ACCESS USA

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AINS

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eCase PaaS FedRAMP

AINS is proud to announce that our eCase solution is now PaaS FedRAMP certified!

eCase
FedRAMP
PaaS

eCase is a robust Platform as a

Welcome to *Access USA*

Dear ++FirstName++,

October marks the start of FY 2015 - a sort of new start for government agencies and contractors alike. AINS is excited to take on the new year and has been working hard on new projects and products as well as improving our current systems. As we spring forward into the year, we look forward to making new partnerships and strengthening existing ones.

As always, keep up with the AINS' happenings on our website at www.ains.com or follow our social media outlets on LinkedIN or Twitter (@AINS_FOIA).

We try to cover what is important and of value to you in this newsletter, so please send your comments and suggestions about this edition of *Access USA* to info@ains.com so that we can make this newsletter an enjoyable and informative resource for all things related to government transparency and privacy.

FOIAXpress Users Group Recap

Thank you to all who attended our 9th annual FOIAXpress Users Group Conference. This year's event welcomed more than 200 government FOIA experts and their supervisors.

This year marked the ninth annual FOIAXpress Users Group Conference, held **Thursday, August 21, 2014 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington D.C.** The event brought together more than 200 FOIA workers and their managers from across 50 federal government departments and agencies to learn how to use the FOIAXpress system more efficiently, stay up to date on changes in new versions, and interact with their FOIA colleagues from various agencies.

Our attendees have found this conference to be a highly valuable opportunity to understand what will be new in the upcoming new version release of the software, ask questions about the system from our experienced staff, and discuss FOIA processing with their colleagues at our popular

"community" sessions. Look for more information on the 2014 conference coming soon.

AINS would like to recognize our FOIAXpress 2014 Wayne R. Jewell Customer Appreciation Award recipient, Aaron Graves of the U.S. Department of Defense Freedom of Information Division. Congratulations Aaron! At AINS, we are firm believers that our customers are what drive our products and our success.

This year AINS had the honor of hosting Ms. Traci Hughes as keynote speaker for the FOIAXpress Users Group Conference. Ms. Hughes is the inaugural director of D.C's Office of Open Government. In her role as the Director of the OOG, Hughes acts as FOIA compliance office for the District's nearly 60 agencies. In her keynote address, Hughes speaks to the need for governments to break from a linear way of thinking about citizen engagement. She suggests that as citizens come to expect a 24/7 access to information, government must adapt to a more interactive way of thinking about transparency.

International Right to Know Dav Activists Take Transparency Online

"[It] is ultimately up to you to keep your government accountable. Activists and watchdogs can help, but ultimately the best and only thing to keep governments in line, at least in democracies, is popular will." -Centre for Law and Democracy

That is the take away from the International Right to Know Day AMA (Ask Me Anything) thread hosted on the popular Internet sharing site Reddit this Sunday. Transparency experts from Canada, Colombia, Bulgaria, India, and South Africa stepped up to answer questions from users around the globe. The team of FOI advocates spent 8 hours speaking on current transparency laws, advocacy efforts, and of course the old Reddit AMA stand-by "Would you rather fight 100 duck-sized horses or one horse-sized duck?"

Here are some of the highlights from this weekend's discussion (all quotes presented in their original formatting):

Reddit user batteryalwayslow: Where do you draw the line between right to know vs national security?

Toby Mendel, Center for Law and Democracy: Tough one but actually a lot of work has been done on this issue. Have a look at the Tshwanee Principles (http://ow.ly/ClpTy) which elaborate this issue in great detail. Obviously when a real national security interest is engaged, it trumps the right to know. But there are a number of subtleties to this. First, international law recognises a public interest override, whereby even if a national security interest is engaged, if the overall public interest would be served by disclosure, that should dominate (so the NSA revelations would be an example of that). Second, government's often claim national security interests even when there are none, so claims need to be carefully scrutinised.

Reddit user werelock: If you had to summarize transparency legislation that you wish more countries would enact, what would you say? Not the why but the actual bullet points of how/what. Thanks so very much for your efforts! Transparency in government is something I'm very interested in learning more and seeing more of.

Toby Mendel, Centre for Law and Democracy: This gets a bit complicated but we can say there are 5 main features of a good law: 1) Broad presumption of openness covering all information held by all public bodies. 2) Good procedures for making and processing requests (clear timelines, assistance, limits on what can be charged, etc.) 3) Limited exceptions (i.e. clear and narrow rules on when a request my be refused) 4) An independent administrative oversight body. 5) Sanctions for obstruction of access and protections for good faith disclosures pursuant to the law.

