ECHO User Address Updates

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1 Overview

With the Introduction of the EOSDIS User Registration System (URS) disparate EOSDIS applications now have access to a common set of authentication and core user information fields. As part of URS Phase I, ECHO moved to be compatible with URS and now all authentication, user creation, and user updates are proxied to the URS. In general the ECHO User concept and the URS User concept fit well together, however, the location of the URS mandatory Country field in the optional ECHO User Address fields has become problematic. This is most recently captured as “NCR# 11012453: MERIS form does not work on accounts not created in ECHO”.

To address this problem and provide greater consistency between the two applications, ECHO proposes to make several fields in the legacy Address information optional and require exactly one Address for a User.

1.1 Background

URS introduced a shared concept of an EOSDIS User with minimal information and several mandatory fields. The URS currently supports a single address per user with all fields being optional except for Country. ECHO’s concept of User supports multiple Addresses for a single User and requires the following fields within an address:

- Address Name
- US Format
- Street 1
- City
- Country

The incompatibility between URS and ECHO can be seen when a user creates an account using the URS GUI and chooses not to provide address information. They are required to provide Country information, however, and when ECHO fetches the user account from the URS ECHO can only store Country in a User Address. The remaining ECHO required Address fields are empty which results in ECHO considering the User account to be invalid. Reverb currently works around this problem by requiring a new user to fill out complete Address information, thus satisfying both ECHO and URS requirements.

1.2 Proposed Solution

In order to bring ECHO and URS User concepts into better compatibility while minimizing the impact on existing ECHO client applications as much as possible, we propose making the following changes to the ECHO User API:

1. Change Address Name, US Format, Street 1, and City from Required fields to Optional fields on the ECHO API.
2. Change the number of Addresses required in a User object from 0 to 1.
3. Change the maximum number of Addresses support in an ECHO User object from unlimited to 1.

These changes will not cause any structural changes to the ECHO SOAP API but will change the Schema validation in terms of whether fields are optional and the min/max validation rules for number of Addresses. Once these API changes are in place, the following ECHO client application changes can be made:

1. Reverb can be updated to only require the user to select a Country rather than complete a full address. Reverb currently only allows a user to have a single address when creating a new account so the change in min/max number of addresses will not affect it.
2. Remove user creation support from PUMP entirely and simply link to the URS GUI for user creation.

1.3 Partner Impacts
The changes proposed may have impacts on third party ECHO applications if the application supports any of the following capabilities:

1. Creation of new ECHO User accounts through the ECHO API and allows the user to enter more than one address.
2. Creation of new ECHO User accounts through the ECHO API but does not require the user to provide any address.
3. Updates an ECHO account after retrieving an account from the ECHO API and enforces that an address, if present, has the required fields field in. (Technically this will still work, but it will be likely that most new accounts will not have all of the fields filled in and the user will therefore need to fill them in before an update can proceed because of the client specific validation no longer enforced by ECHO nor URS.)
4. Retrieves an ECHO User account through the ECHO API and assumes without checking that if an address is present, the required fields are always populated.

If your application falls into one of the above scenarios you will need to update your application to not enforce the previously required fields and properly handle (and enforce) only a single address.

1.4 End User Impacts
In most cases these changes will results in users simply entering less information when creating an account through an ECHO GUI and any application leveraging the ECHO APIs. For existing ECHO accounts with multiple different addresses we will contact those users and resolve the multiple addresses to a single address.
Table 1 - Document Revision History

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