



**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 6 Release Notes

**March 30 - April 12, 2023**

## **Overview:**

During this release we focused on completing SPIKEs (information gathering tickets), to better inform the recommendations and strategies we present to VA leadership for the solutions they have requested we complete. We patched several bugs to improve the overall health of the platform, released the Sign in Service example app, published a new BDPR dashboard to help increase visibility into fraud on VA.gov, and advanced several of our research initiatives around credential migration.

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

## **New Features and Improvements:**

- Sign in Service Example App
- OAuth Token Parsing
- BDPR Datadog Dashboard

## **Bug Fixes:**

- Removed forms submission 'blackout' period causing roughly 3% of 686c/674 forms to fail.
- Reduced vets-api deploy time by 30-40% by improving caching policy for Docker Cache Layers.
- Fixed syntax error in infrastructure definitions causing CSRF errors on various API services for the Staging stack. The main results are that flipper features can be used





consistently again as well as searching datadog logs by IP address of the remote client.

- Updated Gem causing Rails Console to fail on all stacks (including production instances).



# Table of Contents

Overview:	1
New Features and Improvements:	1
Bug Fixes:	1
Featured Releases and Updates	5
Sign in Service Client Application	5
Mockdata Synchronization Tool	6
Token parsing standardization	7
Benefits Delivery Protection & Remediation Dashboard Released:	7
Proactive Migration Research:	8
Product Managers Update:	8
Issues/Limitations/Challenges:	8
How to provide feedback:	9
APPENDIX A- Ticket Issues Completed	10





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

**Note:** See [link](#) to Identity Capabilities definitions.

Identity																								
Logging and Monitoring, Security, Incident Response																								
MPI Integration on VA.gov		Unified Sign-in Page (USiP)		Sign-in-Service (SiS)		Inherited Proofing (IP)		Usermodel		Reduce Fraud		VA.gov User Interactions		SSOe Maintenance										
User attribute mapping and storage	Accounts Table lookup - VA employee	SPA for authentication broker	Custom user attribute filtering	OAuth - Web	OAuth - Mobile	Mocked Auth	MHV in person proofed	DSLogon Grandfather	VA.gov integration	Mobile integration	Response	Advanced logging	Opt-in to service											



## Featured Releases and Updates

### Sign in Service Client Application

**Summary:** The Sign in Service Client Application serves as a simple example integration with the Sign in Service.

**How to use it:** The Readme for the repo describes the steps to set up, and use the Client Application. See the link to the repository below:

<https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/sign-in-service-client-sinatra>

**Who is impacted:** Agencies who are interested in an integration with the Sign in Service can use the Client Application to inspect the complexity and feature-set of the integration.

**What are the benefits:** The Client Application provides guidance on how an integration with Sign in Service will happen. This enables agencies and applications to receive the session management benefits of the Sign in Service; as well as a simple way to integrate with credential providers, such as login.gov and ID.me.

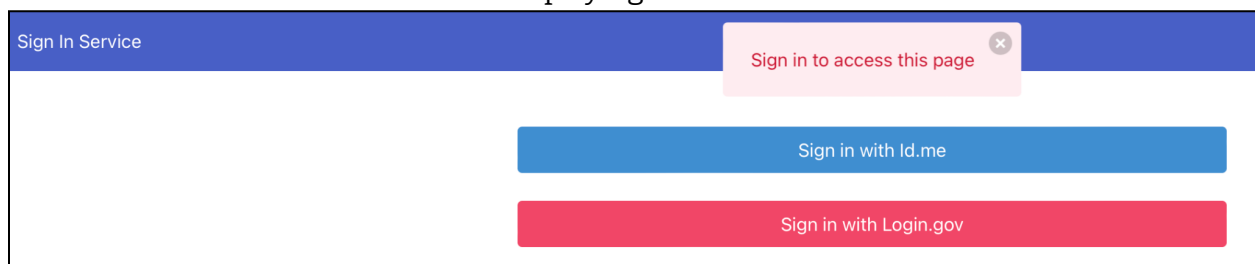
**Why did we make the change:** The Sign in Service currently is integrated on production with VA Flagship Mobile, and is integrated (pending production) on VA.gov. These integrations are valuable, but don't do a good job of showing how future clients may integrate with the Sign in Service. The Client Application is simple and straightforward, making it easy to understand integration.

**Version, and planned release dates:** This is the completed version of this product. All future updates will be related to software updates and capability additions from the main sign in service.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** We are in the process of updating the frontend to enhance the look and feel of the example app. This isn't a requirement but should also help with presentation.

