Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the PTAC – March 2023
by James Gerraughty,
PTAC Program Manager

It's unseasonably warm, I have March blooms coming up since mid-February, and a bunch of things have popped up since I last wrote!

Aside from the awkward "Hi, I'm James from the Southern Alleghenies PTAC, er, APEX Accelerator…" introductions, things have been going along pretty smoothly. We've submitted our goals to DoD, and there is a big change on the specificity and focus of goals. For example, instead of having X number of outreach events, we have to specify the type and number of outreach events, e.g. "We're going to host 5 outreach events on cybersecurity this program year." That is one of our (many) goals set, by the way.

Related to the outreach events, we have had a lot of federal, state, and local government agencies reaching out to us for either more information or looking to work with us to get information out to people, businesses, and communities in the area. I, and our APEX staff, are good with this!

In the next few weeks, we're going to have various training courses, a 50/50 mix of online and in-person. We have one coming up on March 7th on the new SBA VetCert program, which took over the Veteran-Owned business certifications from the VA at the beginning of 2023. We also have some webinars and in-person events on a little-known topic called cybersecurity and government contracting in mid- and late-March. All of these events are free to attend, but you must register. You can review and register for upcoming events on our **eCenter page**.

If you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about something, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or **by email**. (That email address will likely change, but it will still get to us).

A Change in SAM.gov will Affect Access for Some Entity Administrators
By Kenneth Goldman, GSA

All SAM.gov users have specified roles, with each type of role offering different levels of ability to interact with the system. **Beginning March 3, 2023,** Entity Administrator roles can only be held by employees, officers, or board members of the organization. A comprehensive role with elevated responsibilities, this change to the Entity Administrator role ensures the entity is in control of and accountable for who can update their registration in SAM.gov, while allowing entities to continue to use service providers to manage their entity registration, if they wish.

If you use an outside service to manage your registration, or if you provide registration management services to other organizations, this change to SAM.gov roles may impact you. The outside service and/or the entity may need to take action to ensure entities can manage access to their entities.

Effective March 3, 2023, when you register an entity or update an entity registration, you must attest to your affiliation with the entity. If you are not an employee, officer, or board member of the entity, you will no longer be able to hold the Entity Administrator role. Instead, you will be given the Data Entry role. With that role, you can continue to register new entities, manage updates, and renew entity registrations, but you can't manage user roles. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 2-28-2023)

DOD eyes June 2023 for final CMMC proposed rule release
By Nick Wakeman, Editor-in-Chief, Washington Technology

The new cybersecurity standard for the defense industrial base will likely not be final until 2024. Companies still have options available to get ready before the final proposed rules go out.

The White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs had some surprises in its agenda released in the fall.

One surprise is that instead of one rule, DOD is planning for two rules to enforce how government contractors and their subcontractors protect controlled unclassified information in their systems. OIRA's agenda says June is when DOD expects to release the final proposed rules.

Those anxiously awaiting the next steps for DOD's Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification standard may see it as a surprise to see two rules instead of one.

But two rules is not a bad thing, according to Cyber Accreditation Body CEO Matthew Travis. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 2-28-2023)

White House Mulls Scaling up Login-dot-gov to Reach Every American
By Natalie Alms, Staff Writer, Government Executive

A draft of a long-awaited executive order covering digital identity includes a push to make government-owned Login-dot-gov an option for most federal benefits programs.

The White House appears set to give Login-dot-gov, a digital identity service run by the General Services Administration, a leading role in providing access to public benefits programs, according to a draft executive order obtained by FCW.

The order was first promised in the 2022 State of the Union address as part of a plan to cut down on fraud in benefits programs in the wake of reports of massive identity theft in relief programs launched or expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government Accountability Office recently gave a low-end estimate of at least $60 billion in fraud in the unemployment system alone for the 18-month period starting in April 2020.

Under the terms of the draft, GSA would be tasked with scaling up its homegrown Login-dot-gov identity verification and authentication services to reach the entire U.S. population. The draft order also calls for Login-dot-gov services to be made available for use in state and local programs. Individual Login accounts would be reusable across agencies. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 2/28/2023)

About US

The PTAC/APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The PTAC/APEX Accelerator stands ready to support businesses in the central PA Alleghenies region in the pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide.

Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the PTAC/APEX Accelerator are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the PTAC/APEX Accelerator will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards.

Contact us today at the PTAC/APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC to get started!
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