

Internal Revenue Service: Fraud, Sabotage, & Malfeasance?

***Let us hold hands
and have a good cry
!!***

How did these people get this far?

What are they doing and dabbling in Engineering?

What are their qualifications?

Subject: FW: STIR and E-Filing

-----Original Message-----

From: Jantzen Kathy

Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2000 3:54 PM

To: Baer Martin E; Vajda William E; Lutes Terence H; Carson Gregory G; Fields Sherrill A; Blank JoAnn N

Cc: Burks James C; Dumais Jim A; Valentino Charles J; Roberts Catherine M; Gaul Jim E; Hua Cecil T; Steven Robert O

Subject: FW: STIR and E-Filing

Hi folks, Laretta Brown and I are simultaneously working an issue through BSMO, IS and ETA regarding the need for a web e-filing solution. Attached are our messages on the subject which highlight the disconnect with the STIR strategy as it applies to Tier B and C initiatives.

The bottom line is that STIR has been portrayed as the web host for registered and unregistered parties doing business with the Service. However, STIR has been scoped to focus solely on modernization initiatives (e-services, customer communication) with no plans to include e-filing applications. In response to public demand for web-based filing (bulk for transmitters), it is necessary for us to seek a solution outside of STIR to handle the internet demand (we have already contracted for web-hosting for filing of 8872s). This approach does not make sense in light of the fact that the first deliverable for e-services through STIR is a registration data base for the same third party transmitters that would be looking for a

internet bulk filing application. While it is not reasonable for the Service to delay web-based filing any longer in anticipation of a STIR strategy that will include Service needs beyond modernization, it also does not make sense to independently seek out web-hosting for every initiative that requires internet access over the next "X" amount of years. We need to develop a more robust strategy for STIR or a transition plan that allows legacy, TIER B and C development on a simultaneous track as STIR. We were originally on a heading to develop a web front-end to EMS and stopped because we were advised that STIR would provide this functionality. It appears not at this time.

I am sending this message to both IS and ETA to raise alert everyone of the issue and advise that I am looking for the proper forum to seek resolution.

Kathy

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-----Original Message-----

From: Brown Laretta
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2000 1:46 PM
To: Jantzen Kathy
Subject: RE: STIR and E-Filing

Kathy, I have been feeling as desperate as you regarding how we proceed to enable as much e-business through STIR as possible. My premise is that all "Internet" or web-enabled functionality is "modernization", therefore STIR should provide the infrastructure. However, in practice, it is not turning out that way. Due to the fact that we are awaiting the new Vision and Strategy out of the TAVS effort and the new architectural blueprint, STIR initial release has been scoped to support some very limited new business functionality. We have not looked at global requirements for the first release. The way modernization is proceeding, STIR will be building infrastructure directly in support of business delivery modernization projects. In your case, the e-Services project would drive what business functionality and in what sequence. It would be up to the e-Services project to decide what functions are included- not STIR. The question really centers around how do we support requirements that are outside of the e-Services scope for a given release. Unfortunately, STIR is not funded nor scoped to look beyond what PRIME is delivering.

I agree that this is shortsighted and does not serve the best interest of the IRS. What we are inadvertently doing is forcing the organization to build new "modernized" stovepipes. I have raised this issue to BSMO leadership and they realize there is an organizational concern around this whole issue, however no solution has been proposed. We have not planned the modernization to look at Tier A, B, and C projects as an integrated set of deliverables, therefore, Tier B projects are left building their own infrastructure. I will raise this issue once again with Tommy DeWeese and Bert Concklin to determine how to proceed. I believe this is something that will need to be discussed at the Paul Cosgrave level.

Laretta

-----Original Message-----

From: Jantzen Kathy
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2000 2:24 PM

To: Brown Laretta
Cc: Falter Coreen L; Burks James C; Steven Robert O; Cheek John C
Subject: STIR and E-Filing

Laretta,

Yesterday, my folks and I had a great briefing from Coreen and Dave Larsen on STIR. This was very timely for us since we have been struggling with what STIR will and will not be delivering and how it impacts our efforts on electronic filing (ELF). As you know, I am working in the legacy environment to deliver 80% ELF (per legislative mandates). A large part of this is EMS and how we receive bulk ELF filings from transmitters. We have been looking at ways to convert some of these transmitters over to a web-based bulk filing rather than a dial-up 56K link to EMS. ETA has gotten some pushback from small preparers who want to cut their costs with dedicated lines and take advantage of the internet. These preparers/transmitters want an internet option for bulk filing. The issue we have been struggling with is do we build a web front-end to EMS (build/outsource) or will STIR provide the registered portal for e-filing.

After yesterday's briefing it was quite clear that STIR does not have any plans to migrate e-filing into the immediate project schedule. In fact it also appeared that STIR would not provide any legacy solutions for quite some time and that all of STIR's deliverables would be associated with modernization projects. This is where I find the disconnect. There is no e-filing modernization effort and to my knowledge there does not appear to be any plans to start one. The window A deliverable for e-services is a registration data base for transmitters. These same transmitters are the folks who e-file with the Service. It does not make sense to me for STIR and e-services to be creating a registered portal for e-file transmitters to register with the Service via the internet and then ask those same transmitters to use a dial-up file transfer to submit their returns through a dedicated line through EMS. We should be looking at the registration portion of e-services with e-filing in mind. It will be the same third party customers, the same registered portal and will require the same authentication/verification routine.

We need to address the web-enabled bulk e-filing now. I believe our timeframe for the migration to a web e-filing application should be to have the functionality for the 2003 filing season. This appears to be consistent with the STIR registered portal availability. Without STIR I will need to take a separate avenue to secure this functionality. I do not believe that this direction is in the best interest of the Service. Any suggestions or ideas on how I can elevate this issue to the proper forum. Thanks

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