#### **Screenshots:**

Prior to Authentication - Displaying Credentials to Authenticate With





## After Successful Authentication - Displaying Test User Attributes

Sign In Service

Sign out

Account Information

UID: ebf2e6ed-53b6-409d-a30a-cc98ae2adc01

Name: Joeial Testlastname

Birth Date: 1980-08-16

Email: joe.niquette+lgovial2@oddball.io

Gender: M

SSN: 

Reveal

BIRLS ID:

Authn Context: http://idmanagement.gov/ns/assurance/fial/2

ICN: 

Reveal

EDIPI: 2113748330

Active MHV IDs:

SEC ID: 1013610747

Vet360 ID: 1133395

Participant ID:

Cerner ID:

Cerner Facility IDs:

ID.me UUID:

VHA Facility IDs: 994, 994

ID Theft Flag: No

Session Information

Auth Type: cookie

Access Token Expiration: 2023-04-12 21:11:51 UTC

Refresh Token Expiration: 2023-04-12 21:36:51 UTC

## Mockdata Synchronization Tool

**Summary:** The Mockdata Synchronization Tool provides functionality to allow for testers and developers to easily create MPI mockdata files for records in Dev or Staging stacks.

**How to use it:** A Github Action will be available that can be queued with a user ICN. The Github Action will then make a call to MPI, optionally on the Dev or Staging stack, and then create a Pull Request on the vets-api-mockdata repository, including the MPI response to mock future MPI calls with that user.

**Who is impacted:** Testers, or developers, who operate on localhost or Dev stacks, and have a need for mocked MPI data.

**What are the benefits:** The current process to mock MPI data is very convoluted and restrictive. A user must directly connect to a Staging or Dev instance Rails console, then make a direct SAML request to MPI, and finally copy the response into a file in the vets-api-mockdata repository. The Mockdata Synchronization Tool simplifies this so that any Github authenticated user in the organization can query the Tool with an ICN.



**Why did we make the change:** Connecting with external systems is difficult in the VA.gov platform, as they often require a connection to the VA network. This makes testing difficult, as changes often must flow to Dev or Staging stacks before acceptance testing can even occur. The process of making mocked data easier to update for developers is invaluable for day to day work, and can improve the safety and security of the platform itself as it encourages developers to be more rigorous in testing against external systems.

**Version, and planned release dates:** This feature is planned to be released by the end of next sprint (roughly the end of April). Currently, a vets-api backend route exists on Dev and Staging stacks, that can be called with an ICN, and can return an MPI value. The Github Actions component is currently in progress.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** After the initial release of the Mockdata Synchronization Tool, we plan on extending this by allowing users to send multiple ICN, and getting a generated vets-api-mockdata PR that includes multiple MPI mocked records corresponding to the given ICN.

## Token parsing standardization

**Summary:** Standardizes the parsing of the *vagov\_info\_token* cookie that is used when authenticating with Sign in Service (SiS) OAuth.

**How to use it:** Use *formatInfoCookie* (oauth/utilities.js) in vets-website OR use *JSON.parse* after grabbing the *vagov\_info\_token*.

**Who is impacted:** Engineers

**Why did we make the change:** To create a standard best practice for parsing the *vagov\_info\_token* which will help other Engineers with reusability.

**Version, and planned release dates:** This is the completed version of this product. All future updates will be related to software updates and capability additions from the main sign in service.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** Maintenance

## Benefits Delivery Protection & Remediation Dashboard Released:

**Summary:** A dashboard was created within datadog that provides the Benefits Delivery and Protection team to perform lookups on their own. Previously they would request the data from our team. This is a self service solution for the team.

**How to use it:** With the proper access you can visit the dashboard in datadog [here](#).

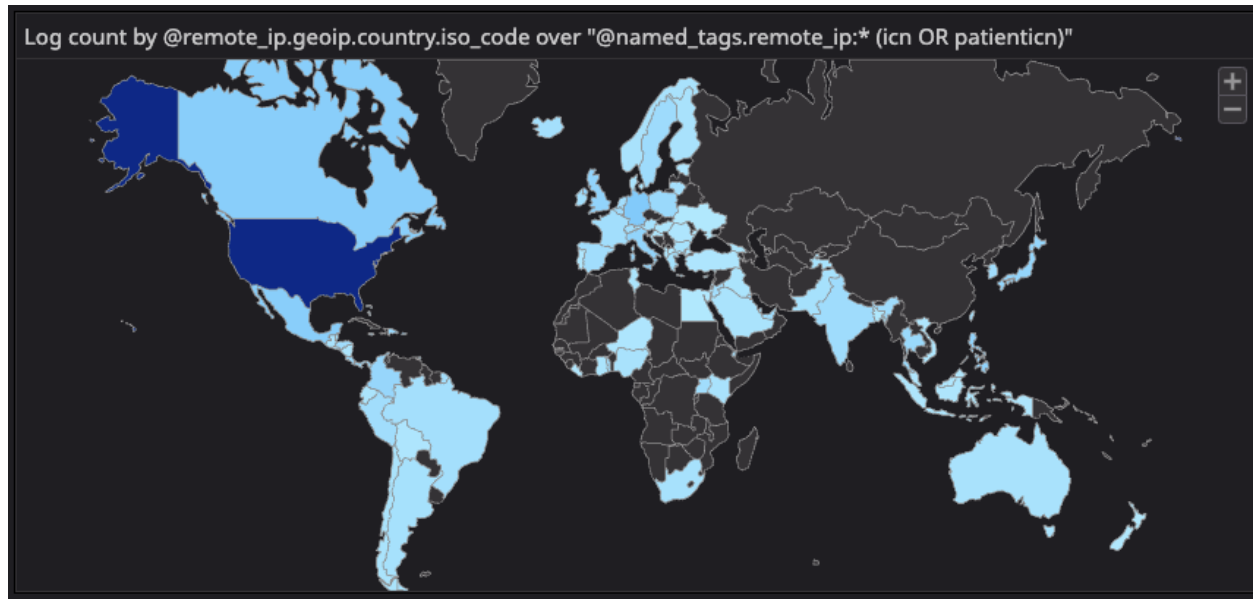
**Who is impacted:** BDPR team and the response times should be faster thus potentially reducing funds lost to fraudsters.

