Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Finance Integrated Billing (IB) and Accounts Receivable (AR)

Phase 2

PRCA*4.5*420

Deployment, Installation, Back-Out, and Rollback Guide (DIBRG)

July 2023

Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Information and Technology (OIT)

Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
7/13/2023	V1	Initial release	VHA Finance IBAR Development Team

Artifact Rationale

This document describes the Deployment, Installation, Back-out, and Rollback Plan for new products going into the VA Enterprise. The plan includes information about system support, issue tracking, escalation processes, and roles and responsibilities involved in all those activities. Its purpose is to provide clients, stakeholders, and support personnel with a smooth transition to the new product or software, and should be structured appropriately, to reflect particulars of these procedures at a single or at multiple locations.

Per the Veteran-focused Integrated Process (VIP) Guide, the Deployment, Installation, Back-out, and Rollback Plan is required to be completed prior to Critical Decision Point #2 (CD #2), with the expectation that it will be updated throughout the lifecycle of the project for each build, as needed.

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1.   Introduction

This document describes how to deploy and install the VHA Finance Accounts Receivable (AR) Enhancements patch PRCA*4.5*420 as well as how to back-out the product and roll back to a previous version or data set. This document is a companion to the project charter and management plan for this effort.

1.1   Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide a single, common document that describes how, when, where, and to whom the VHA Finance Accounts Receivable Enhancements patch PRCA*4.5*420 will be deployed and installed, as well as how it is to be backed out and rolled back, if necessary. The plan also identifies resources, communications plan, and rollout schedule. Specific instructions for installation, back-out, and rollback are included in this document.

1.2   Dependencies

Following patches must be installed prior to installing PRCA*4.5*420:

- (v)PRCA*4.5*371 <<= must be installed BEFORE PRCA*4.5*420
- (v)PRCA*4.5*400 <<= must be installed BEFORE PRCA*4.5*420

1.3   Constraints

This product is intended for a fully patched Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) system.

2.   Roles and Responsibilities

The deployment, installation, back-out, and rollback roles and responsibilities are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Deployment, Installation, Back-out, and Rollback Roles and Responsibilities

Team	Phase / Role	Tasks
Health Product Support	Deployment	Plan and schedule deployment (including orchestration with vendors).
Health Product Support and existing local VA Medical Center (VAMC) and Consolidated Patient Account Center (CPAC) processes	Deployment	Determine and document the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the deployment.
Health Product Support and Veteran-focused Integrated Process (VIP) Release Agent	Deployment	Test for operational readiness.
Health Product Support	Deployment	Execute deployment.

Team	Phase / Role	Tasks
Designated VistA patch installer for this package	Installation	Plan and schedule installation.
Designated VistA patch installer for this package and VIP Release Agent	Installation	Ensure authority to operate and that certificate authority security documentation is in place.
CPAC Revenue Analysts	Installations	Coordinate training.
Designated VistA patch installer for this package, and CPAC Revenue Analysts, Health Product Support, and Development Team	Back-out	Confirm availability of back-out instructions and back-out strategy (what are the criteria that trigger a back-out).
Product Development Team during warranty period, afterwards (software only) Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 / VistA Maintenance	Post Deployment	Hardware, Software, and System Support.

3.   Deployment

The deployment is planned as a simultaneous national rollout to all 130 VistA production instances. This section provides the schedule and milestones for the deployment.

3.1   Timeline

The deployment and installation are scheduled to run for 30 days starting with the National Release date and concluding with the National Compliance date, by which time all 130 VistA production instances should have the patch installed.

3.2   Site Readiness Assessment

This section discusses the locations that will receive the VHA Finance Accounts Receivable patch PRCA*4.5*420 deployment.

3.2.1   Deployment Topology (Targeted Architecture)

Deployment topology (targeted architecture) is not applicable for a VistA patch.

3.2.2   Site Information (Locations, Deployment Recipients)

All 130 VistA production instances. The Initial Operating Capabilities (IOC) test sites for this project were Edward J Hines VA Hospital (Chicago, IL) (578), VA Central Plains Health Network (Omaha Division) (636), and VA Western New York Health Care System (Buffalo) (528).

3.2.3 Site Preparation

This patch does not require any site preparations other than the prerequisite patch installation as described in the Patch Description and in the National Patch Module (NPM) in Forum.

