We are a team of Veterans, Creators, and Innovators dedicated to ensuring Veterans and their families get access to the benefits they've earned and deserve.

VA.gov Identity Team Sprint 4 Release Notes

March 2nd - 14th, 2023

Overview:

During this release we focused on the Sign in Service (SiS).

For more information on previous release reports please visit our [Github Page](#).

New Features and Improvements:

- Sign in Service Client Configuration
- Sign in Service Login.gov Single Logout
- Feature Infrastructure Preparation
- Mocked Authentication Route Live on Dev.va.gov

Bug Fixes:

- Assisted in investigation and solution for Continuous Integration failures that were blocking Pull Requests from building properly on vets-api backend. The solution was to reduce the number of threads that run tests from 16 to 13.

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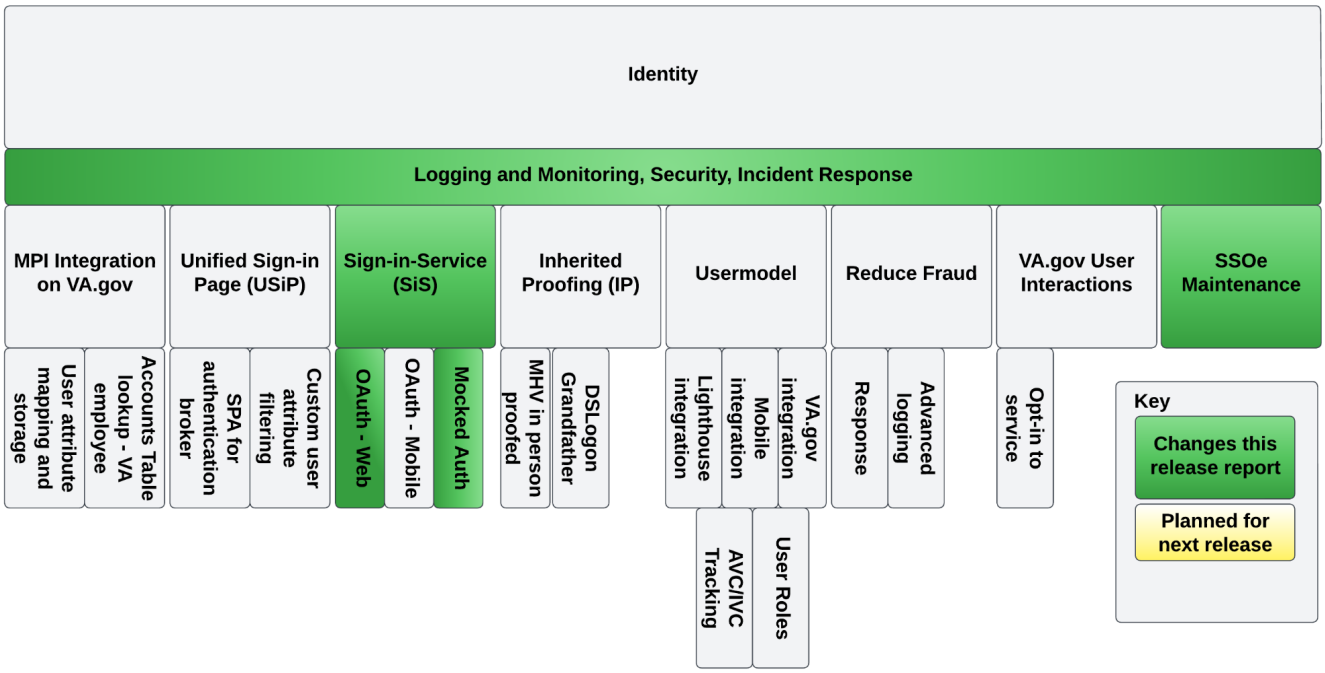
Refer to the Key below to see the changes in this Release Report highlighted in green.

Note: See **link** to Identity Capabilities definitions.



Featured Releases and Updates

Sign in Service Client Configuration

Summary: The Sign in Service (SiS) Client Configuration allows for clients to configure their specific integrations, independent of other SiS clients, and configurations on other stacks. The client is able to configure the authentication method (cookie-based, or header token-based), whether anti-csrf protection is enabled, and what site to redirect to, after a successful authentication and logout. The token expirations that describe the session behavior.

How to use it: Currently, an engineer must manually add a SiS Client Configuration. Once this is done, the client will be given an identifier, which they can use when invoking a SiS authentication, through the `client_id` parameter at the beginning of the flow. This happens when the Sign in Service `/authorize` route is called.

Who is impacted: Arbitrary future clients of SiS are impacted, as they can now integrate with the service without additional code change. The current SiS clients, VA.gov web, and VA flagship mobile, are able to create different client configurations for different test stacks and production, allowing easier testing and iteration.

What are the benefits: The SiS Client Configuration unlocks the ability for clients to integrate and onboard, with little customization inside SiS itself to enable the integration.

Why did we make the change: The adoption of SiS is critical. One of the tentpole design priorities in SiS is to lower barriers to adoption. The Client Configuration allows SiS to add new clients at any time, reducing the barrier to integration.

Version, and planned release dates: The SiS Client Configuration is enabled and working on all stacks, including production.

What's next (most immediate next sprint): Research and plan how to make the Client Configuration a self-service feature, where clients can add and change configurations on their own, without even the need for an engineer to manually add a configuration entry.

