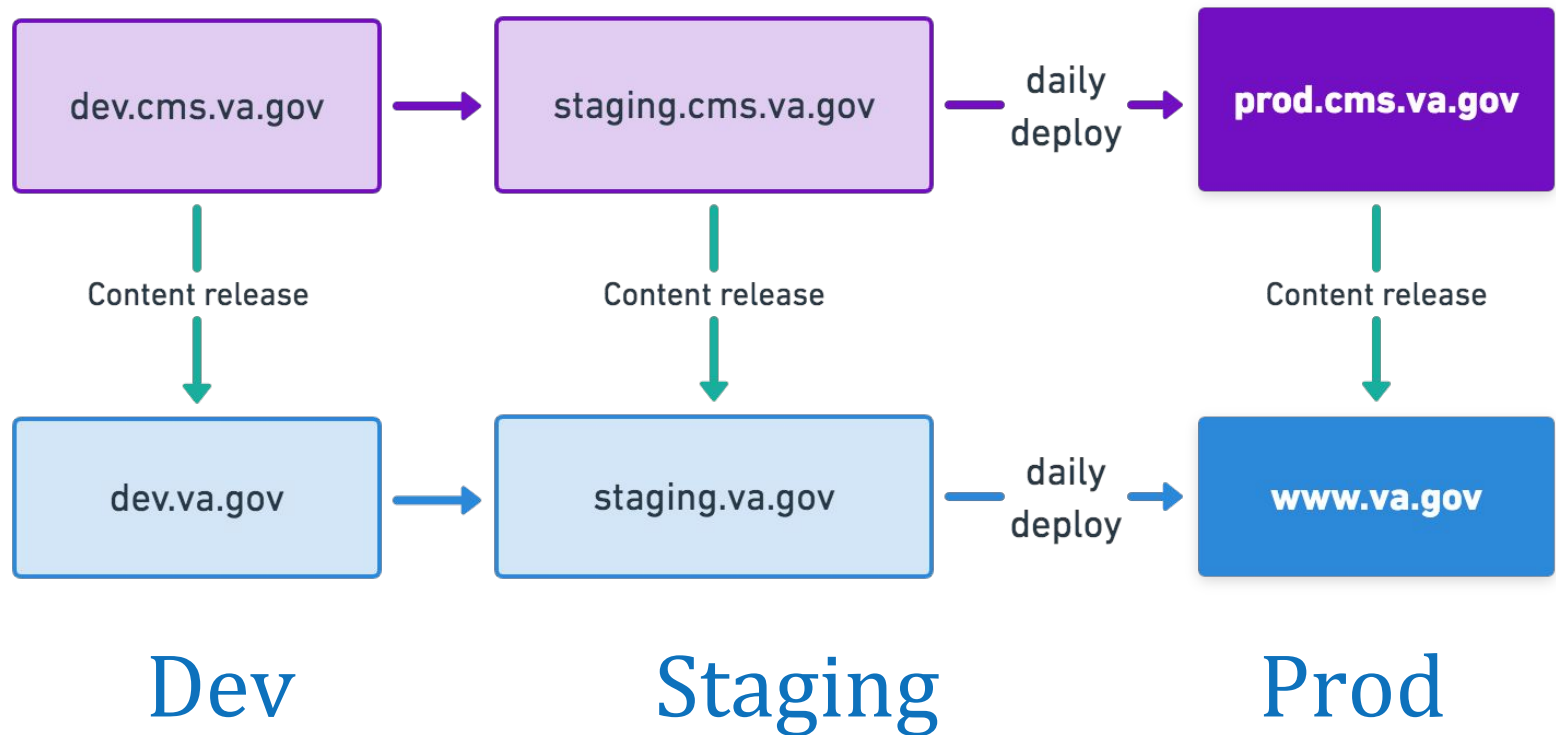
VACMS managed content “happens” on prod



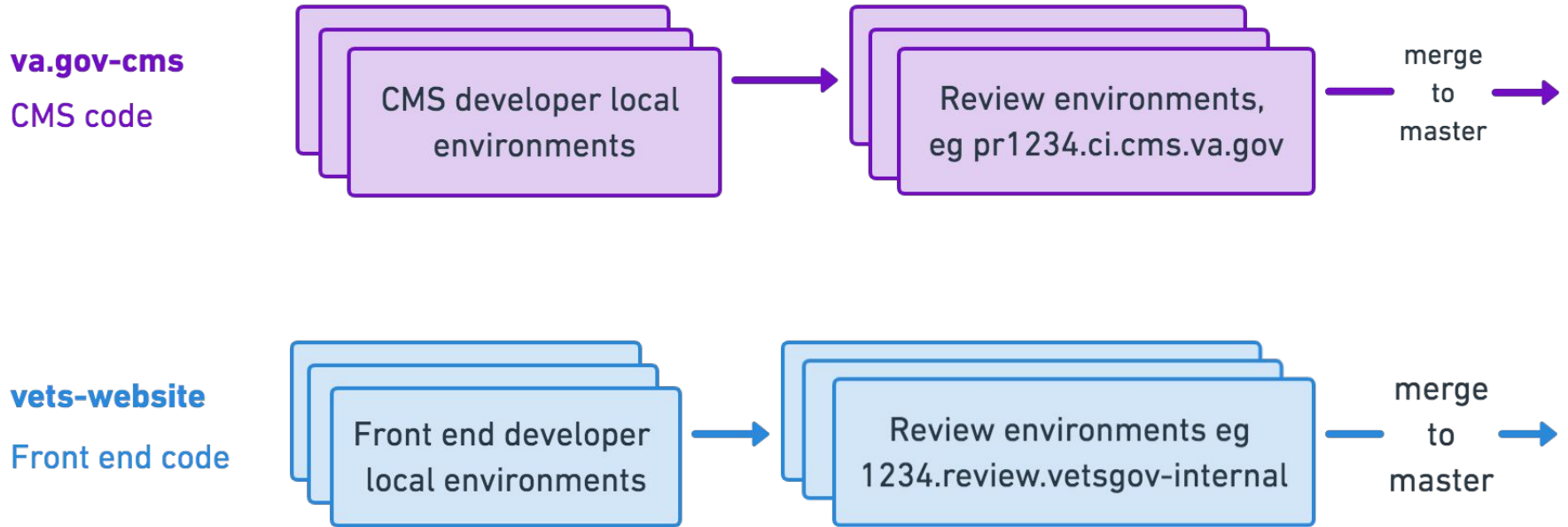
Continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD)



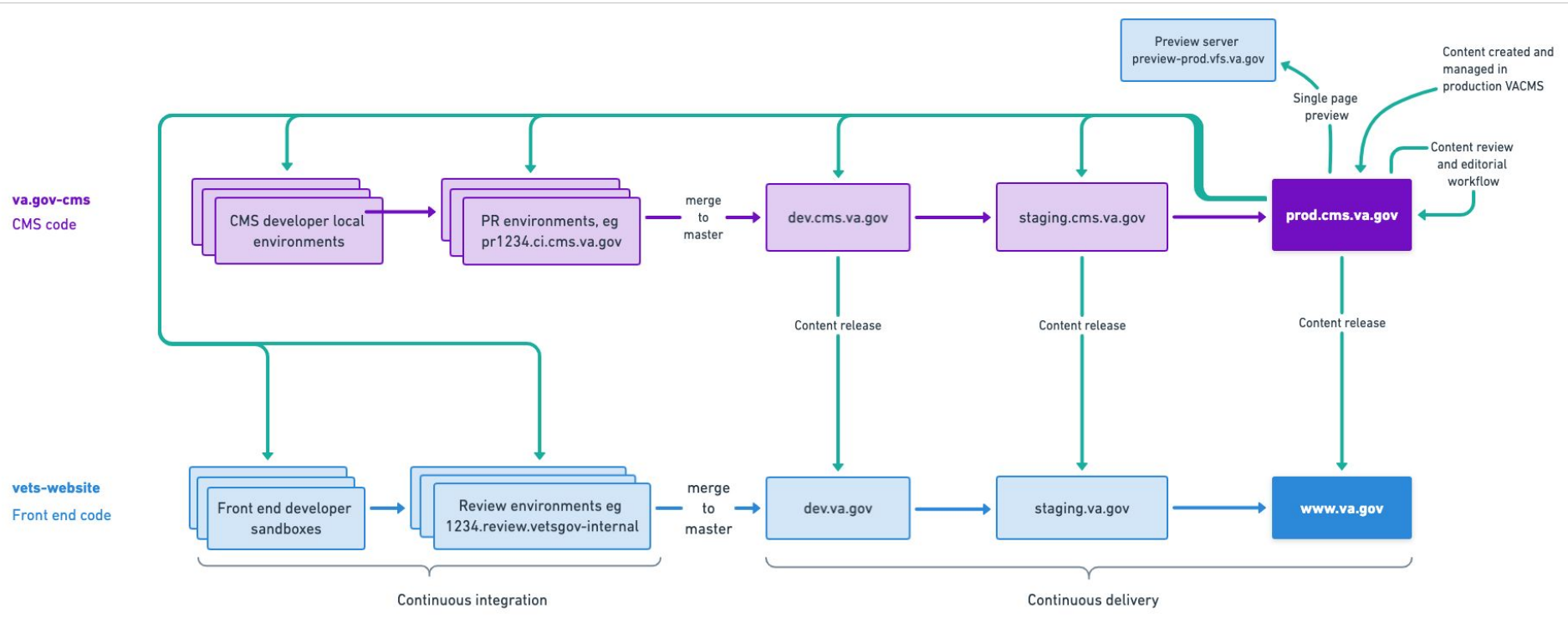
Continuous delivery (of code)



