



January 18, 2012

Check Platform Modernization Initiative

To All Check Services Customers

As announced on June 15, 2011, the Federal Reserve Banks have embarked on an initiative to modernize the System's check processing platform. Migration to the new platform is targeted to occur in the second half of 2012 and will result in a fully centralized, scalable, and flexible processing environment to support high quality, efficient check services.

At this time we would like to provide additional information regarding customer and processor testing opportunities as well as highlight several operational changes that will occur with the migration.

Customer Testing

The Federal Reserve Banks will be completing rigorous internal and customer testing as part of the implementation process. Internal testing is underway, and we are already communicating with the processor/vendor community on our customer testing approach. We expect to begin testing with processors/vendors by the end of the first quarter and the larger customer community in the second quarter.

All financial institutions that send and receive files directly to our electronic check processing system, as well as processors and financial institutions that send and receive files on behalf of other financial institutions, will be encouraged to test with us. Customer testing will occur in waves, with each wave lasting approximately two to three weeks.

Processors and financial institutions that send and receive files directly to our electronic check processing system will be notified of their specific test window well in advance, and at that time, will be provided a testing packet that will include the specifics of the testing process. We encourage you to work with your processor/vendor on the appropriate level of testing for your primary and backend systems. If you prefer to test directly with the Federal Reserve rather than through your processor, please contact Harold Voss at (404) 460-9090 or email at harold.a.voss@atl.frb.org no later than February 15, 2012 so that other arrangements may be made.

Operational Changes

The migration to the new platform is expected to have minimal impact on customers and processors. You will continue to send and receive files through your current connectivity channel, all file formats will remain the same, and all file validations and edits will remain unchanged.

There are a few changes, however, that we would like to highlight for you at this time. Since the new platform results in a centralized processing environment, all check accounting and billing transactions reflected on your Fed Statement will originate from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta once the transition occurs. In addition, as an enhancement to our existing services, the Federal Reserve will create FedReceipt[®] Presentment Notifications similar to the service provided for Deposit Acknowledgements. These notices will contain file and cash letter details, and customers can elect to receive these presentment notifications via e-mail.

Further details on these and other changes will be included with the testing packet that will be distributed prior to your test window.

For your convenience, information regarding this initiative can be found on the [Check Platform Modernization Resource Center](#). As always, feel free to contact Check Services Customer Support at (877) 372-2457.

We appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to provide you with efficient, high-quality payments services.



Robert A. Love
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