Sign in Service Login.gov Single Logout

Summary: When Login.gov authenticates on behalf of an entity, they require that logouts for that entity to perform a single logout. Logging both the entity and the Login.gov sessions out simultaneously. SiS has historically included single logout with Login.gov, however this functionality was specific to the VA.gov website, and was not possible with other clients. This work accomplishes what is necessary for a SiS client to log out of a session and successfully redirect back to the original application.

How to use it: As a client of SiS, the Client Configuration must first be correctly set up to include a logout redirect url. This url redirects a client to after a logout action. Once this is accomplished, any client calling the SiS logout route will automatically be logged out of any necessary Login.gov session, and redirected to the proper place.

Who is impacted: Clients of SiS who enable authentication with Login.gov.

What are the benefits: This work fulfills a requirement with the Login.gov integration, ensuring that a user who logs out of a SiS client application, will not accidentally be logged in with the Login.gov page, filling the potential security gap with this behavior.

Why did we make the change: The Login.gov requirement to force single logout is reasonable, and one that we uphold. This ensures arbitrary SiS clients will not be subject to a lapse of this necessary requirement

Version, and planned release dates: The last PR to implement this functionality is currently in review. This functionality is set to be in production by March 20, 2023.

What's next (most immediate next sprint): This PR will be merged after review.

Feature Infrastructure Preparation

Summary: Working on an EKS cluster Terraform module to move us away from Platform's infrastructure giving us more control and autonomy over our work.

How to use it: The components are still being built out but the first version of the app is being built here. Next version will have build instructions.

Who is impacted: VA.gov users and Engineers.

What are the benefits: The authentication components within VA.gov will be more stable, have less latency, and provide greater transparency to VA.gov users. Other VA authentication integrations in the future will not have to worry about integrating with the monolithic architecture of vets-api, they simply integrate with the isolated authentication service built by VA.gov engineers.

Version, and planned release dates: This version has built of the terraform state, S3 buckets, IAM permissions, and VPCs.

What's next: The next release will include all the required integrations with a dedicated AWS EKS cluster.

Mocked Authentication Route Live on Dev.va.gov

Summary: The Mocked Authentication (MA) route is live in the dev environment (https://dev.va.gov/sign-in/mocked-auth) which will allow the Identity team to iterate and improve the MA functionality without impacting current users.

Who is impacted: Engineers and Product Testers.

What are the benefits: Engineers and Testers will be able to test their changes in localhost and the dev environment, without having to authenticate.

Why did we make the change: This will allow the Identity Team to have a dedicated route to allow the team to iterate, test, and improve the MA flow.

Version, and planned release dates: Live in development environment, full integration in the next upcoming sprint. The mocked auth link will not currently allow a mocked session to be created, however the frontend requirements are completed in this release.

What's next (most immediate next sprint): PKCE integration on the vets-website and full integration with vets-api for user workflow.

How to provide feedback

Open a feature request ticket.

Basic feedback can be discussed within the Slack #vsp-identity.

APPENDIX A- Ticket Issues Completed

- *Consolidate User factories (#49949) - Multiple vets-api modules use their own User factory files to create mocked users for unit specs. Turned these into traits in the main /spec/factories/users.rb so that user creation for unit tests are consolidated in one place*
- *Add backend (postgres) to docker-compose file (#54894) - Created a postgres image to be used in tandem with a docker-compose file just so that the steps in regards to configuring is more streamlined*
- *Remove MHV Accounts (CTA) from vets-website (#53362)*
- *Perform audit for Sign in components (screen readers) (#45368) - Conducted research into the current accessibility of VA.gov in relation to the difficulty of signing in with a screen reader.*
- *Create glossary of terms (#55002) - Created definition list for use in release report*
- *Present import_resources.sh for sprint demo (#54485)*
- *Update cross link update script in mock data to properly deal with multiple instances of an ID (#55078) - Fixed the mock data script, cross_link_mvi_profile.sh and updated mock data responses that should have been cross linked but weren't able to due to the previous bug*
- *SPIKE: Create Infra for EKS cluster, an EKS cluster, provision EKS cluster, and deploy Ruby app (#54236)*
- *Research device types and capabilities of Va.gov users (#53876) - Investigated what are the majority of device types and capabilities that Veterans are using to access va.gov*
- *initial draft (#710) - Created document to explain why we chose to create SiS and how the solution resolves the issues we raised.*
- *Complete details of SiS success doc (#50812)*
- *Create Dockerfile to run SiS locally (#53666) - Created dockerfile to move SiS out of BRD and into EKS*
- *Create new route to mock an authorization attempt with a CSP (#53040)*
- *Prevent issue with Settings 'slack' field from being mutated in specs (#12068)*
- *Fix loading errors with vets-api CI pipeline (#12026) - Fix errors where PRs are failing on vets-api with certain 'cannot load file' errors that seem related to engine modules and them not properly loading the main app lib directory.*
- *Set vsp_environment for localhost (#11862)*
- *Update feature request template (#54647)*
- *Login Button Standardization (#48357) - created a button component that standardizes the process of toggling the LoginModal. When clicked, the button should toggle the LoginModal open and correctly append SiS attributes.*
- *Add mock authentication button (#53351) - Created a mock authentication button that can be enabled on the Unified Sign in Page as well as on the Sign in Modal*
- *Logging of SSOe/MPI sourced IDs conflict (#35053) - created more logging/alerting around users who fail to login due to a mismatch between GCID and eAuth fields*
- *Get rid of MHV accounts in usercontroller (#45352)*
- *Remove virtual_agent_user_access_records (#11890)*
- *Make SAML UserAttributeError initialization more clear (#11988)*
- *Create configuration table for sign in service client configuration (#11861)*
- *Create initial Rails commit for Sign in Service repository (#54432)*