Continuous integration (of code)



Code goes right, content goes left

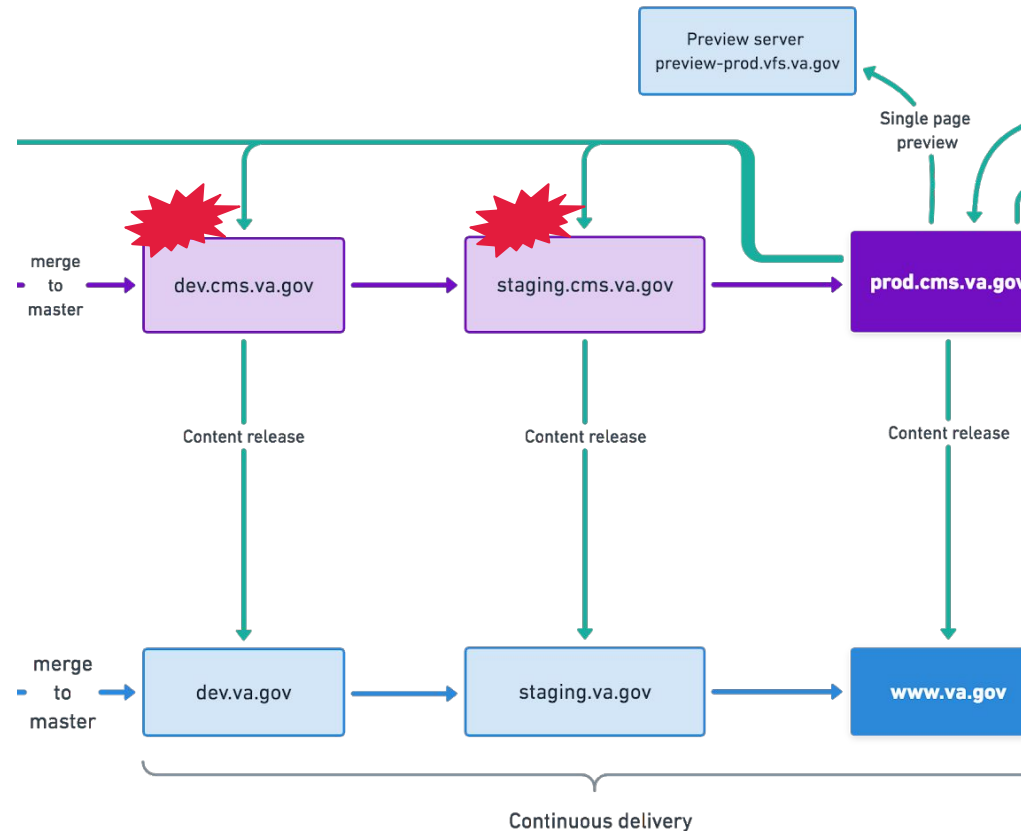


Q: Can I use Staging to test my VACMS content?

A: No

(generally-speaking).

The databases on Dev and Staging are wiped with every merge to the va.gov-cms codebase, so content changes on staging.cms.va.gov can be lost at any point.



What about preview?

Preview is good for seeing *one page* at a time, which has two major limitations

What about preview?

Not all content in VACMS maps to a single page, so you can't preview "subpage level" content.

Preview

Owner

[VBA Benefits Hubs](#) > [Education hub](#)

Recent changes

April 30 2020 4:14pm

[CMS Migrator](#)

*Automated move of text from
to intro_text_limited_html*

Published

February 27 2020 12:36pm

What about preview?

