

## QuickAlerts Messages August 2017

### QuickAlerts – August 4, 2017

**Subject:** Extended Maintenance Window - MeF Production and ATS Environments

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, August 06, 2017. The systems will be unavailable for accepting submissions from 12:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Eastern.

The build will deploy critical system updates. This extended window affects both the MeF Production and ATS Environments.

Thank you in advance for refraining from submitting any returns to the MeF Production and ATS Systems during this period.

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### QuickAlerts – August 4, 2017

**Subject:** Urgent Message for all e-Services Users

Planned Outage for all e-Service users; Impact to State e-file/TDS applications

The IRS is in the final stages of a technology upgrade for e-Services that will greatly improve the look and feel of various applications. However, there will be some temporary use issues that will occur as we make this transition:

1. There will be a complete outage of all e-Services tools, including Registration, Transcript Delivery System (TDS), and TIN Matching, from 6 p.m. EDT, Thursday, August 17, until 6 a.m. EDT, Monday, August 21. Applications also will be offline and resume August 22, except for state users. E-Services must be taken offline to complete the platform transition and to perform testing. This outage will affect all users, including bulk users such as IVES and TIN Matching.
2. All State tax agency users will be unable to submit new e-file and TDS applications for state coordinators or change existing e-file and TDS applications for state coordinators from August 17 until late October. This temporary issue will not affect state access to transcripts. If there is a critical need to add or remove an individual from a state application, states may contact their IRS government liaison representative who will notify appropriate IRS personnel.
3. Affordable Care Act Information Return (AIR) filers may resume submission of applications for Transmitter Control Codes starting on August 22. The application process for AIR users has been offline since July because of the e-Services platform transition.
4. A redesigned e-Services landing page will launch August 21.

The IRS urges all e-Services users to plan ahead to accommodate the temporary mid-August outage. States also should plan ahead for the temporary limitation on state e-file and state TDS applications. We apologize for the inconvenience. Please bear with us as we make these improvements.

This platform transition is part of a multi-year upgrade in technology support for e-Services. It is one in a series of steps being taken this year to improve e-Services usability and security.

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### QuickAlerts – August 4, 2017

**Subject:** Distribution of Modernized e-File (MeF) New Web Service Definition Language (WSDLs)

WSDLs for Tax Year 2017/Processing Year 2018 are now available.

The new WSDLs are scheduled to be installed in the MeF Test environment (ATS) in early fall of 2017. They will be required for MeF Production for Processing Year 2018.

As a reminder you should be using the "la.alt" (la.alt.www4) for ATS and "la" main" URL (la.www4) for Production environments.

WSDLs are available to valid software developers, transmitters or state users.

To receive the new WSDLs send an email to [MeF Mailbox](#) with the following information: company name and ETIN.

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### QuickAlerts – August 16, 2017

**Subject:** E-SERVICES OUTAGE POSTPONED

The IRS today announced that a planned outage of all e-Services tools and applications has been postponed. The extended delay will allow for some additional improvements to take place in the final product.

When a new date is set, we will issue a follow up QuickAlerts. Until further notice, all e-Services tools and applications are available to registered users, except for AIR users.

The Affordable Care Act Information Return (AIR) participants will be unable to submit new or change existing Transmitter Control Code applications until this platform upgrade takes place.

The planned outage, when it occurs, will allow for the e-Services suite of tools to be transferred to a new digital platform. The new platform will conclude a years-long effort to upgrade the technology for e-Services tools.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

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### QuickAlerts – August 16, 2017

**Subject:** New Schemas and Business Rules Available

Software Developers and State organizations will access and download Schemas and Business Rules from their e-Services mailbox. In order to access these files you must have an active e-Services account and be listed on an e-File application with the provider option of Software Developer or State. Your role must be Principal, Responsible Official, or Delegated User with MeF authorities.

[Instructions for accessing your e-Services mailbox](#)

The following schemas and business rules are updated and will be available Wednesday evening or Thursday morning:

- F1041 Business Rules TY2017v1.2
- F94X Annual 2017v2.0

- F94x Quarterly 2018v1.1
- F1065 2017v2.0
- F1120x 2017v3.0
- F990x 2017v1.0\_corrected
- F990x 2017v1.1
- F1040 2017v3.0
- F56 CU14.0

Note: Forms 2350, 4868 Version 1.0 and Form 9465CUv14.0, Business Rules and Schemas remain unchanged.

Please check [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for ATS and Production Availability.

You may have more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the set you would like to download. Messages only remain in accounts for 30 days before they are purged.

If you have the appropriate role and do not have these files available for download in your e-Services mailbox please contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.

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#### **QuickAlerts – August 16, 2017**

**Subject:** Extended Maintenance Window for MeF Production and ATS Environments

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended on Sunday, August 20, 2017. The systems will be unavailable from 1:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Eastern. The build will deploy critical system updates. This extended window affects the MeF Production and ATS Environments.

Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and ATS Systems during this period.

