VistA Audit Solution (VAS)

DG*5.3*1120

Release Notes

June 2024

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Office of Information and Technology (OIT)

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1. Introduction

The Veterans Health Information System Technology Architecture (VistA) Audit Solution (VAS) was designed as a real-time web-based interface. VAS provides a nationwide Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant Audit Tracking Solution with the ability to track and report on access logs for patients' Personal Identifiable Information (PII)/Protected Health Information (PHI) data across all VistA instances. VAS users are Privacy Officers, Information System Security Officers (ISSO), and their authorized representatives who need the ability to view the log of Create, Read, Update and/or Delete (CRUD) operations on patient information to respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), HIPAA, employee and Inspector General (IG) requests. This data originates from VistA and flows through in-memory database servers to be stored in the Veterans Affairs Enterprise Cloud (VAEC) Amazon Web Services (AWS). The VAS web-based User Interface (UI) will access and display the data stored in AWS.

Authorized VAS users may view the patient data that was accessed and modified, as well as the individual that performed the actions.

1.1. Purpose

These release notes cover the changes implemented in the VistA Audit Solution (VAS) Admission, Discharge, Transfer (ADT)/Registration (DG) package made by the DG*5.3*1120 patch.

1.2. Audience

This document targets users and administrators of the ADT/Registration (DG) package and applies to the changes made between this release and any previous releases of this software.

2. This Release

This patch contains the following enhancements to the VistA Audit Solution

(VAS) DG VAS EXPORT job:

1. Create Alert for the VAS Export Switch in VistA

   A MailMan message alert will now be sent to members of the DG VAS MONITOR mail group when the VAS Export send status switch is changed. The VAS Export send status switch may be changed at the VAS STATUS prompt in the Modify VAS Parameters [DG VAS MODIFY] option in the VistA Audit Solution (VAS) options menu [DG VAS MENU]. The possible values of VAS STATUS send switch are:

0	Don't generate or send data
1	Generate and send data
2	Generate data, don't send

With the patch, if the value of the VAS STATUS send switch is modified from any value to any value, a MailMan message alert will be sent to all members of the DG VAS MONITOR mail group. The subject of the MailMan message contains the text VAS EXPORT SWITCH ALERT. The body of the MailMan message contains the new switch value, the old switch value, the date/time the switch was changed, the number of audit records waiting the VAS Export queue, and the maximum number of records allowed in the VAS Export queue.

Example, VAS Export Switch Alert

Subj: VAS EXPORT SWITCH ALERT 999 [#310785] 04/18/24@09:34 10 lines

From: NOREPLY.VA.GOV In 'IN' basket.   Page 1

The VistA Audit Solution (VAS) send status switch was changed at Station 500 (Test) (ALBANY-MDEVC) on Apr 18, 2024 at 09:34:06 New Value: 'Don't generate or send data' Old Value: 'Generate and send data' The ^DGAUDIT global contains 3 entries. The maximum number of entries in the queue is 60001. [10000000009]

NOTE: The number inside the brackets at the end of the alert is the Internal Entry Number of the user who performed the edit.

2. Don't Reset VAS Export Audit File Date

With this patch, the VAS Export audit file pointer date will not be reset to the current date/time every time the VAS STATUS send switch is set to 'send'. The DATE VAS STARTED field (#.04) will be set to the current date/time the FIRST time the switch is set to 'Send'. Subsequent changes to the VAS Export switch will not affect this date. This date is used by the VAS Export to identify the earliest audit date/time to retrieve from the AUDIT file (#1.1).

New (first time) installs of VAS Export will send audits occurring on or after the date/time the switch is initially set to 'Send'. Turning the switch off and then back to 'Send' will result in NO loss of update records. Inquire records may still be lost since they are not persisted in the AUDIT file (#1.1).

2.1.   New Features and Functions Added

The following are the new features and functions added in DG*5.3*1120:

1. Create Alert for the VAS Export Switch in VistA

A MailMan message alert will now be sent to members of the DG VAS MONITOR mail group when the VAS Export send status switch is changed. The VAS Export send status switch may be changed at the VAS STATUS prompt in the Modify VAS Parameters [DG VAS MODIFY] option in the VistA Audit Solution (VAS) options menu [DG VAS MENU]. The possible values of VAS STATUS send switch are:

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NOTE: The number inside the brackets at the end of the alert is the Internal Entry Number of the user who performed the edit.

2.2. Enhancements and Modifications to Existing

The following are the enhancements and modifications in DG*5.3*1120:

1. Don't Reset VAS Export Audit File Date

   With this patch, the VAS Export audit file pointer date will not be reset to the current date/time every time the VAS STATUS send switch is set to 'send'. The DATE VAS STARTED field (#.04) will be set to the current date/time the FIRST time the switch is set to 'Send'. Subsequent changes to the VAS Export switch will not affect this date. This date is used by the VAS Export to identify the earliest audit date/time to retrieve from the AUDIT file (#1.1).

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2.3. Known Issues

No known or open issues at this time.

3. Product Documentation

The following documents apply to this release:

- DG*5.3*1120 Patch Description
- DG*5.3*1120 DIBRG (Deployment, Installation, Back-out, and Rollback Guide)
- DG*5.3*1120 Release Notes
- PIMS_TM

Appendix A - Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ADT	Admission/Discharge/Transfer
API	Application Programming Interface
AWS	Amazon Web Services
CRUD	Create, Read/Inquire, Update, and Delete
DG	Registration package
DIBRG	Deployment, Installation, Back-Out, and Rollback Guide
FOIA	Freedom Of Information Act
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HWSC	HealtheVet Web Services Client
IG	Inspector General
ISSO	Information System Security Officer
OIT	Office of Information and Technology
PHI	Protected Health Information
PII	Personal Identifiable Information
PIMS	Patient Information Management System
PO	Privacy Officer
UI	User Interface
VA	Department of Veteran Affairs
VAEC	Veterans Affairs Enterprise Cloud
VAS	VistA Audit Solution
VistA	Veterans Health Information Systems Technology Architecture