

FDIC News

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2020

Moving On

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As Reliance on Technology Grows, CIOO Works to Strengthen EFX

Since the agency implemented mandatory telework policy in March in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, we have all become more reliant on technology in our personal, as well as professional lives. More than ever, technology has been crucial to the FDIC's ability to continue to fulfill its mission, and the CIOO is working to ensure that our systems are secure and reliable.

Take, for example, the FDIC's Enterprise File Exchange (EFX) tool, which is used to securely transfer files to and from business partners such as financial institutions, service providers, federal and state regulators, and other external parties. Since March, EFX has seen a nearly 200 percent increase in usage. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, EFX averaged about 20,000 file exchanges a day. Today, the tool averages more than three times as many file exchanges daily and hit an all-time record of 142,000 file exchanges in a single day.

The EFX tool was able to scale to support the rapidly increasing needs of the FDIC's remote workforce, but not

without challenges. For instance, some users experience connectivity issues and system outages. In response, the CIOO's EFX team has been working to increase the tool's resiliency by following the lead set by industry leaders such as Amazon and Netflix. According to Sedatrist Ballard, Senior IT Project Manager, CIOO is using "innovative features and a new development model" to rapidly improve the tool. This includes fine-tuning the configuration of the hosting platform (Cloud.gov) to establish direct connections with Amazon Web Services that will prevent—or at least significantly reduce—service disruptions.

"Our team knows we have challenges to address and we are committed to driving change and addressing those challenges," said Ken Weaver, Senior Technology Advisor in CIOO. The EFX team works closely with partners in CISR, DCP, DRR, Legal, and RMS to prioritize business line needs and provide new EFX system features. The team

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CIOO WORKS TO STRENGTHEN EFX

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releases updates every six to seven weeks for continuous EFX improvement and delivery.

One of those updates in late July gave users the ability to upload audio and video files. The EFX team also implemented a feature, similar to the pop-up notifications users may receive when Microsoft Teams experience system connectivity issues, to let users know if they have an issue with their personal internet connectivity. In addition, EFX now has the ability to maintain data feeds from other systems even when those systems are

unavailable. For example, if BankFind is down, EFX will retain the latest BankFind data.

EFX was launched in response to feedback from external stakeholders, including banking trade groups, asking for an easier and more secure way to transfer files electronically. The feedback was received in January 2019 and within nine months EFX was successfully implemented.

“Working on the EFX project and with the EFX project team has been one of the highlights of my career,” said Kay Henley, Financial Analyst Team Leader in RMS. “After adjusting for a few

challenges due to increased pandemic demand, I have been told by many users, internally and externally, that EFX is now one of their favorite FDIC applications. And I cannot give enough compliments to the EFX team. They constantly monitor and proactively remediate issues with the application and EFX users, including bankers, federal and state regulators, FDIC staff, and other users. It has truly been a pleasure working with the team and on the project.”

For more information about EFX, visit the EFX webpage. To submit feedback or ask questions, send an email to EFX-Production@fdic.gov. 📧

MOVING ON

Name: Sean Bartholomew

Most recent position: Senior Examiner, Large Financial Institutions in the Jamesburg, NJ Field Office

Division: RMS

Location: Jamesburg, NJ Field Office

When and where joined the FDIC: On Saint Patrick’s Day, March 17, 1986, I was assigned to the Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Field Office as an Assistant Examiner (Trainee) for the whopping sum of \$18K/year.