For example, a
VAMC facility
health service
doesn't have a
standalone page
that can be
previewed—that
content gets
assembled into
other content on
va.gov

Ophthalmology
Eye and vision care
National

Common conditions: cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease

Our ophthalmology specialists diagnose and provide medical and surgical care for conditions that affect your eyes—like cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

Location and contact information

Main hospital
Building 1
1-East
[Map of University Drive campus](#)
Phone: [412-360-6700](tel:412-360-6700)
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET
Facility-level

Appointments
Contact us to schedule, reschedule, or cancel your appointment. If a referral is required, you'll need to contact your primary care provider first.
Phone: [412-360-6700](tel:412-360-6700)

Average number of days to get an appointment
We'll work with you to schedule an appointment with the shortest wait time. In some cases, we may schedule your appointment at another VA medical center or clinic, or refer you to a non-VA medical provider in your community. For urgent health issues, we offer same-day appointments, telehealth visits, or walk-in express care.

0 Existing patient
8 days

Facility API

Current as of May 18, 2020
[Learn more about VA appointment wait times](#)

Care we provide at VA Pittsburgh health care
We offer comprehensive evaluation of ocular diseases, including subspecialty services, such as the evaluation and treatment for issues related to:

- Retina
- Cornea
- Glaucoma
- Oculoplastics

VAMC system-level

What about preview?

All links from within previewed content link to the production site, which can be confusing for some reviewers if they are reviewing batches of content

For example:

<http://preview-prod.vfs.va.gov/preview?nodeId=934>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a preview of a VA website. The address bar shows the URL `preview-prod.vfs.va.gov/preview?nodeId=934`. A blue banner at the top indicates there are (1) accessibility issues on the page. Below this is a dark blue header with the VA logo, the text "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs", and search, contact, and sign-in options. A navigation bar below the header lists "VA Benefits and Health Care", "About VA", and "Find a VA Location". The main content area features a "Coronavirus" section with links to FAQs and public health responses. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Education and training > GI Bill > Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve". A sidebar on the left under "Education and training" lists several links, with "Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve" highlighted in red. The main content area displays the title "Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)" and a paragraph describing the program's benefits. At the bottom, a light blue box contains the question "Am I eligible for education benefits under the MGIB-SR program?".

There are (1) accessibility issues on this page.

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

Talk to the Veterans Crisis Line now

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Search Contact us Sign in

VA Benefits and Health Care About VA Find a VA Location

Coronavirus

For questions about COVID-19 and how it affects VA health care and benefit services, visit our [Coronavirus FAQs page](#) or read [VA's public health response](#).

Please contact us first before going to any [VA location](#). Contacting us first helps us keep you safe.

For the latest coronavirus information, visit the [CDC website](#).

[Edit this page in the CMS \(requires a CMS account with appropriate permissions\)](#)

Home > Education and training > GI Bill > Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve

Education and training

- GI Bill
 - Post-9/11 GI Bill
 - Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty
 - Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve**
 - How to use your benefits

Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)

The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) program offers up to 36 months of education and training benefits. If you're a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard, you may be eligible for this benefit. Find out if you qualify.

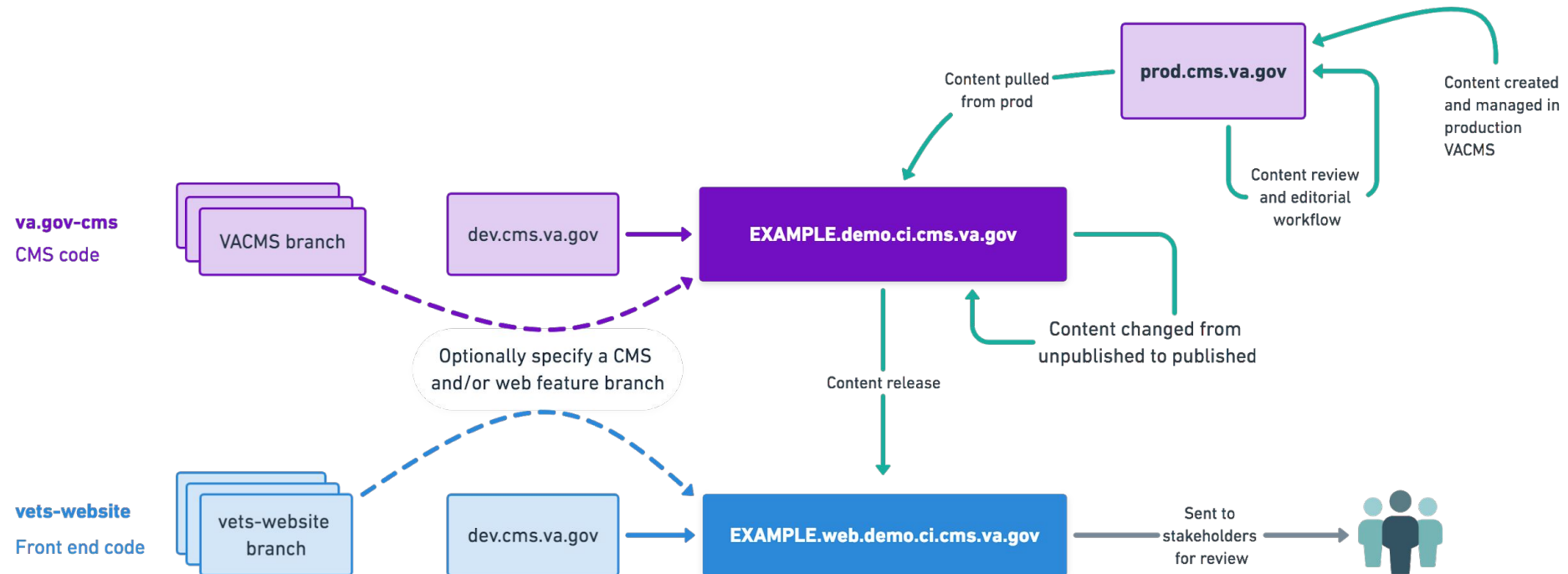
Am I eligible for education benefits under the MGIB-SR program?