3.3 Resources

The VHA Finance Accounts Receivable Enhancements patch PRCA*4.5*420 is a VistA patch and does not require any special or specific resources other than an existing and functional VistA system.

3.3.1 Hardware

There is no specific hardware required other than that which already hosts the VistA system. This is a software enhancement that will not require additional hardware.

3.3.2 Software

There is no specific software required other than that which already hosts the VistA system.

3.3.3 Communications

When VistA patches are nationally released from the Forum NPM, the patch is automatically sent to the targeted VistA systems nationwide. When VistA patches are installed at a site, a notification is sent back to the NPM to track which sites have and have not installed a patch. This is part of the standard VistA patch notifications and communications protocols.

3.3.3.1 Deployment/Installation/Back-Out Checklist

The Release Management team will deploy the patch PRCA*4.5*420 nationally to all VAMCs and is tracked in the NPM in Forum. Forum automatically tracks the patches as they are installed in the different VAMC production systems as described in the previous section. One can run a report in Forum to identify when the patch was installed in the VistA production at each site, and by whom. A report can also be run to identify which sites have not installed the patch in their VistA production system as of that moment in time.

Therefore, this information does not need to be manually tracked. The table is included below if manual tracking is desired and because it is part of the VIP document template.

Table 2: Deployment/Installation/Back-Out Checklist

Activity	Day	Time	Individual who completed task
Deploy	TBD	TBD	TBD
Install	TBD	TBD	TBD
Back-Out	TBD	TBD	TBD

4. Installation

4.1 Pre-installation and System Requirements

This product is a VistA patch. The only pre-installation and system requirements for deployment and installation of this patch are the prerequisite patches which need to be installed before this patch can be installed.

4.2 Platform Installation and Preparation

This product is a VistA patch.

Sites should install patches into the test/mirror/pre-production accounts before the production account as is the normal VistA patch installation standard convention.

When installing any VistA patch, sites should utilize the option **Backup a Transport Global** in order to create a backup message of any routines exported with this patch.

Post-installation checksums are found in the Patch Description and in Forum NPM.

4.3 Download and Extract Files

Download and extract files are not applicable for this VistA patch.

4.4 Database Creation

Database creation is not applicable for this VistA patch.

4.5 Installation Scripts

Installation scripts are not applicable for this VistA patch.

4.6 Cron Scripts

Cron scripts are not applicable for this VistA patch.

4.7 Access Requirements and Skills Needed for the Installation

To install this VistA patch, the patch installer must be an active user on the VistA system and have access to the VistA menu option **Kernel Installation & Distribution System** [XPD MAIN] and have VistA security keys XUPROG and XUPROGMODE. Knowledge on how to install VistA patches using the items on this menu option is also a required skill.

4.8 Installation Procedure

This patch may be installed with users on the system, although it is recommended that it be installed during non-peak hours to minimize potential disruption to users. This patch should take less than 5 minutes to install.

1. Choose the PackMan message containing this build. Then select the **INSTALL/CHECK MESSAGE PackMan** option to load the build.

2. From the Kernel Installation and Distribution System Menu, select the Installation Menu. From this menu:

   a. Select the **Verify Checksums in Transport Global** option to confirm the integrity of the routines that are in the transport global. When prompted for the INSTALL NAME, enter the patch: **PRCA*4.5*420**.

   b. Select the **Backup a Transport Global** option to create a backup message of any routines exported with this patch. For each patch, you can specify what to back up; the entire Build or just Routines. When asked to specify what to back up, select **Build**. It is NOT recommended to use this backup to restore the system, as it will NOT restore your system to pre-patch condition.

      When prompted for a response, select **Build**.

      Select one of the following:

      > B   Build

      > R   Routines

      Enter response: **Build**.

      Do you wish to secure this message? NO// NO.

   c. You may also elect to use the following options:

      i. **Print Transport Global** - This option will allow you to view the components of the KIDS build.

      ii. **Compare Transport Global to Current System** - This option will allow you to view all changes that will be made when this patch is installed. It compares all the components of this patch, such as routines, DDs, templates, etc.

   d. Select the Install Package(s) option and choose the patch to install.

      i. If prompted, **Want KIDS to Rebuild Menu Trees Upon Completion of Install? YES//**, answer **NO**.

      ii. When prompted, **Want KIDS to INHIBIT LOGONs during the install? NO//**, answer **NO**.

      iii. When prompted, **Want to DISABLE Scheduled Options, Menu Options, and Protocols? NO//**, answer **NO**.

