BREAKING NEWS: Banner Version 6.1 Release Rescheduled for June 2004

OIIT has rescheduled the release of Banner version 6.1 for June 2004. This upgrade will accumulate 6.0 updates, patches, and enhancements. Institutions will still have a six-month implementation window.

OIIT recently learned that SCT has delayed the September 6.1 accumulation release until January 2004. To date, SCT has released approximately 70 individual defect corrections to version 6.0, and patches continue to be released daily. Without the delay, institutions would need to apply these individual patches to the baseline 6.0 installation one at a time according to varying prerequisites and dependencies. As a result, OIIT has elected to reschedule the release of version 6.1, which will accumulate 6.0 patches, plus enhancements into the upgrade, for June 2004.

The impetus for rescheduling is to alleviate an undue burden on institutional staff. It is notably more laborious and time consuming to apply, functionally test, and certify a multitude of individual patches than to perform an incremental upgrade. Upgrade to 6.0 followed by application of requisite patches could necessitate an unacceptable amount of downtime of the production ERP and expenditure of human resources.

Institutions will benefit in the following ways from the delayed release:

- End users receive a more fully functional, robust, higher quality software deliverable.
- Plan provides a less arduous upgrade path for institutional technical staff. SCT has confirmed that the January 6.1 release will accumulate all patches previously posted.
- The likelihood of production downtime is reduced.

The GaBEST Core Team approved the revision of the timeline to distribute the production version of Banner V6 after testing and certification of the SCT January 2004 Banner 6.1 release with an OIIT release target of June 2004. GaBEST Model deliverables scheduled for December will be released in version 5.x.

In This Issue...

Breaking News............................... 1
Project Deliverables ...................... 1
Technical Update........................... 2
Conference Update......................... 2
Functional Update ......................... 3
Financial Aid ............................... 3
Georgia Enhancements ................. 3
GaBEST Model Project............... 3
Highlighted Functionality .............. 4
Training Update and Resources.... 5
Contact Information..................... 5

Project Deliverables 2003

GaBEST Model deliverables previously released in 2003:
- Decommissioning of many GaMod translation forms
- Auditing Toolkit
- Learner Self Requested Transcript

Deliverables scheduled for release in December in Version 5.x:
- HOPE Invoicing Project
- College Work Study Interface
- Web Bill
V6 Technical Update

The previous Technical Upgrade Roadmap required Oracle 9i Release 1 be implemented no later than end of December 2003 and Oracle 9i Release 2 by June 2004 with V6.

The revised requirement is for campuses to implement the 9i Release 2 with version 5.x no later than the beginning of Q2 2004.

The benefit of de-coupling the Oracle upgrade from the application upgrade is in positioning the campuses to make the application upgrade less tenuous because the Oracle upgrade will be tested and complete. New issues encountered can then be isolated and attributed to an individual environment change.

Conference Update

Rock Eagle 2003

Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Eatonton, GA – October 22-24, 2003

Banner sessions at the 32nd University System Annual Computing Conference include the following:

- Birds of a Feather: Banner 6 and Oracle 9.i Release 2
- SCT Workflow Technical – Start to Finish
- SCT Integration Strategy and the Luminus Data Integration Suite
- SCT Future Directions
- Banner XtenderSolutions: Planning and Implementation

An informal discussion about Banner patches and upgrades will be held.

Visit http://www.usg.edu/oiit/re/re03/ for detailed conference information and access to the full agenda.

Georgia Summit 2003

The Sixth Annual Georgia Summit Conference, held in Augusta on September 17–19, 2003, was the largest gathering of attendees (650) in the conference’s history.

Sessions featuring V6 functionality included the following:

- Delta Functionality (F/A, A/R, Student, Admissions, General, Web) between Banner 5.x and 6.x
- 6.1 GaBEST Model Enhancements

To view Georgia Summit presentations, go to http://www.usg.edu/oiit/summit/2003/agenda/proceedings/.
V6 Functional Update

- The V6 release includes baseline enhancements to the **Main Menu**. The menu, which is more streamlined and user friendly than previous versions, includes hierarchical tree menu structure, user friendly icons on the toolbar, and a site map. For details, access the Navigation Training Documents at [http://www.usg.edu/oiit/eas/sfa/upgrade6/index.html](http://www.usg.edu/oiit/eas/sfa/upgrade6/index.html).

- Self-Service product Help messages were previously stored in static HTML files. V6 stores these messages as Info Text with the label **HELP**. This change provides easier maintenance and customization access for non-technical users of WebTailor. For more information, refer to the **WebTailor User Guide** for V6.

