

REGISTRY UPDATE



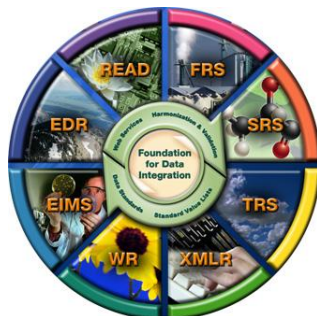
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In this issue of the Registry Update, learn about the upcoming System of Registries Conference, how READ is used to support EPA enterprise needs, and how the SRS is being leveraged across the EPA and other Federal Government entities.

SoR Users Conference Planned

On Thursday, May 5, 2005, EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI) will host a one-day conference on the current services and future directions of the System of Registries (SoR). The theme for this year's conference is "The System of Registries: Managing Meaning Today, and Semantics Tomorrow." Kim Nelson, EPA's Chief Information Officer and OEI's Assistant Administrator, will deliver the keynote address. There will also be opportunities for users to provide feedback and ideas for future SoR services.



The conference will be held in Washington, D.C. at George Washington University's Cafritz Conference Center. The Cafritz Conference Center is located on the 3rd floor of the Marvin Center at 800 21st St., NW and is a short walk from the Foggy Bottom Metro Station.

Please register on-line now through the SoR homepage (www.epa.gov/sor). There is no fee to register, but seating is limited.

READ to Support Broader EPA Business Needs

Federal agencies are subject to a number of information technology policies and requirements; one important OMB requirement is the maintenance of an inventory of information resources. The Registry of EPA Applications and Databases (READ) serves as EPA's inventory and is a vital part of the Agency's enterprise architecture, information technology investment management activities and information security management program.

By meeting the federal requirements as EPA's information resource inventory, READ also provides valuable services to various internal business needs and processes. READ helps EPA program offices and regions ensure consistency in reporting resources at various stages of their system development and budgetary cycles. It also facilitates discovery of information resources and related material through searches in the System of Registries. In the future, EPA's portal will rely on READ as a primary source for searching Agency information resources.

Although READ now supports many business needs, we want to obtain feedback from process owners to fully leverage its potential. Toward that end, READ managers are currently gathering requirements from various stakeholders to determine their needs and address them in the near-term. There will also be an opportunity for feedback and discussion at a READ session during the SoR conference in May.

SRS Supporting EPA and Other Federal Government Interests

The Substance Registry System (SRS) is a centralized inventory of substances (e.g., chemicals, biological organisms) that are of interest to EPA. Each substance record identifies EPA program offices that track or regulate the substance, the synonym(s) used by those programs, and any fact sheets developed internally or externally (e.g., by the World Health Organization).

The SRS provides a one-stop resource for basic background information about substances. EPA program offices are beginning to leverage this resource by creating hyperlinks connecting their on-line databases to the SRS. These linkages allow program system users to retrieve SRS content for their own database systems. The SoR's Environmental Metadata Gateway (www.epa.gov/emg), a stand-alone application for customized access to registry content, provides support to make these linkages possible.

In addition to enhancing access to authoritative substance identification information for our EPA customers, the SRS has become a focal point for several high profile federal government initiatives. As part of the President's e-Government initiative, SRS was chosen as the standard for exchanging non-drug chemical identification information between federal agencies. As a first step toward using the SRS to store chemicals of interest for other federal agencies, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) plans to submit its chemical list to EPA in early 2005. EPA and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have also reached an agreement to include SRS data in a large medical thesaurus managed by NIH.

Future Registry Updates will discuss web services interactions with states and tribes

and new information about interactions at the federal level. There will also be an opportunity for user feedback and discussion at an SRS session during the SoR Users conference in May. Stay tuned!

Contact Information

For more information on each of EPA's registries please contact the appropriate registry owner:

- Substance Registry System (SRS) – John Harman, 202-566-0748, Harman.john@epa.gov
- Environmental Data Registry (EDR) – Larry Fitzwater, 202-566-1653, Fitzwater.larry@epa.gov
- Registry of EPA Applications and Databases (READ) – Tim Crawford, 202-566-1652, Crawford.tim@epa.gov
- Facility Registry System (FRS) – Pat Garvey, 202-566-1687, Garvey.pat@epa.gov
- Terminology Reference System (TRS) – Linda Spencer, 202-566-1651, Spencer.linda@epa.gov
- eXtensible Mark-Up Language (XML) Registry – Tim Crawford, 202-566-1652, Crawford.tim@epa.gov
- Web Registry (WR), Richard Huffine, 202-566-0703, Huffine.richard@epa.gov
- Environmental Information Management System (EIMS), John Sykes, 919-541-2953, Sykes.john@epa.gov
- General SoR Information – Mike Pendleton, 202-566-1658, Pendleton.michael@epa.gov



For additional information, contact Cindy Dickinson, Data Standards Branch Chief, Office of Environmental Information at 202-566-1078, Dickinson.cynthia@epa.gov. For current and previous issues of the newsletter, see the Newsletter page. Visit the System of Registries at <http://www.epa.gov/sor/> for related information.