4.9 Installation Verification Procedure

Verify completed installation by comparing the post-install routine checksums against the published checksums in the Patch Description and in Forum NPM.

Another verification method is to ensure that the build components as listed in the Patch Description have been correctly installed onto the target VistA system.

4.10 System Configuration

System configuration is not applicable for this VistA patch.

4.11 Database Tuning

Database tuning is not applicable for this VistA patch.

5. Back-Out Procedure

Back-Out pertains to a return to the last known good operational state of the software and appropriate platform settings.

5.1 Back-Out Strategy

Prior to installing the updated KIDS package, the site/region should have saved a backup of the routines in a mail message using the **Backup a Transport Global** [XPD BACKUP] menu option. The message containing the backed-up routines can be loaded with the **Xtract PackMan** function at the Message Action prompt. The PackMan function INSTALL/CHECK MESSAGE is then used to install the backed-up routines onto the VistA system.

The development team recommends that sites log a ticket if it is a nationally released patch; otherwise, the site should contact the Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO) directly for specific solutions to their unique problems.

Although it is unlikely due to care in collecting approved requirements, Software Quality Assurance (SQA) review and multiple testing stages (Unit testing, Component Integration Testing, User Acceptance Testing) a back-out decision due to major issues with this patch could occur during site Mirror Testing, Site Production Testing, or after National Release to the Field. The strategy would depend on during which of these stages the decision is made. If during Site Production Testing, unless the patch produces catastrophic problems, the normal VistA response would be for a new version of the test patch correcting defects to be produced, retested and, upon successfully passing development team testing, would be resubmitted to the site for testing. If the defects were not discovered until after national release but during the 30 days support period, a new patch will be entered into the National Patch Module on Forum and go through all the necessary milestone reviews, etc. as an emergency patch.

5.2   Back-Out Considerations

It is necessary to determine if a wholesale back-out of the patch PRCA*4.5*420 is needed or if a better course of action is to correct through a new version of the patch (if prior to national release) or through a subsequent patch aimed at specific areas modified or affected by the original patch (if after national release). A wholesale back-out of the patch will still require a new version (if prior to national release) or a subsequent patch (if after national release). If the back-out is post-release of patch PRCA*4.5*420, this patch should be assigned status of **Entered in Error** in Forum's NPM.

5.2.1   Load Testing

Load testing is not applicable for this VistA patch.

5.2.2   User Acceptance Testing

This is detailed in the User Stories in Rally.

5.3   Back-Out Criteria

The decision to back-out this VistA patch will be made by Health Product Support, CPAC Revenue System Management staff, and the Development Team. Criteria to be determined based on separate and unique factors and will be evaluated upon post-patch installation use of the product.

5.4   Back-Out Risks

Back-out risks are not applicable for this VistA patch.

5.5   Authority for Back-Out

The order would come from the Release Coordinator, Product Line Manager, and Health Product Support. This should be done in consultation with the Development team.

5.6   Back-Out Procedure

The back-out procedure for VistA applications is complex and not a one-size-fits-all solution. The general strategy for a VistA back-out is to repair the code with a follow-up patch. The development team recommends that sites log a ticket if it is a nationally released patch. If not, the site should contact the EPMO team directly for specific solutions to their unique problems.

The PRCA*4.5*420 patch contains the following build components:

- This patch only contains routines and no additional components. Please contact the EPMO team for assistance if installed patch contains components in addition to routines.

While the VistA installation procedure of the Kernel Installation and Distribution System (KIDS) build allows the installer to back up the modified routines using the **Backup a Transport Global** action, the back-out procedure for global, data dictionary, and other VistA components is more complex and requires issuance of a follow-up patch to ensure all components are properly

removed and/or restored. All software components, routines, and other items must be restored to their previous state at the same time and in conjunction with the restoration of the data.

5.7   Back-out Verification Procedure

The success of the back-out can be verified by verifying checksums for the routines removed to validate that they reflect the nationally released checksums.

6.   Rollback Procedure

Rollback pertains to data associated with this patch.

6.1   Rollback Considerations

Not Applicable.

6.2   Rollback Criteria

Not Applicable.

6.3   Rollback Risks

Not Applicable.

6.4   Authority for Rollback

Not Applicable.

6.5   Rollback Procedure

Not Applicable.

6.6   Rollback Verification Procedure

Not Applicable.