

TIGERS MeF Status and New on the Horizon

FTA Efile Symposium 2010

Terry Garber, TIGERS State Co-Chair

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Highlights of the Past Year

- Support for Fed/State efile for MeF 1040
- Tweaks for Fed/State efile for MeF 1120/1065
- Understanding the IAT
- New FSET Schema Package
- New Motor Fuel Schema Package
- New Streamlined Schema Package
- New, Improved Website www.statemef.com

MeF 1040 Support

- **Finalize State Schema Set**
 - Major Release one year ago
 - Adapted new IRS Return Header, including elements for Paid Preparer Information and Signature Options
 - Updated FinancialTransaction to allow states to customize transaction options and to support the IAT (or not!)
 - Added elements for special programs such as FFA
 - State versions of IRS W-2 and 1099-R

Next Steps for MeF

- **Requested changes to State Manifest**
 - Standardized Name Control format
 - State schema version
 - Use of temporary ids
- **Requested changes to Financial Transaction**
 - Amounts must be non-negative
 - Allow four digit tax type codes
- **Full Support for IAT**
- **Additional IRS forms such as W-2G, 1099-MISC**

Support for States Implementing MeF 1040

- Forum for discussion and swapping technology tips
- Review of schema sets for implementing states
- Establishment of Best Practices for implementing states

States schema review process

- Submit new schemas to TIGERS for review
- Send email to statemef@rsimail.com & copy Terry Garber at garbert@sctax.org
- Schemas are reviewed based on TIGERS standards and best practices documents.

States schema review process

- **Standards:**
http://www.statemef.com/projects/mef/TIGERS_MeF_STANDARDS.pdf
- **Best practices:**
http://www.statemef.com/projects/mef/Best_Practices_2008.pdf

States schema review process

- **Common schema review issues:**
 - Packaging & versioning issues
 - Tag name includes line numbers from form
 - Tag names longer than 31 characters
 - State enumerations missing
 - Mandatory parent tag with no mandatory children
 - Not current with latest common TIGERS schema release

New issues for States Implementing MeF 1040

- Use forward slashes in the path for include files.
 - Backslashes work on windows machine, but not Unix or Linux
- Change version number each time the schema is updated
 - Makes it easier to track changes
- Use same enumeration for Return Type in header and Submission Type in State Manifest

Best practices for States Implementing MeF 1040

- Create new types rather than restrict existing types.
 - Create new types for enumerated fields rather than adding enumerations to a string type
 - Create new type rather than adding pattern or length restrictions to existing types.
- Avoid using complex types where not all the elements are actually used.
 - Holdover from category based

Best practices for States Implementing MeF 1040

- Try to be consistent with legacy during this transition period.
 - Developers had little flexibility support MeF differences from legacy due to volume management restrictions
- Avoid required PDF attachments
- Put xpath in acknowledgement, especially for validation errors
- Document tags with form and line number

Best practices for States Implementing MeF 1040

- Boolean vs. checkbox
 - Use Boolean when there is a yes/no box set on the form
 - Use checkbox when there is one of more single checkboxes on the form
 - Typically not mutually exclusive
 - For mutually exclusive checkboxes, create a type with enumerations
 - i.e. – Filing Status

Best practices for States Implementing MeF 1040

- Business rules (a.k.a. reject codes)
 - Granular
 - Use schema to enforce mandatory tags & data format
 - Consistent with legacy
 - Organize by category (follow IRS)
 - Rule number should indicate form number or type of error (follow IRS)