**What are the benefits:** Reduced fraud, higher visibility into bad actor activity.



**Version, and planned release dates:** This is the first version which currently contains over 15 widgets available for investigations. The next version is planned for release at the end of May which will provide full user activity based on ICN.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** Prototype of ICN search.



### Proactive Migration Research:

**Summary:** This research will consider terms and phrases that will help us better speak to veterans about the upcoming CSP migration. We're also seeking ways to encourage Veterans to migrate to a modern CSP on their own, proactively, even prior to any announcement about sunseting legacy credentials.

**Who is impacted:** UX folks from both the Identity Core and LGA teams.

**What are the benefits:** To understand what language is more clear to veterans around account creation, verification, and authentication. Knowing that we can communicate to veterans with words and phrases they will understand, and reduce confusion.

**Version, and planned release dates:** Research planning is being finalized, so we can begin research sessions with veterans. Most research sessions should take place in Sprint 8.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** Midpoint Review touchpoint for the modal prototype, Research Review touchpoint for the research documents, participant recruitment kickoff, scheduling research sessions, pilot session, final research preparations.





### **Product Managers Update:**

With recently identified priorities and initiatives, a high-level view of the product strategy has been established. The teams are motivated while moving forward adding value to the product vision.

### **Issues/Limitations/Challenges:**

Everything is running smoothly this sprint as planned.

### **How to provide feedback:**

[Open a feature request ticket.](#)

Basic feedback can be discussed within the [Slack](#) #vsp-identity.

## **APPENDIX A- Ticket Issues Completed**



- Fix the parsing of the vagov\_info\_token cookie ([#55344](#))
- Create authentication routes for example app ([#53992](#)) - Created the ability for the example app to perform a complete authentication with sign in service. To do this, the following routes need to be implemented: /auth/request, /auth/result, /logout route to logout user
- SiS Ruby client ([#54882](#)) - Created Ruby client for SiS that can use both cookie and bearer auth
- Change va\_gov\_info\_token cookie value to JSON ([#55351](#))
- Fix the parsing of the vagov\_info\_token cookie ([#55344](#)) - On VA.gov when the Sign in Service is used to authenticate the vagov\_info\_token cookie is created as a consumable cookie for the Frontend to get the session expiration. We changed this so we can more easily extend our services to others.
- Mockdata Synchronize Endpoint ([#56048](#)) - Created authenticated endpoint that will take in an ICN and respond with the mocked data YML file contents
- refactor Users factory to take MPI profiles as arguments ([#54959](#))
- create Mocked Auth user profiles ([#55597](#))
- Fix breaking specs in utilities\_specs ([#12341](#)) - Fixed a change that caused test pollution in the, admittedly, prone to test pollution class, Webhooks::Utilities
- Add client\_id to logout route ([#55790](#)) - Added the client\_id as a parameter during logout when using the Sign in Service Auth Broker
- Sign-in-service app - Update Ruby and Gems ([#56621](#))
- Update dry-logic to 1.5 ([#56363](#)) - Updated dry-logic to fix what is causing an issue with irb autocomplete that makes rails console crash
- Standup VA Identity Dashboard backend ([#56527](#)) - Created new Rails repository - VA Identity Dashboard
- Write Readme to describe how to set up example application ([#53990](#))
- Remove DownTime checker Sidekiq middleware ([#12301](#))
- Add backend documentation for Mocked Authentication ([#55416](#))
- update SiS documentation with new client\_ids ([#55565](#))
- 55597 mocked auth data profiles ([#12232](#)) - Added the credential\_list route to the Mocked Authentication module
- Fraud case review January 2022 ([#680](#)) - reviewed each case, appended any relevant information to the data and then ask each CSP to explain what happened to each user
- Fraud case review Feb 22 ([#696](#))
- Document assumptions and pre-reqs for IPP ([#55304](#))
- Remove predictive test for Rails console on production ([#56533](#))