ct Redesign Production deployment

publishing Guide

*This is a quick reference manual providing guidance on possible scenarios for limited production rollout of the CT Redesign.*

# Introduction

The Comparison Tool (CT) Redesign is a qualitative and quantitative upgrade of the GI Bill Comparison Tool (GIBCT). The purpose of this document is to provide a considered proposal for how to perform a limited rollout of the CT Redesign. Per the [CT Redesign Release Plan](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/va.gov-team/blob/master/products/education-careers/school-comparison-tool/redesign/ct-redesign_release-plan.md), full production deployment must be preceded by a limited rollout. Ideally, the feature flag would automatically direct traffic the new functionality. Unfortunately, no capability to route based on feature flag settings has been identified. Several possible scenarios will be provided.

## Preliminary Requirements

Currently, the CT Redesign is only deployed to the staging environment ([CT Redesign Sandbox](https://staging.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool-sandbox/)). The [production flag](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/content-build/blob/a42814f6a8867cf6bd6631cbd52f992a24203ec3/src/applications/registry.json#L723) will first need to be flipped to make the sandbox available in production. Since this would make the sandbox potentially available to anyone, it is recommended to put the sandbox behind a feature flag.

## Limited Rollout Scenarios

The difficulty with the limited rollout is how to limit access. There is no link to the sandbox, so people will have to be notified and provided a link. Once the link is provided, it will be difficult to control access. The suggested scenarios consist of a limited banner notification on the existing GIBCT, a limited email blast to specific groups, a general email blast, and/or a Facebook post. Both email blast approaches and the Facebook post require the sandbox to be fully accessible. The banner notification is the only place where a top limit could be set.

1. Banner notification
   1. This would either use the existing sandbox banner feature flag or be behind a new feature flag. The banner would contain a link to the sandbox and an explanation of the CT redesign. The flag would be set to display to the desired percentage of users of the GIBCT. This scenario would depend on the click through rate to get the desired number of users. The percentage could be increased to get to the desired quantity.
2. Limited email blast
   1. This would be sending a targeted email to specific email groups. Examples are people who recently applied for benefits, vSignals, or student groupings. This scenario provides the advantage of knowing the number of potential participants but would still be dependent on click through of the email.
3. Large email blast
   1. Including a link in the bi-monthly newsletter would go to approximately 700,000 students. One percent click through would provide 7,000 users.
4. Facebook post
   1. There are approximately 1,300,000 followers of Bureau of Veterans Affairs on Facebook. Creating a post on Facebook to highlight the redesigned CT would again be dependent on click throughs, as well as Facebook’s display algorithm.

## Release Considerations

It is recommended that the location data supporting the CT Redesign Location Search is reviewed prior to production release. Several institutions are missing or have incorrect latitude and longitude values. The [Census Location Batch Address Tool](https://geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder/locations/addressbatch?form) can provide much of the missing data. There are [links and instructions](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/gibct-data-service/blob/master/app/views/latitude_longitude_issues/_introduction.html.erb) in GIDS for populating the missing data in batches of 10,000. The data can be exported, submitted to the Census tool and uploaded back into GIDS. Some of the incorrect data would have to be reviewed manually. This includes some institutions where the address of the main institution is used in branches located in completely different locations. These could cause issues for the end users of the location search.

## Full Production Release

Once the limited rollout is complete and production deployment is approved, there are several steps to fully deploy.

1. Delete the existing [GIBCT](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/vets-website/tree/master/src/applications/gi), but retain the [manifest.json](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/vets-website/blob/master/src/applications/gi/manifest.json) and the [README.md](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/vets-website/blob/master/src/applications/gi/README.md)
2. Rename the [sandbox](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/vets-website/tree/master/src/applications/gi-sandbox) to “gi” and replace the manifest.json and README.md
3. Remove gi-sandbox from [registry.json](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/content-build/blob/master/src/applications/registry.json)
4. Remove the [sandbox url](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/devops/pull/9711)
5. Cleanup the [sandbox preview functionality](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/gibct-data-service/pull/849)
6. Remove the [sandbox](https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/devops/blob/master/ansible/deployment/config/revproxy-vagov/vars/react_routes.yml#L63) from the devops repo