Going forward with State MeF

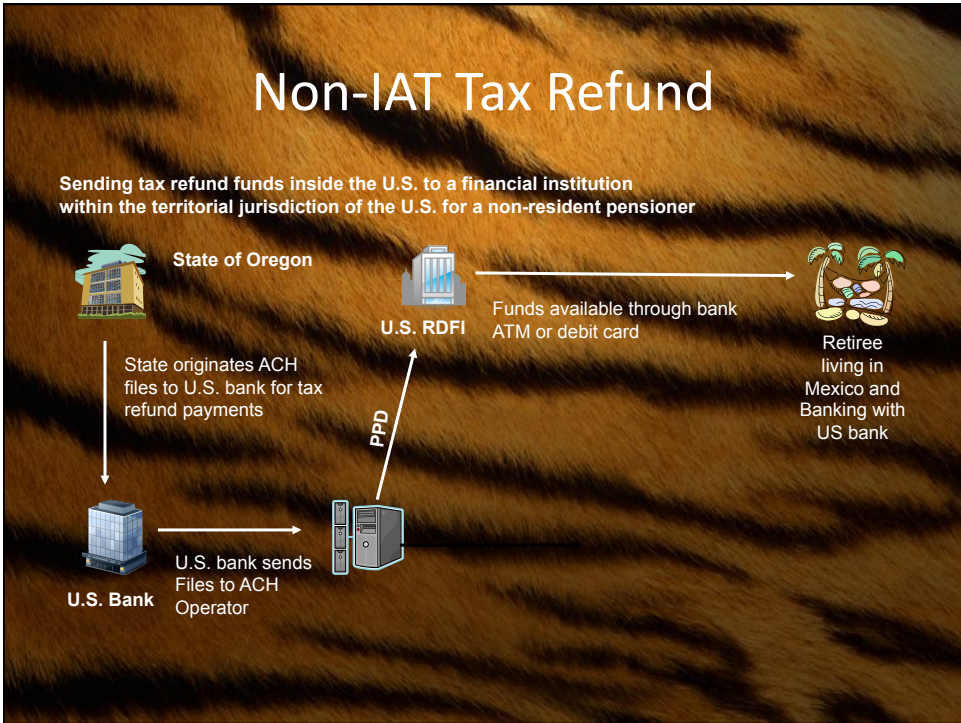
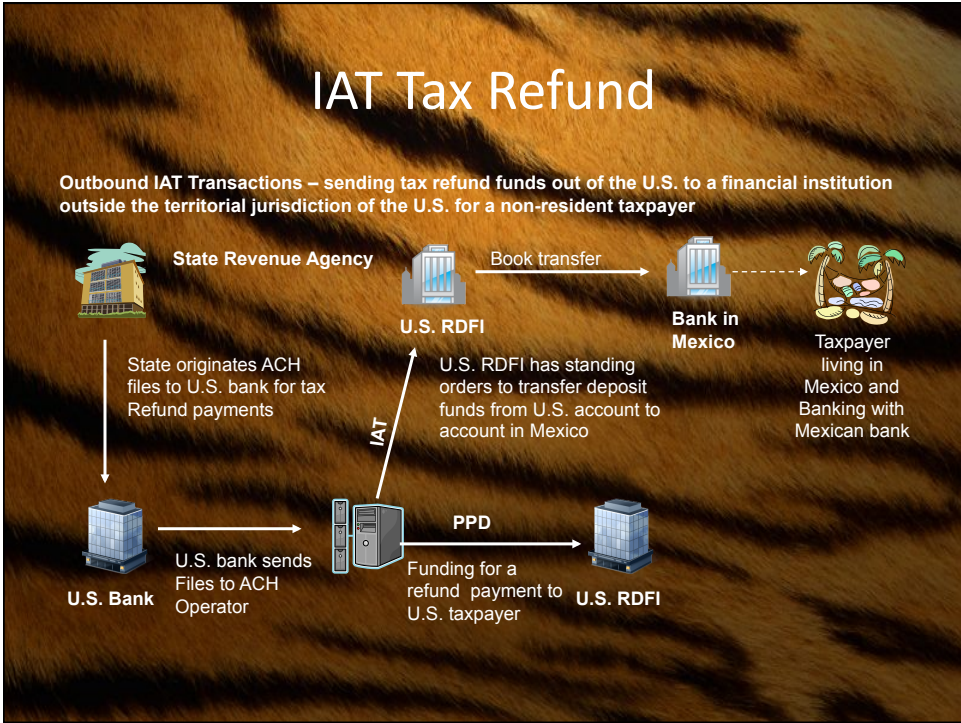
- There should be a significant jump in TY10 MeF volume as IRS volume restrictions will probably be lifted.
- Opportunity for developers to self-test with business rules.

Tweaks for MeF 1120/1065

- Major release one year ago
- Header changes common with MeF 1040
- FinancialTransaction common with MeF 1040
- Widespread adoption – most states now “forms based” in state schema sets
- Reviewed schema sets for new states implementing MeF 1120/1065.

Understanding the IAT

- NACHA International ACH Transaction (IAT)
- Implemented September 2009
- Worked with NACHA to clarify what makes an international transaction
- Added indicators to schemas and to legacy efile record to identify IAT situations
- Most states choose to default to other forms of payment rather than support IAT



New FSET Schema Package

- Fed/State Employment Taxes, including state Withholding and Unemployment Insurance
- Updated schema set to use MeF common elements, especially Return Header and FinancialTransaction
- New specification for states to build a web services gateway to make FSET more like MeF for industry partners
- TIGERS FSET webinar set for May 12 2:30pm

New Motor Fuel Schema Set

- New name – “MFET” for Motor Fuel Excise Tax
- Finalized schema set using MeF common components such as ReturnHeader and FinancialTransaction, but customized at return data level for standard Motor Fuel filings such as Supplier and Terminal Operator
- Now waiting for states to adopt XML efile for Motor Fuel

