

Brown Bag: Update on the Status of NED

When: Tuesday Feb. 17, 2015

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. PDT

BPA has undertaken a course correction on the development of NED. This course correction is a result of a formal project assessment that identified a number of concerns. The obstacles identified were not a result of a single issue, but rather the combination of factors including technology platform, resource allocation methodology, and decision-making processes. Some of the issues named in the assessment include:

- The software platform being used as the foundation for NED was not adequately evaluated and proved to be inadequate to meet the needs of the project.
- Though EE and IT had assigned staff and budget to the project, the analysis confirmed staff was pulled in too many directions, in part due to ongoing staffing restrictions facing BPA over the past year. This resulted in challenges in setting priorities and often delayed progress.
- Decision making was too democratic. Lack of empowerment delayed important design and requirement decisions.
- Staff turnover and retention difficulties, especially with developers, created significant issues for project progress

The assessment characterized many of these issues as serious enough to jeopardize the success of the project (e.g., the platform selected was deemed inadequate from a technology perspective). To further discuss these issues we will be hosting a brown bag webinar on Feb 17. During this meeting, we plan to discuss the context for the course correction and provide information on our path forward. We will also be releasing an FAQ in the near future.

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