Full site preview?

This has been discussed with the platform tools team, but is not currently on any active backlog.

Enter “demo” environments

Demo environments provide a stable space *outside* the CI/CD pipeline



User story 1

As a member of a product team, I want a version of www.va.gov where my product's draft content can be published, so that it can then send it to stakeholders (peers, platform team, or others) for review.

Use case for this story

As a member of Public Websites team, I want a demo environment for Decision Reviews, so that i can send it for review to content stakeholders and the Content & IA, and Accessibility teams.

The basic steps

1. Request a demo environment in #cms-support
OR create one for yourself using the devshop interface
(we'll cover that later).
2. Login and make any content changes you may want to the demo (such as publishing some draft content, or running a migration).
3. Trigger a content release.
4. Validate the content release is complete.
5. Send URL for review.

1. Request a demo environment

What URL do you want for your demo environments?

CMS URL will be *[your-demo].demo.ci.cms.va.gov*

Web URL will be *[your-demo].web.demo.ci.cms.va.gov*

How soon do you need it?

How long will you want to keep it for?

What content will you be demoing, and who is your audience? (optional)

1. Request a demo environment

What URL do you want for your demo environments?

CMS URL will be `lebanon.demo.ci.cms.va.gov`

Web URL will be `lebanon.web.demo.ci.cms.va.gov`

How soon do you need it?

Next sprint

How long will you want to keep it for?

Until we launch VA Lebanon

What content will you be demoing, and who is your audience?
(optional)

PAOs in Lebanon PA, and the Content & IA team, and Accessibility team.

2. Login and make content changes for demo purposes

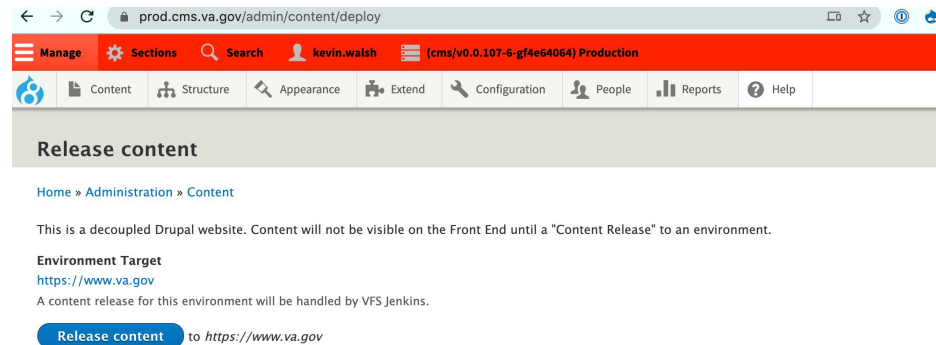
- Login on demo environments is with username or password, not PIV card. Password on environments that are not prod is “drupal8”
- 90% of the time, this will involve simply setting some content to “published”.
- You may also want to do some experimenting in a demo environment, but keep in mind that it is not possible to move content changes from these environments to prod*.

** for now, anyway... maybe in 2021.*

[live demo: bulk publishing]

3. Trigger a content release

- As a Content admin, you can trigger a content release via the CMS UI.
- You can also trigger a content release via Devshop.