New Streamlined Schema Set

- Changes approved by Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board
- Eliminated Information Report and other unused schemas
- Header and FinancialTransaction more similar to MeF, though still unique to SST
- Implemented nation-wide this past weekend

TIGERS Website Improvements

- Still www.statemef.com
- New template with “tiger” logo
- Simpler navigation
- Key information such as upcoming meetings right on home page
- More information on each project
- Google search engine
- Removed “deadwood”


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WELCOME TO TIGERS - A TASK GROUP OF ANSI ASC X12

What is TIGERS? It is the source for electronic data interchange format standards for tax and revenue administration. TIGERS was formed in 1991 to address EDI standards, but has worked with XML standards since 2000. TIGERS stands for "Tax Implementation Group for E-Commerce Requirements Standardization," but we are really Task Group 2 of the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee X12 Government Subcommittee.

TIGERS is recognized by the IRS as the official source of state XML standards for Fed/State Modernized eFile programs for all tax types. TIGERS is also chartered to develop technical standards for compliance with the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement. Other nationally implemented standards include the Fed/State Employment Taxes (FSET) program and the Motor Fuel Uniformity Committee Electronic Commerce filing program.

As a part of X12, TIGERS is open to all interested organizations, including federal and state government agencies, developers of tax software, tax practitioners and transmitters, and taxpayer organizations. All data standards are approved through a strict process of consensus voting.

Please follow our links to learn more about TIGERS, and to download TIGERS XML standards and other work products.

Upcoming Meetings/Webinars

- TIGERS Meeting (August 4-6, 2010 Atlanta, GA)
- 2010 FTA Technology Conference and Exhibition (August 1-4, 2010 Atlanta, GA)
- TIGERS FSET Webinar (May 12, 2010) Register now

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- TIGERS Meeting (August 4-6, 2010 Atlanta, GA)
- 2010 FTA Technology Conference and Exhibition (August 1-4, 2010 Atlanta, GA)
- TIGERS Webinar (April 20, 2010)

What's New

- Fed State Through 01-31-10 (02/09/2010)
- SST 2010v01 (02/01/2010)
- Fed State Through 11-30-09 (12/10/2009)
- TIGERS MeF Standards 11/14/09 (12/09/2009)
- State Individual Package V2.2 (11/12/2009)
- State Business Package V2.2 (11/12/2009)

Projects

- MeF - Fed/State Modernized eFile
- FSET - Fed/State Employment Taxes
- MFET - Motor Fuel Excise Tax
- FER - Sales Tax Full Electronic Return
- SST - Streamlined Sales Tax

Current Status

- MeF State Contacts and Progress Tracking

Resources

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http://www.statemef.com/mef_new.shtml

meF

TIGERS MODERNIZED eFILE (MeF) - FED/STATE eFILE PROGRAMS

The materials on this page are resources for state participation in the IRS Modernized eFile (MeF) electronic filing programs. These include standard XML schemas that have been developed by consensus action of the TIGERS group. They also include the Standards document detailing use of the schemas, plus additional documents to provide guidance to states, software developers, and practitioners. For the 2010 filing season, Fed/State MeF programs include Fed/State 1120 (Corporate Tax), Fed/State 1065 (Partnership Tax), and Fed/State 1040 (Individual Income Tax).

MeF

- Common Schema Components
- Individual Income (1040)
- Corporate/Partnership (1120/1065)

Background Documents

- MeF 101
- eFile Development Process
- Corp Process 101
- Considerations in Migrating to MeF

IRS Documents

- IRS MeF Production Forms Status Update
- IRS 1040 MeF Planned Implementation Phases
- IRS ETA MeF 1040 Fall Filing Meeting Notes
- IRS 1040 Fall Filing Working Group Presentation


Current Status Documents

- TIGERS Standards Document
- MeF State Contacts and Progress Tracking
- TIGERS Best Practices (Updated)
- Developer and ERO Manuals Table of Contents
- State Filing Numbers Through 12-31-09
- TIGERS Schema Review Process (Final)
- State Specification URLs
- State 1040 MeF Development Status

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http://www.statemef.com/meetings_new.shtml

meetings



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Meetings

April 2010 - Webinar

- April 20 MeF Webinar Minutes
- April 6 Webinar Minutes

December 2009 - Webinar

- December 10 MeF Webinar Minutes

October 2009 - Webinar

- October 1 FSET Webinar Minutes

September 2009 - Webinar

- September 30 MeF Webinar Minutes

IAT Webinars

- IAT Development
- Summary of IAT Call
- IAT Development Follow-up

August 2009 - Boise, ID

- August 2009 Minutes
- NATCP TIGERS Joint Session Presentation
- FTA Tax Technology Conference Presentation
- NATCP e-help Presentation

Questions???

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