Financial Aid

**Common Origination and Disbursement (COD)** is a streamlined method for processing Pell Grant and Direct Loan financial aid data. The COD system integrates the origination and disbursement processes for Pell Grants and Direct Loans that were previously performed by the Recipient Financial Management System (RFMS) and the Direct Loan Origination System (DLOS). The COD system helps improve financial integrity by ensuring that Title IV funds are well managed. The COD process provides financial controls and tools to monitor adherence to the regulatory 30-day reporting requirements. These tools are web based views about the student and batch level origination and disbursement data, information about funds drawn and funds available to draw, and several reports to help schools reconcile and correct data. All schools must become full participants by the 2005-2006 Award Year. COD is preparing to open a testing window for the 2004-2005 Award Year.


Georgia Enhancements

The HOPE Invoicing Project is the result of the request of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) to provide accounting controls over HOPE funds. University System of Georgia institutions will be required to submit an invoice to the GSFC for receipt of HOPE funding from GSFC. OIIT is creating a process to produce an invoice to be sent to GSFC, which will return the file to the sending institution with payment/funding data. This information will be loaded into Banner and used for reconciliation between the Banner Student Information System and GSFC.

Pilot institutions are scheduled to begin testing the beta release in October. The production release of HOPE Invoicing is scheduled for December 2003.

GaBEST Model Project

As part of the GaBEST Model project, the following forms are scheduled to be decommissioned:

- ZOACAMP  Campus Code Translation Form
- ZOACIPC  CIP Extension Rules Form
- ZOACNTY  Georgia County Code Translation Form
- ZOADEPT  Department Code Translation Form
- ZOAETHC  Ethnic Code Translation Form
- ZOANCST  Requirements Status Translation Form
- ZOANORM  SBGI/NORM Code Translation Form
- ZOATRMT  Term Code Translation Form
Highlighted Functionality for October

- New fields have been added to the Class Roster (SFRSLST). The roster now includes the student’s level, major, and classification (freshman, sophomore, etc.). New parameters were added as a result of Open Learning enhancements. Be sure to check your parameters before running this process in V6.

- Previously, the name sort order of Faculty & Advisor Self-Service class lists, wait lists, midterm, and final grades pages was incorrect. This problem has been resolved and the lists now sort in alphabetical order.

- The Course Syllabus Form (SCASYLB) is new for V6. You now have the opportunity to enter long course titles in addition to your current short titles. The existing course titles continue to be used in forms, reports, and processes; and locally customized reports or forms are not be impacted. Controls have been created to display these new titles in the Self-Service products. Parameters have been updated for several reports, including the class roster and academic transcript. Syllabus information, such as learning objectives, required materials, and technical requirements can be associated with a course for display on the Web. This information may aid students in selecting and registering for course sections. The syllabus information may be copied down to the section level but may not be representative of all sections of the course. Entry of syllabus information is optional.
V6 Training Update and Resources

Enterprise Applications Systems (EAS) Website

http://www.usg.edu/oiit/eas
Visit the Student and Financial Aid link for the most up-to-date information concerning release status and documentation.

SCT Resources

SCT Banner Baseline Training Materials
SCT has developed training materials for the Banner Student and Financial Aid Systems. The participant’s workbook and instructor’s presentation slides were designed for instructor-led training, but they also provide valuable instructions and reference materials for other uses. To access these documents, go to http://www.usg.edu/oiit/eas/sfa/banner/training/index.html.

SCT Internet Training
Computer-based training in a live, on-line classroom with an SCT instructor is available. Go to http://www.sct.com/Education/Services/SCT_Banner/D_TrainingSvcs.html for more information or contact the SCT Education Center at edcenter@sct.com.

SCT ActionWeb
We encourage you to use the many resources that SCT provides through the Action Web.
- Go to www.sct.com and log in to the Action Web. If you don’t already have a login and password, you can create one. The Extended Search option directs you to a user-friendly interface.
- You will have access to Known Issues, FAQs, release guides, and user documentation.
  - Known issues include functional and technical defects, searchable by module, process, and release number. Temporary workarounds (when available) and defect statuses are included.
  - FAQs include helpful hints and tips that answer commonly asked questions and functional user instructions for selected forms and processes.
  - Release guides and user documentation are accessible in the Documentation Download area. Release guides detail the specific changes (new/changed forms, processes, and tables) delivered in an incremental or version upgrade of Banner. User guides contain the information needed by the administrative staff that handle the daily activities of the offices, including explanations of form and process functionality.

SCT Listserves
You can access all of the SCT listserves and archives from a single URL. Go to http://lists.sct.com to subscribe or unsubscribe, to view a complete list of the listserves, or to access the archives.

For more information or if you have questions regarding the V6 Upgrade Project, contact: helpdesk@usg.edu, http://www.usg.edu/customer_services/, or 1-888-875-3697.

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