



**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 7 Release Notes

**April 13 - 26, 2023**

## **Overview:**

During this release we focused on enabling a more streamlined authentication development experience for engineers. This will cut down on the confusion and hours spent by engineers when testing authentication features.

## **New Features and Improvements:**

- Mocked authentication is live on localhost and Dev
- Adding mocked users to mockdata repo through an automated github action

## **Bug Fixes:**

- No bug fixes this sprint, however we have been updating a lot of our monitoring solutions to adapt to the new syntax used by the new infrastructure technology.

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





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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.

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	
Accounts Table lookup - VA employee		SPA for authentication broker		Custom user attribute filtering		Mocked Auth		OAuth - Mobile		OAuth - Web		MHV in person proofed		DSLagon Grandfather	
User attribute mapping and storage															



## Featured Releases and Updates

### Mocked Authentication (live):

**Summary:** Mocked authentication was created to solve the pain-points of Engineers, Designers, Product Owners, Quality Assurance (QA) Testers, and other users of VA.gov all face surrounding authentication in lower-environments. Mocked Authentication provides an easier way to test features locally, and in the development environment, by providing a mechanism for authentication with test user credentials.

**How to use it:** The steps are outlined in the [documentation](#). The quickest way is starting at <https://dev.va.gov/sign-in/mocked-auth> and using the supplied documentation to complete authentication.

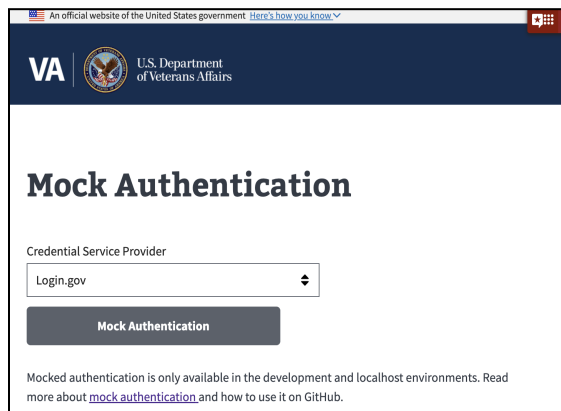
**Who is impacted:** Engineers and QA Testers.

**What are the benefits:** Allows Engineers and QA Testers faster access to testing their features (in local and development environments) without the barriers of real authentication.

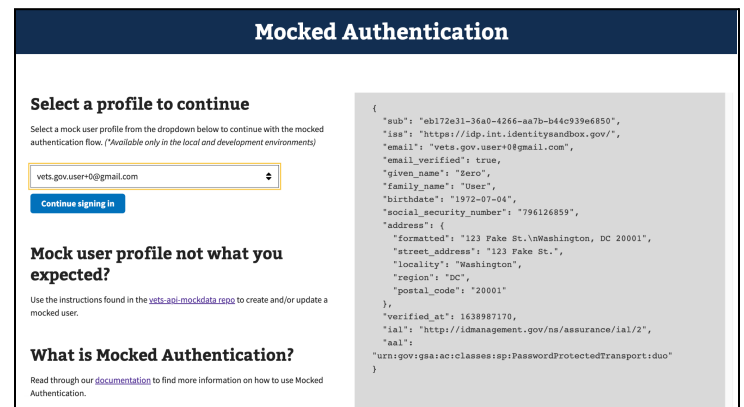
**Version, and planned release dates:** The current version is released and available for the local and development environments.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** Update the Mocked Authentication [documentation](#) to show Engineers how to add and update test user credentials.

### Screenshots:



(Client-side)



(Server-side)



## Sync MPI Mockdata Github Action:

**Summary:** The Github Action to synchronize MPI Mockdata was implemented to aid developers with mocking MPI service requests. Prior to this Github Action, calling MPI required direct access to a test stack instance. Now a user only has to have access to the Github Actions on the vets-api-mockdata, and a test user ICN, in order to call MPI and create a mockdata PR.

**How to use it:** On vets-api-mockdata repo, under the 'Actions' tab, select 'Sync MPI Mockdata By ICN'. This will give the ability to run the workflow with a user's ICN, which will auto-generate a PR with the MPI Mockdata upon completion. Detailed instructions are available here: [add mocked data for a user](#).

**Who is impacted:** Engineers, QA Testers.

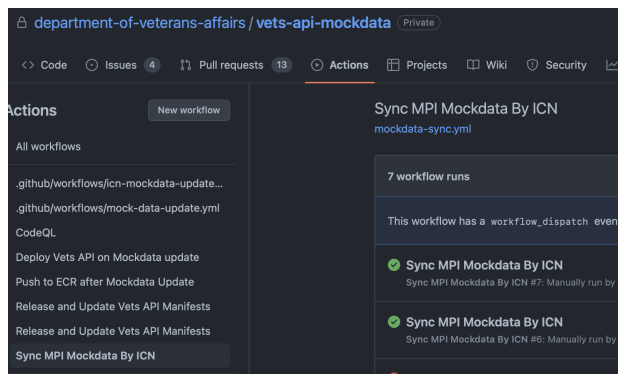
**What are the benefits:** This Github Action will reduce many complicated steps that were previously required to gather an MPI response to mock, reducing a common pain point for developers on the VA Platform. Additionally, this feature will remove one common need developers have when asking for direct access to test instances. Reducing the overall need for elevated access on the Platform.

**Why did we make the change:** Setting up and maintaining test users is a very common pain point on the VA Platform, and a source of many inquiries for the Identity team specifically. An MPI response is central to a test user's attribute data, and the ability to easily Mock or update the MPI response should reduce this particular pain point tremendously.