[live demo: trigger content release]

4. Validate the content release is complete

- Content release in a demo environment can take between 10 minutes and 2 hours.
- Go to the web version of your demo site and validate that your changes are there.

5. Share the URL

- You can now share the URL with your reviewers
 - *[your-demo].web.demo.ci.cms.va.gov*

The basic steps

1. Request a demo environment using a form in Slack OR create one for yourself using the devshop interface (we'll cover that later).
2. Login and make any content changes you may want to the demo (such as publishing some draft content, or running a migration).
3. Trigger a content release.
4. Validate the content release is complete.
5. Send URL for review.

User story 2 (intermediate)

As a member of a product team, I want a content sandbox so that I can experiment, and make and preview content changes without worrying about accidentally publishing to the live site.

This is really a repeat of User story 1

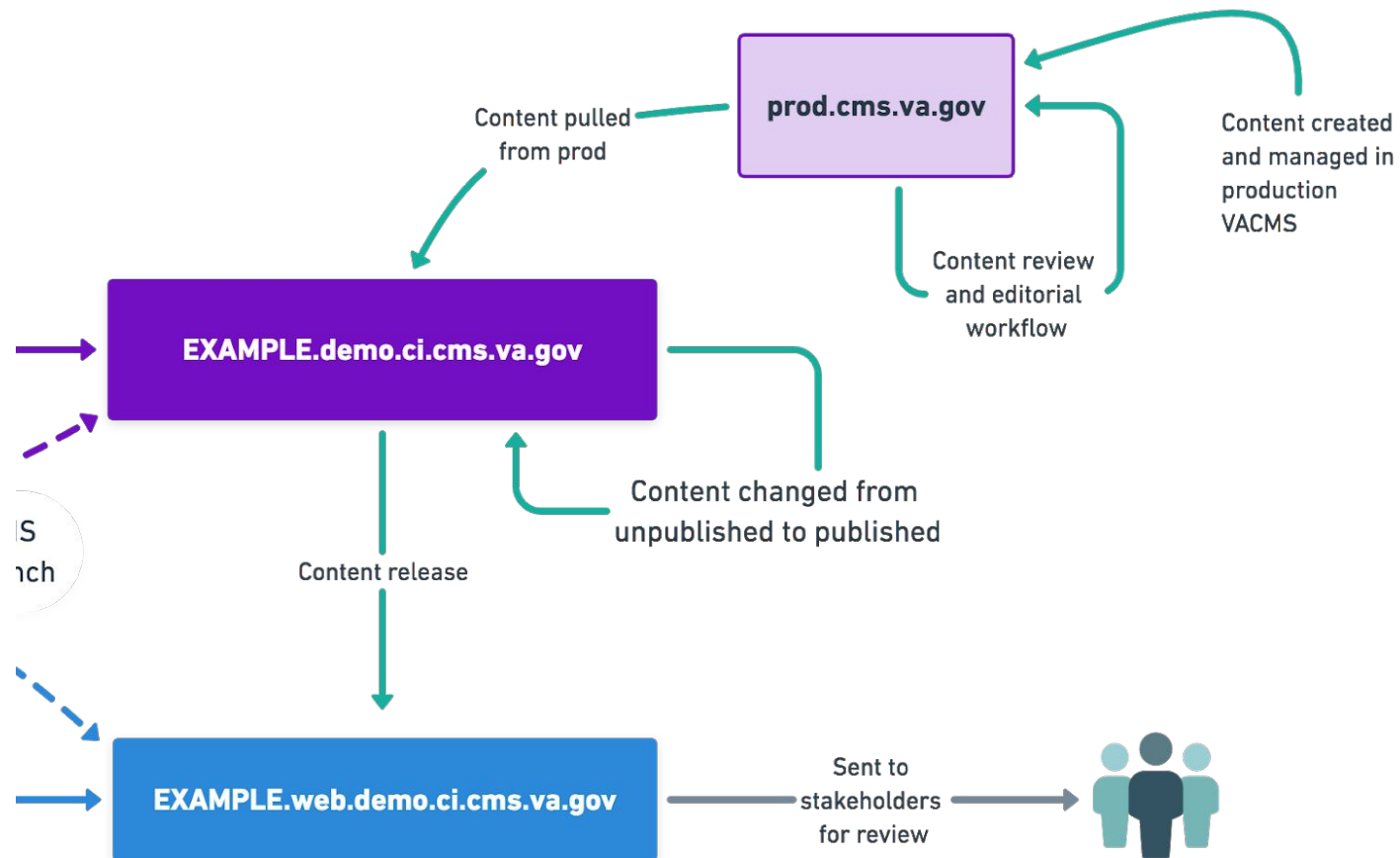
Except the part about sending for review.