Career highlights: I examined a lot of banks in bad times (e.g., the bank and S&L crises of late 1980s/early 1990s, Y2K, dot com bubble, Great Recession) and good (there were some amazing bull markets between the aforementioned crises). I visited many places within and outside my home region (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Illinois, Arizona, Texas, Utah, Georgia, Michigan, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington, and California) for work and training. I helped a Managing Agent run an insolvent S&L in Nacogdoches, Texas for nine weeks in 1989. I worked on the Y2K project from 1997 to 2000. I settled in as a CG-12 workhorse from 2000–2010, conducting exams of all

types (e.g., S&S, IT, Trust, BSA, de novo, 10+ SNC assignments). I was promoted to IT Examiner in Jamesburg, NJ in 2010 and LFI Examiner in Blue Bell, PA from 2012–2016 and Jamesburg, NJ 2016–2020. Along the way I completed the IT OJT program, obtained the CISA designation, completed ABA’s Stonier Graduate School of Banking, and completed three CFI details, with DRR, DIR, and OCFI (now CISR). Also served as NTEU Chapter President of Chapter 244 FDIC/NY from 2005 through 2019, ensuring that my coworkers were treated with dignity and respect; negotiating many collective bargaining and compensation agreements; and serving on Chairman Bair’s PMR design team, the Labor Management Forum, and the Workplace Excellence Council. Most important highlight: I met my wife at the FDIC!

Retirement Date: August 29, 2020

Plans for retirement: Short term – I will visit my father in Florida. Longer term – I will take some time to decompress, prepare for my daughter’s graduation from college in May 2021 and my son’s wedding in October 2021, and consider my options, while avoiding the Pennsylvania winters as much as possible.



Comments and thoughts: The FDIC treated me fairly and offered me many opportunities to make meaningful contributions on a variety of fronts. Through those opportunities, as I look back with pride, I hold a feeling of accomplishment in helping the FDIC achieve its very important mission. What really sticks with me, however, is the class of my many colleagues over the years. Truly, some of the brightest and most thoughtful characters I could ever hope to encounter! 📧

MOVING ON

Name: Chuck Lacek

Most recent position: Financial Analyst

Division: Division of Risk Management Supervision

Location: Arlington, VA

When and where joined the FDIC: Willmar, Minnesota Field Office in the Minneapolis Regional Office in November 1984; first job out of college.

Career highlights: The first examination I participated in was a troubled bank about 60 miles from my hometown. That bank failed seven months later. While I was at the closing, my family, including my grandmother, saw me on the local TV news standing in the background in the bank vault. My field office was announced to be closed a year after I started and I was relocated to the Rochester, Minnesota Field Office in 1986. I participated in exams throughout the Kansas

City Region, and was detailed to exams in the New York and San Francisco Regions. I became a subject matter expert for electronic banking when this internet thing started. In 2003, I was promoted as a project manager for RMS software applications and I moved to headquarters in Washington, DC. I became a certified Project Management Professional and since that time have worked on nearly every RMS application.

Retirement Date: August 29, 2020

Plans for retirement: When we moved to the DC area in 2003, it was our plan to move away when I retired. However, my wife and I are planning to stay in the DC area. One of our sons and his family lives close by, and our other son and his family lives in Minnesota. Our plans include visiting extended family, spending more time with grandchildren, and traveling.

Comments and thoughts: I have en-



joyed working for the FDIC. I have had two careers within the FDIC, one as an examiner and the other as a project manager. 🏠

Name: Jay Rosenstein

Most recent position: Senior Writer/Editor

Division: OCOM

Location: Headquarters

When and where joined the FDIC: November 1989, Headquarters.

Career highlights: TCreating FDIC Consumer News in 1993 and serving as the editor for 25 years. In addition, I enjoyed 20 years of fun writing the “Inside/Out” column for FDIC News that features unusual or humorous topics from the work and history of the FDIC.**Retirement Date:** September 30, 2020

Plans for retirement: Finishing two

books (one a history book about great basketball players who fell one step short of the NBA, the other a children’s picture book about night workers) and volunteering in my community.

Comments and thoughts: In my 31 years at the FDIC I met so many nice, fun, interesting people. That’s what I’ll miss the most.

(Read more about Jay’s career from the 2018 FDIC News article on the 25th Anniversary of the FDIC Consumer News – https://fdicnet.fdic.gov/content/ocom/home/publications/fdic-news/dec-2018/consumer_news_25yrs.html) 🏠

