

VistA Audit Solution (VAS)

DG*5.3*1108

Release Notes



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1. Introduction

The Veterans Health Information System Technology Architecture (VistA) Audit Solution (VAS) was designed as a real-time web-based interface. VAS provides a nationwide Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant Audit Tracking Solution with the ability to track and report on access logs for patient's Personal Identifiable Information (PII)/Protected Health Information (PHI) data across all VistA instances. VAS users are Privacy Officers, Information System Security Officers (ISSO), and their authorized representatives who need the ability to view the log of Create, Read, Update and/or Delete (CRUD) operations on patient information to respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), HIPAA, employee and Inspector General (IG) requests. This data originates from VistA and flows through in-memory database servers to be stored in the Veterans Affairs Enterprise Cloud (VAEC) Amazon Web Services (AWS). The VAS web-based User Interface (UI) will access and display the data stored in AWS.

Authorized VAS users may view the patient data that was accessed and modified, as well as the individual that performed the actions.

1.1. Purpose

These release notes cover the changes implemented in the VistA Audit Solution (VAS) Admission, Discharge, Transfer (ADT)/Registration (DG) package made by the DG*5.3*1108 patch.

1.2. Audience

This document targets users and administrators of the ADT/Registration (DG) package and applies to the changes made between this release and any previous releases of this software.

2. This Release

This patch contains the following enhancements to the VistA Audit Solution.

(VAS) DG VAS EXPORT job:

1. Increase the Max Entries in VAS Queue parameter maximum value

The MAX ENTRIES IN DG VAS QUEUE (#46.3) parameter is a file entry in the PARAMETER DEFINITION file (#8989.51). The VALUE DOMAIN field, which defines the lower and upper boundaries of the parameter's value, has been changed from a range of zero to sixty thousand (0:60000) to a range of one thousand to one million (1000:1000000) to prevent data loss data when software, hardware, or network issues temporarily prevent the transmission of audit data from VistA to the VAS cloud application. The default value of the parameter remains unchanged (60000), but the increased maximum queue size is available to optionally allow sites to store a greater number of audit transactions in the VAS Export Queue.

2. Add Sending Station Information to VAS Audit Record

VAS audit records sent by the VAS export contain the name and number of the Station associated with the VistA user who accessed the veteran (patient) record, but they do not contain

the sending station name or number; often these two values are the same, but they may differ when a VistA user logs in to VistA remotely. To address this, the sending facility's station name and number are being added to the audit record and sent to the VAS server.

3. Capture Source Audit Data in Invalid JSON Error

The 'Missing or Invalid JSON' error logged by the VAS Export job does not capture any of the original source audit data, making it impossible to determine which audit record caused the error or the datum that could not be encoded. The JSON encoded record is not validated until just before the record is sent to the VAS server, at which time there is no way to trace the empty record back to the original audit event. The audit record's JSON format is now validated immediately after the attempt is made to encode the audit data into JSON format, prior to placing the record into the VAS export queue. If the JSON encoding fails validation, the 'Missing or Invalid JSON' error is logged prior to placing the empty record in the VAS Export queue. The source audit information is still available to the VAS Export software at this time, ensuring the source audit record information is captured to assist with troubleshooting.

2.1. New Features and Functions Added

N/A

2.2. Enhancements and Modifications to Existing

The following are the enhancements and modifications in DG*5.3*1108.

- The DG VAS EXPORT job contains the follow enhancements:
 - The MAX ENTRIES IN DG VAS QUEUE (#46.3) parameter is a file entry in the PARAMETER DEFINITION file (#8989.51). The VALUE DOMAIN field, which defines the lower and upper boundaries of the parameter's value, has been changed from a range of zero to sixty thousand (0:60000) to a range of one thousand to one million (1000:1000000) to prevent data loss data when software, hardware, or network issues temporarily prevent the transmission of audit data from VistA to the VAS cloud application. The default value of the parameter remains unchanged (60000), but the increased maximum queue size is available to optionally allow sites to store a greater number of audit transactions in the VAS Export Queue.
 - VAS audit records sent by the VAS export contain the name and number on the Station associated with the VistA user who accessed the veteran (patient) record, but they do not contain the sending station name or number; often these two values are the same, but they may differ when a VistA user logs in to VistA remotely. To address this, the sending facility's station name and number are being added to the audit record and sent to the VAS server.
 - The 'Missing or Invalid JSON' error logged by the VAS Export job does not capture any of the original source audit data, making it impossible to determine which audit record caused the error or the datum that could not be encoded. The JSON encoded data is not validated until just before the record is sent to the VAS server, at which time there is no way to trace the empty record back to the original

audit event. The audit record's JSON format is now validated immediately after the attempt is made to encode audit data into JSON format, prior to placing the record into the VAS export queue. If the JSON encoding fails validation, the 'Missing or Invalid JSON' error is logged prior to placing the empty record in the VAS Export queue. The source audit data is still available to the VAS Export software at this time, ensuring the source audit data is captured to assist with troubleshooting.

2.3. Known Issues

No known or open issues at this time.

3. Product Documentation

The following documents apply to this release:

- DG*5.3*1108 Patch Description
- DG*5.3*1108 DIBRG (Deployment, Installation, Back-out, and Rollback Guide)
- DG*5.3*1108 Release Notes

Appendix A - Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ADT	Admission/Discharge/Transfer
API	Application Programming Interface
AWS	Amazon Web Services
CRUD	Create, Read/Inquire, Update, and Delete
DG	Registration package
DIBRG	Deployment, Installation, Back-Out, and Rollback Guide
FOIA	Freedom Of Information Act
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HWSC	HealtheVet Web Services Client
IG	Inspector General
ISSO	Information System Security Officer
OIT	Office of Information and Technology
PHI	Protected Health Information
PII	Personal Identifiable Information
PIMS	Patient Information Management System
PO	Privacy Officer
UI	User Interface
VA	Department of Veteran Affairs
VAEC	Veterans Affairs Enterprise Cloud
VAS	VistA Audit Solution
VistA	Veterans Health Information Systems Technology Architecture