1. Request a sandbox environment using a form in Slack
OR create one for yourself using the devshop interface
(we'll cover that later).
2. Login and make any content changes you may want to
demo (such as publishing some draft content, or running
a migration)
3. Trigger a content release
4. Validate the content release is complete
5. Review changes on web, then keep experimenting!

User story 3 (advanced)

As a user of a demo or sandbox environment, I want to refresh it with the latest content from production, for additional review (user story 1) or experimentation (user story 2)

Demo environments provide a stable space *outside* the CI/CD pipeline



Two ways to refresh your demo environment

Option A: Ask someone in #cms-support to do it.

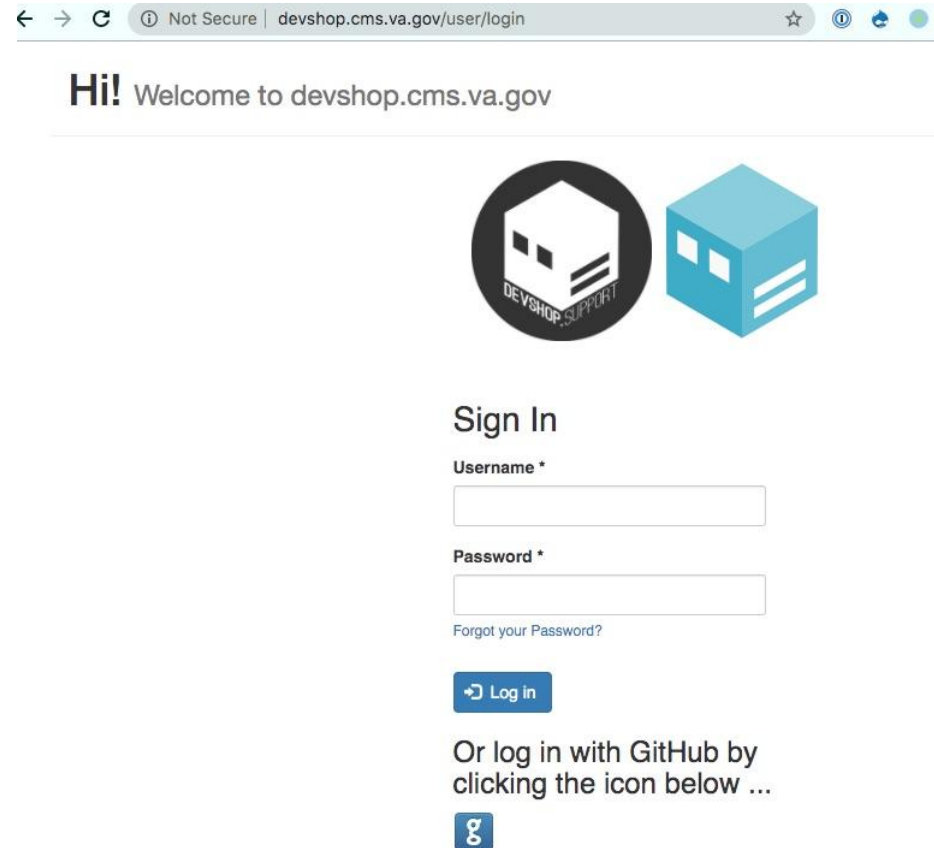
We're happy to!

Option B: DIY (warning, speed bumps ahead)

1. Log in to DevShop
2. Find your demo environment
3. Click “Rebuild environment” (Fill out a form)
4. Once it's completed, repeat your steps from User story 1, since your local changes will be gone.

1. Log in to DevShop at devshop.cms.va.gov



1. Go to devshop.cms.va.gov
2. Log in with the Github icon, NOT your drupal username / password



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "devshop.cms.va.gov/user/login". The page content includes a welcome message "Hi! Welcome to devshop.cms.va.gov", two cube-shaped logos (one black with white text, one blue), and a "Sign In" section. The "Sign In" section contains fields for "Username *" and "Password *", a "Forgot your Password?" link, a blue "Log in" button, and a GitHub login option with the text "Or log in with GitHub by clicking the icon below ..." and a GitHub logo.

← → ↻ ⓘ Not Secure | devshop.cms.va.gov/user/login ☆ ⓘ 🔒

Hi! Welcome to devshop.cms.va.gov

Sign In


Username *

Password *

[Forgot your Password?](#)

[Log in](#)

Or log in with GitHub by clicking the icon below ...