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#### **QuickAlerts – August 23, 2017**

**Subject:** Scheduled Maintenance for the ACA Information Return (AIR) System

The AIR System will be offline for scheduled maintenance during the following time periods:

- August 24, 2017, starting at 11:59 p.m. Eastern through 7:59 a.m. Eastern on August 27, 2017.
- September 7, 2017, starting at 11:59 p.m. Eastern through 7:59 a.m. Eastern on September 10, 2017.

Critical system updates will be deployed during this time period to both the AATS and Production environments. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during this time period.

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#### **QuickAlerts – August 25, 2017**

**Subject:** Modernized e-File (MeF) Systems Shutdown for Labor Day Weekend

All times shown in this communication are in Eastern Time Zone.

IRS will conduct the annual Labor Day Systems Shutdown beginning Saturday, September 2, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. and ending on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 6:00 a.m. The Modernized e-File Systems (both Production and ATS) will not be operational during this time frame.

Please refrain from accessing the MeF Systems to transmit business/individual/state tax returns, retrieve acknowledgements or submit any other service requests.

Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

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### **QuickAlerts – August 29, 2017**

**Subject:** Scheduled Maintenance for the ACA Information Return (AIR) System

The IRS will conduct its annual Labor Day systems maintenance outage beginning Friday, September 1, 2017, at 11:59 a.m. EST and ending on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. EST.

The AATS and Production environments will be unavailable during the maintenance. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during this time period.

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### **QuickAlerts – August 30, 2017**

**Subject:** Quick Alert #1 Important Update about Your e-Services Account

The IRS is planning a series of actions this summer and fall to improve e-Services usability and to improve e-Services security. The result will be a better product that will better protect you and your clients. All e-Services users will be affected by these actions. To review these improvements, see “Important Information about Your e-Services Account” at the e-Services landing page, [www.irs.gov/eservices](http://www.irs.gov/eservices). This is the first of two Quick Alerts. The second Quick Alert will focus on the planned e-Services outage schedule. Here’s an abbreviated overview.

There are three parts to this improvement effort:

1. Launching a new e-Services platform and landing page; As we move to a new e-Services program starting September 7, various products must be taken offline for us to complete the transition by September 12. (This is unrelated to the planned outage over Labor Day weekend.) Information about the outage is on [IRS.gov/e-Services](http://IRS.gov/e-Services) as well as in a companion Quick Alert #2.

2. Establishing a new e-Services user agreement;

In late October, you will be asked to review and accept the terms of a new user agreement. Please read this user agreement. Tax professionals using the services of certain intermediate service providers to access client transcripts will have additional requirements to meet.

3. Protecting e-Services accounts with our Secure Access authentication process.

Also in late October, all e-Services users must register through Secure Access authentication. Secure Access is a two-factor authentication process that will require returning users to enter their credentials (username and password) and a security code sent to the user. Also in late October, we will update the IRS2Go app with a new feature that will allow e-Services users to obtain the necessary security code through the app or via text to a mobile phone. Please go to “Important Information about Your e-

Services Account” at the e-Services landing page, [www.irs.gov/eservices](http://www.irs.gov/eservices), to see how these improvements will affect you. Again, all e-Services users will be affected by these actions.

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### **QuickAlerts – August 30, 2017**

**Subject:** Quick Alert #2 – Information about e-Services outages for September

There will be outages of e-Services products as we plan for routine maintenance at Labor Day and as we move e-Services to a new platform the following week.

IRS will conduct annual Labor Day maintenance on numerous electronic systems beginning Saturday, Sept. 2 at 8:00 p.m. ET and ending Tuesday Sept. 5 at 5:00 a.m. ET.

The Transcript Delivery System, TIN Matching, e-file Application, ACA and Registration Services will not be operational during this timeframe.

Additionally, we are announcing new dates for the transition of e-Services to a new platform. To complete this transition, we must take all products offline for varying times.

We have tried to limit the business impact of these outages. Here’s the schedule for the platform transition:

- 6 a.m. ET, Thursday, September 7: E-Services registration and the ability to apply for ACA, e-file, TIN Matching and IVES, will be unavailable; a redesigned e-Services web page will launch. If you go to the old landing page, you will be automatically redirected to the new page.
- 10 p.m. ET, Friday, September 8: Transcript Delivery System and TIN Matching will go offline.
- 6 a.m. ET, Monday, September 11: Transcript Delivery System and TIN Matching will be back online.
- 6 a.m. ET, Tuesday, September 12, the applications for ACA, e-File, TIN Matching and IVES will become available, including the ACA Information Return applications for the Transmitter Control Code.
- However, state users will be unable to submit new or change existing e-File and TDS applications from September 7 until late October. States will still retain access to TDS. States with a critical need to change employee applications should contact their IRS government liaison.

This is the second of two Quick Alerts today related to planned changes this summer and fall affecting all e-Services users. Please review “Important Update about Your e-Services Account” at [www.irs.gov/eservices](http://www.irs.gov/eservices).

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