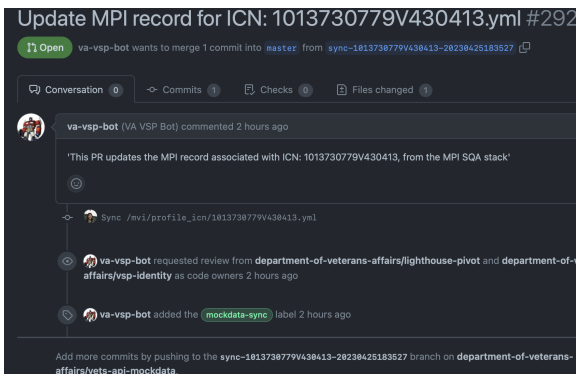
**Version, and planned release dates:** Version 1 is live now, users have the ability to run the Github Action and have it auto-generate a Pull Request with Mock data.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** Ability to create MPI Mockdata given a user's ID.me or Login.gov UUID is an improvement to the current functionality we will be investigating next.

## Screenshots:



Accessing Github Action on mockdata repo



Auto-generated PR from Github Action



## 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. 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 using words and phrases they will understand to reduce confusion.

**Version, and planned release dates:** Research sessions with Veterans are underway. Sessions will take place from April 26th-May 3rd.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** User interviews are an ongoing effort until the 3rd of May. Analysis of data and a synthesis report to follow.

## Fraud Waste and Abuse Research

**Summary:** Determine how the identity team can help VA achieve some of their goals as it pertains to Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA) reduction and response, as well as the goals for cybersecurity. Requirements have been gathered and initial plans to collect information to determine the feasibility of these proposed ideas.

**Who is impacted:** All users of VA.gov.

**What are the benefits:** Potential reduction in FWA within VA.

**Version, and planned release dates:** Research is ongoing, meetings have been planned with the FWA team to understand needs and gather data points.

**What's next (most immediate next sprint):** Continuing research on what the analysts will need with access to datadog.

## Notable Documentation Updates:

- [Mocked authentication how-to](#)

## Product Managers Update:

We have continued to complete and provide key deliverables on tasking surrounding our top initiatives. Completed our Mocked Authentication for developers, in addition to making progress on Sign in Service Infrastructure and Microservicing. We have also continued with valuable research as it pertains to Fraud, Waste and Abuse and In-Person-Proofing.



## Issues/Limitations/Challenges:

We lost forward momentum this sprint due to EKS changes. The way statistics and logs are sent to Datadog, significantly impacted our engineers' time to work on new features and fix bugs. The main reason for this was, the syntax for stats was changed due to a new service being used for consuming the stats, and the lack of prometheus being moved over which was used for monitoring production authentication stats.

## How to provide feedback:

[Open a feature request ticket.](#)

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



## APPENDIX A- Ticket Issues Completed

- **Mocked Authentication Rails views ([#12444](#))** - Adds the `mocked_authentication/profiles` endpoint with views + functionality
- **Updates vets-website Pull Request template ([#57289](#))**
- **Fixes statsd\_plugin bug ([#57296](#))**
- **Fixes Google Analytics bug ([#23928](#))**
- **Create automatic refresh for Flipper dashboard ([#54147](#))**
- **Create RFC for DSLogon Sunset ([#54997](#))** - documented all the possible solutions, benefits, and implications of DSLogon binding flow, so that all the ideas and issues can be understood and decided upon.
- **Investigate Sign in Service redirect methodology ([#55722](#))**
- **What other key metrics can we track on Fraud, Waste and Abuse ([#55963](#))**
- **Mock Authentication - Work with BE Identity to generate proper URL for mocked CSP ([#53352](#))**
- **Integrate mock authentication between FE + BE ([#53054](#))**
- **Add `payload_session` to `ch33bankaccountscontroller` ([#688](#))**
- **Recommended frontend in Rails ERB, that leverages much from the login.gov dashboard ([#56429](#))**
- **Fraud Pre-Discovery Research ([#54858](#))** - Determined how the identity team can help the VA achieve some of their goals as it pertains to fraud, waste, and abuse as well as the goals for cybersecurity.
- **Change Identity statsd metrics to use underscores instead of periods ([#56520](#))**
- **Create RFC for DSLogon Sunset ([#54997](#))** - documented all the possible solutions, benefits, and implications of DSLogon binding flow, so that all the ideas and issues can be understood and decided upon.
- **FWA data request 12apr23 ([#921](#))**
- **Milestone 2 - Datadog monitor for acceptable verified credential ([#51836](#))** - Datadog monitor created to ingest logs written from the sidekiq scheduled job that reports queries from the `user_acceptable_verified_credential` table
- **Remove Sign-in service metrics from initializer ([#56949](#))**
- **Add ``deployment_env`` env variable for all EKS environments ([#56521](#))**
- **Sign-in Service App - Add GHA code checks ([#56651](#))** - Added code checks that run rubocop and specs. Blocks merging if checks fail.
- **Sign-in Service App - Healthcheck endpoint ([#56103](#))** - Created status endpoint in the sign-in-service application
- **Mocked authentication FE Docs ([#55415](#))** - Created documentation for the mocked authentication workflow on dev.va.gov
- **Remove all statsd from initializers ([#12423](#))** - Removed the StatsD in the initializers to fix our metrics without adverse behavior
- **Sign-in Service App - Create Dockerfile ([#56102](#))**
- **Change prod datadog metric max returned to 25000 ([#56519](#))**
- **Fix rails console auto complete ([#56518](#))** - Disabled Rails console autocomplete in deployed environments to prevent running unintended commands