2. Find your demo environment

1. Click on Projects
2. Find your environment in the “demo” section

3. Rebuild the environment

Click “Rebuild environment”

demo Project

decisionreviews Environment

Dashboard Settings Logs

https://github.com/departm

Environment Dashboard

Environment Settings

Backups

Edit Platform

Error Logs

Packages

Tasks

Files Browser

Devel

decisionreviews

master 8.8.1 Errors

http://decisionreviews.demo... 2

LOG IN

CREATED 1 MONTH AGO SQL IMPORT

DEPLOY </> CODE DATA STACK

GIT STATUS CLEAN 1 MONTH AGO

Task Logs

✓ REBUILD ENVIRONMENT SUCCESSFUL 1 MONTH AGO
✓ REBUILD ENVIRONMENT SUCCESSFUL 1 MONTH AGO
✓ REBUILD ENVIRONMENT SUCCESSFUL 1 MONTH AGO
✓ REBUILD ENVIRONMENT SUCCESSFUL 1 MONTH AGO
✓ REBUILD ENVIRONMENT SUCCESSFUL 1 MONTH AGO
✓ REBUILD ENVIRONMENT SUCCESSFUL 1 MONTH AGO

Rebuild Environment

Environment Settings

Run Tests

Aegir Site

</> Aegir Platform

Clone Environment

Disable Environment

Destroy Environment

Export Config

4. Fill out rebuild environment form

Rebuild the **decisionreviews** environment?

This form will rebuild the static **decisionreviews WEB** site using content from the **decisionreviews CMS** environment.

Optionally, you may also rebuild the **decisionreviews CMS** from the latest production content from prod.cms.va.gov. See *Advanced Options* below.

</> *Development Team:*

Use the *Change code versions* form to change the source code of the **decisionreviews WEB** or **decisionreviews CMS** environments.

🔗 Change Code Versions

🔧 Advanced Options

☒ Destroy **decisionreviews CMS** site and rebuild using the latest production content from prod.cms.va.gov.

This will add a few minutes to the rebuild process.



WARNING: The current **decisionreviews CMS** site content will be destroyed and will be re-imported from production before the **decisionreviews WEB** rebuild process.

☒ Run deployment hooks on **decisionreviews CMS**

Leave this checked unless you have a good reason to skip deployment hooks.

🚀 Rebuild Environment

Cancel

5. Republish content and trigger content release

This was covered in user story 1!

1. Log in to the demo CMS environment
2. Publish content
3. Trigger content release.

User story 4 (advanced)

As a member of a product team wanting to test content changes along with unmerged VACMS or vets-website code changes, i want an environment where i can work with CMS and vets-website branches other than master.

Specify the code branches in a demo environment

1. Request a demo environment, like in user story 1
2. Rebuild the environment like user story 3
3. This time, specify the `va.gov-cms` and `vets-website` branches.

Rebuild the **decisionreviews** environment?

This form will rebuild the static **decisionreviews WEB** site using content from the **decisionreviews CMS** environment.

Optionally, you may also rebuild the **decisionreviews CMS** from the latest production content from prod.cms.va.gov. See *Advanced Options* below.

 *Development Team:*

Use the *Change code versions* form to change the source code of the **decisionreviews WEB** or **decisionreviews CMS** environments.

Change Code Versions

CMS Version

Change version to...

Choose which Pull Request to deploy to the **decisionreviews CMS** environment.

 [View CMS branch master on GitHub](#)

WEB Version

Change version to...

Change version to...

Default branch (master) - Current Version

PR 12816 - sanlouis-9012-loa1-account-security -
sanlouis - Sanlouis 9012 loa1 account security

PR 12815 - chatbot-tests - shefalnayak - Chatbot
tests

PR 12813 - theodur/cypress-circleci - theodur -
Cypress CircleCI Integration

PR 12812 - 5353-edit-email - erikphansen - Profile
2.0 - enable email field editing

PR 12811 - document-metalsmith-build-steps -
hillfienhern - Add ordered list of Metalsmith build

Advanced Options

☒ Destroy **decisionreviews CMS** site and rebuild using the latest

This will add a few minutes to the rebuild process.



WARNING: The current **decisionreviews CMS** site content will be destroyed and will be re-imported from production before the **decisionreviews WEB** rebuild process.

☒ Run deployment hooks on **decisionreviews CMS**

I leave this checked unless you have a good reason to skip deployment hooks

Feedback / Discussion



DIGITAL SERVICE at VA

Thank you.

yourname@emailaddress.gov