You can read the full discussion thread on the [Reddit AMA Forums](#)

AINS Attends Homeland Security Week

AINS is proud to have sponsored [Homeland Security Week](#) which was held October 6th - 9th at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C. More than 700

attendees flocked to the Downtown meeting venue to discuss how American Security relates to Science and Technology, Terrorism Prevention, Border Management, Disaster Relief, and Cybersecurity. Attendees to the event were treated to 40 speakers, 10 roundtable discussions, and plenty of exhibitors like AINS dedicated improving the government's ability to protect its citizens.

AINS met with a number of organizations interested in an adaptable case management solution and had meetings with other vendors about possible teaming opportunities across DHS in the coming year. We gained insight of what major IT obstacles DHS is addressing this year and are very excited about the buzz created around AINS eCase in the DHS space. We're anticipating a busy year of awareness briefings, product demonstrations, and joint ventures towards new and continued business serving the men and women who work everyday to keep us safe and secure here at home.

2014 FOIAXpress Basic User Trainings

AINS offers a two-day FOIAXpress Basic User Training Class at our training center in Gaithersburg, MD on a regular basis. Below is our schedule of upcoming trainings - register today to secure your seat! *(Please note that there must be at least five registrants for the course to occur).*

Training Dates	Registration Link
November 11 - 12	Register Here
December 10 - 11	Register Here
January 28 - 29	Register Here
February 18 - 19	Register Here

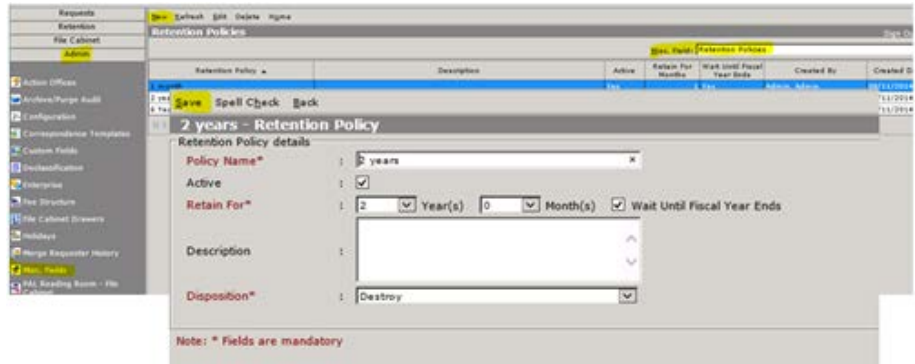| FOIA Law Training Dates	Registration Link
October 28 - 30	Register Here

Tips and Tricks

Did you know that you can set up retention policies in FOIAXpress to issue expiration dates to request?

When retention periods are created and applied to request types upon closing a request the system will generate an expiration date for the request. Using this date you can easily generate reports and on screen searches that will display all records ready for destruction. After a thorough review requests can be marked for deletion and then processed.
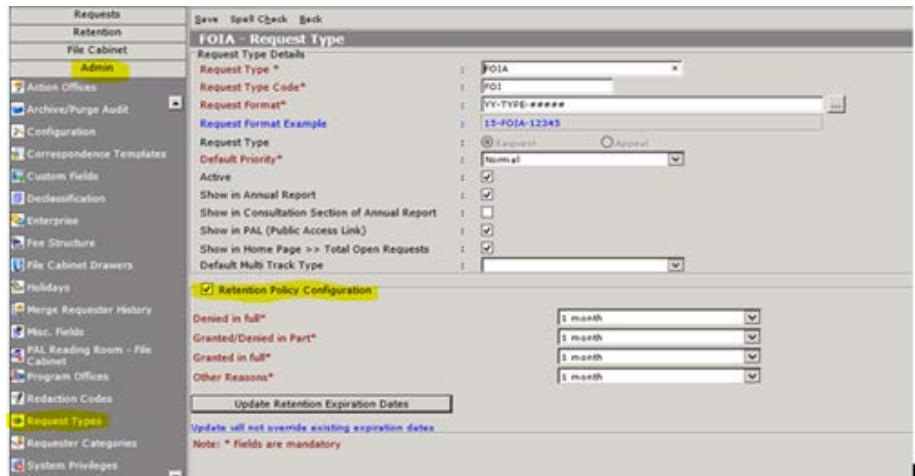
To set up retention policies;

1. Go to Admin List Bar
2. Click on Misc. Fields
3. And select Retention Policies from the far right hand drop down list
4. Click New and enter the policy details
5. Save details.

To apply retention policies to request types;

1. Go to Admin List Bar
2. Click on Request Types
3. Click Edit on the request type you want to work with
4. Check the box for Retention Policy Configuration
5. Select the appropriate retention policy for each request disposition
6. Once all policies are applied; click on "Update Retention Expiration Dates" to have the system update all closed cases with expiration dates.