



Access Canada

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Do you like to keep up to date on the latest FOIA, ATIP and Open Government stories? Follow our Twitter account [@AINS_FOIA](https://twitter.com/AINS_FOIA) for access to our blog, great news articles, and more.

eCase PaaS FedRAMP

AINS is proud to announce that our [eCase solution is now PaaS FedRAMP certified!](#)



eCase is a robust Platform as a Service for implementing

Dear Courtney,

October marked 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](https://twitter.com/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 Canada* 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.



International Right to Know Day 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):

multiple, coexisting adaptive case management SaaS solutions including eCase-Correspondence, eCase-HR, eCase-Audit and FOIAXpress (the industry leading purpose-built FOIA case processing software) within a single commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) solution. eCase provides a dynamic case management framework with the capability to power a wide range of workflow-driven processes and core case management functions, tracking and reporting around a wide range of business process verticals and can help agencies manage their business information efficiently and automate workflow processes, gaining a valuable competitive advantage.

To learn more, contact us at info@ains.com or 301-670-2300.

LinkedIn ATIPXpress User Group

Join our [ATIPXpress User Group on LinkedIn](#) to connect with other ATIPXpress users, share common experiences, join in on discussions related to access to information and privacy and see related job postings.



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 Tshwane 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 may 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.

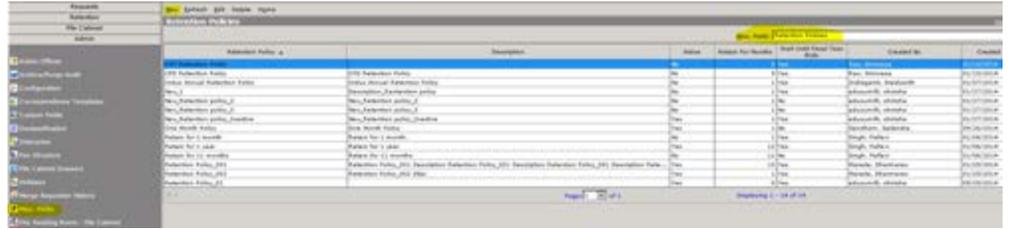
Tips and Tricks

Did you know that you can set up retention policies in ATIPXpress 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.

