GSA®

Office of Telecommunications Services

Conexus Today

Coming Soon—Bulk Uploads of AHCs and Locations

As agencies know, both Agency Hierarchy Codes (AHCs) and locations can number well into the thousands, depending upon how large the agency is. To enter each AHC or location manually and one at a time into any system is very time consuming.

To help, we're developing a systematic way to bulk upload AHCs and location information into the Conexus system. Using standardized templates, users with the appropriate permissions will be able to upload all of their AHCs and locations into the Conexus application with just a few clicks.

Additionally, locations can be loaded by full addresses and Conexus will attempt to locate and assign the correct Network Site Codes (NSCs). Conversely, the NSCs can be uploaded and Conexus will attempt to associate the correct address to the NSC.

Conexus users will still be able to create and modify AHC and location information individually, if needed. But, as agencies prepare to transition to the EIS contract, having their AHCs and locations pre-loaded into Conexus will help make it easier to get started.

Look for an announcement soon alerting you when these capabilities will be ready for use!

> **Access GSA Conexus at https:// conexus.gsa.gov**

> **For Conexus help, call 855-ITaid4U (482-4348)**
> Sun 8:00 pm - Fri 8:30 pm
> **Email: ITCSC@gsa.gov**

> **Contact the Conexus Management Team at conexus@gsa.gov**

> **Click here to register for Conexus Training.**

Conexus Data Security

As a system that stores sensitive customer information, Conexus must ensure that certain safeguards are in place to protect agency data. To this end, the Conexus team performs many functions throughout the year to assess and mitigate any security risks.

Conexus uses continuous monitoring, which is the process and technology used to detect compliance and risk issues. Another aspect of Conexus security controls is annual penetration testing in which authorized simulated attacks are performed to evaluate the security of the system. The Conexus system must also comply with the Federal Information Security Management Act or FISMA, which defines a comprehensive framework to protect government information, operations and assets against natural or man-made threats. To learn more about FISMA, go to https://www.dhs.gov/fisma.

Amazon Web Services

The Conexus team is exploring the use of Amazon Web Services (AWS) for its application hosting. The team is analyzing the computing, application, storage, network, and database options that exist within the service to determine how well it aligns with current and future architecture and hosting requirements for Conexus. This analysis is looking at flexibility, reliability, and scalability and whether all of these items can result in improved application performance and availability and reduced overall hosting costs.

AWS is also being reviewed for its efforts made to secure the platform. Certain AWS regions are currently FedRAMP compliant, supporting government agencies in their Assessment and Accreditation processes. This is critical to ensuring the Conexus application maintains its security posture.

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Conexus User Acceptance Testing

Conexus held its first round of User Acceptance Testing (UAT) earlier this year, and plans are underway to resume in 2019. UAT is when agency users test the system and report back their results, including any areas that aren't responding properly and need to be addressed. Test results also provide insights into possible ways to make the Conexus application perform better.

All existing Conexus UAT members will be included as UAT resumes, unless requested to be removed. The Conexus UAT team is also currently looking into whether additional UAT members can be added going forward.

The next round of Conexus UAT will expand to include placing test Service Orders (SOs) within the system. Sample Task Order (TO) data is currently being compiled, and will then be loaded into Conexus so that test SOs can be placed.

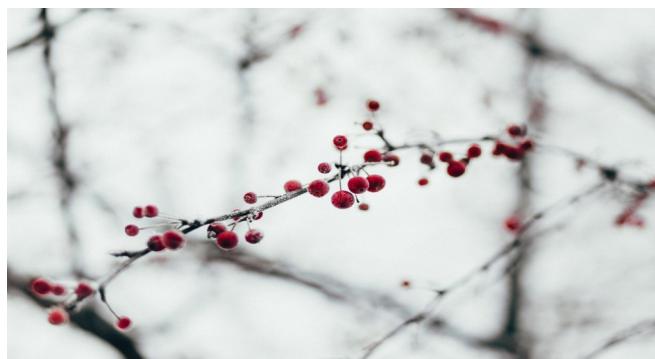Existing UAT members should look for additional details at the end of January or beginning of February 2019, from conex-us.uat@gsa.gov. For those interested in participating in UAT, watch for further announcements from the Conexus Management team at conexus@gsa.gov.

If you wish to be on the Conexus mailing list or have never received an email from Conexus before, please email us at conexus@gsa.gov so we can add you to the Conexus distribution list.

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Season's Greetings

As the end of 2018 draws near, we find ourselves reflecting on this past year's interactions with team members, supporting staff, and our agency partners. We appreciate each and every one of you! As you celebrate this holiday season, please know that we are wishing you the happiest of times and good cheer!

The Conexus Management Team