

## Winter 2010-2011 Newsletter

### 1. ChemTracker Announcements

The ChemTracker (CT) Team at Stanford continues to work diligently to support the Consortium member institutions' uses of ChemTracker for the many and diverse applications at your institutions. A number of issues have had to be addressed over the last six months that have affected the continuity of ChemTracker operations and challenged the entire ChemTracker program. I am pleased to say that many of these challenges have been addressed and we have a good plan of action in place to move ChemTracker ahead and provide a better, more stable platform going forward.

Sheldon Heitz and Dee Piazzale, two key personnel who were primary contacts and key individuals in the ChemTracker program, have been out on extended leave for the past couple of months. Dee has served as the primary interface between consortium members and ChemTracker, and we look forward to her being back with ChemTracker in April. Sheldon has been serving the dual role of ChemTracker Manager as well as principal software developer. We anticipate that Sheldon will be out for a further extended leave period.

As a result we have had to reinvent a major portion of the ChemTracker support team, reassign technical development staff from other EH&S program areas, and provide backfill for these key positions in order to address the items some of you have submitted. However, we now have a technical development and data classification/data integrity team in place that is working together to move ChemTracker forward. Below are some major changes being planned and in various stages of implementation. Such change will not occur overnight so I ask for your continued patience as we continue to build on the consortium approach and strengthen the overall program support.

### 2. New ChemTracker Program Manager Position

One major change has been the recent creation of the position of ChemTracker Program Manager. This is a senior EH&S position that reports directly to the Associate Vice Provost for EH&S and we plan to aggressively pursue filling of the position in the near future.

The ChemTracker (CT) Program Manager directs and manages the ChemTracker chemical inventory management and regulatory reporting program within Stanford EH&S. Major responsibilities for the position include overall programmatic strategic planning, continued management and development of the CT systems operations and chemical reference classification/data integrity sections. Additionally, the ChemTracker Program Manager provides direct oversight of technical and application development in support of the program. The ChemTracker Program Manager also directs and manages the ChemTracker Consortium, the Higher Education Collaborative for Chemical Inventory Management, including responsibility member interactions, communication and support service, program implementation management, marketing, and administrative management activities, all of which support the Consortium.

If you are interested in this position, or know of qualified individuals who would be excellent candidates for the position, please pass along this information. For further detail on this position go to: <http://jobs.stanford.edu> , click on “Begin your job search” and type in the job requisition number #41624 in the search field at the bottom of the page.

### 3. ChemTracker IT Platform Changes Planned

Over the past couple of months, the IT team has developed a plan of action for moving the ChemTracker platform to an enterprise technical platform, one that we believe will be more stable and allow for future growth. The new platform will also allow a team of programmers and data specialists to address issues or bugs and better support consortium member reported issues. This will alleviate the dependency on one programmer to address requests or glitches, which has caused back up in responsiveness. The first of the reports to be completely re-developed is the New York City Right-to- Know (RTK) report. Although users of the system will not experience any change from the prior reporting process, we now have a report generation program that we believe to be substantially more stable and more easily maintained, with more developers able to address issues that may arise with the standardized development program.

Other technical reports and program development changes will take place over the next six to eight months. These should, however, not be noticeable by users of the system as these changes are all in the backend development system. The end result of this planned program platform change is that the Consortium member institutions should have a system that is more dependable, with more technical and organizational support, and easier and faster to “fix” when bugs do arise in the system

#### **ChemTracker version 2 being retired**

In order to move forward with these additional program changes, ChemTracker members currently using CT version 2 will need to move off of version 2 and onto version 3 so that we can retire the developmental software of version 2. **This is an advance notice that we plan to discontinue use and support of version 2 in 75 days, as of May 15, 2011.** This will allow the development team to focus its efforts on the version 3 user interface maintenance and development while we look to the future move of ChemTracker administrative system and inventory user interface to a new unified platform.

### 4. ChemTracker User Interface Change Planning

In concert with the planning for a change in development platform, we also intend to solicit your advice and input in evaluating and recommending changes in the user interface, both for the chemical inventory user and for the administrative users for ChemTracker. We hope to be able to begin work on this longer term project once we have a permanent ChemTracker Program Manager in place to help shepherd the major move to a new platform and engage the Consortium community in such interactive dialogue.

### 5. Chemical Classification/Data Integrity Program

One of the more challenging Right-To-Know (RTK) reporting requirements is that of New York City (NYC) which sometimes has built in conflicts and incorporates almost every material within the classification and reporting requirements. The data team recently conducted a quality assurance review of the NYC/RTK regulatory reporting tables and updated and verified the data and information used in the reports. Additionally, a fundamental change in the method of providing regulatory data to the IT programming side has proven successful in the revamping of the NYC RTK reports. The data group now produces a flat file with all elements needed for a particular RTK report. These tables are then used with the newer, simplified report generation programming to create the NYC/RTK reports. Those flat files will be periodically updated based on the needs of a given regulation and changes in the numbers or character of chemicals classified in the CT system. ChemTracker's classification team next plans to focus on a quality assurance review of ChemTracker's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) screening tool. As indicated previously, due to the complexity of the CFATS screening and regulatory determination process, the ChemTracker DHS report is a screening tool that may require local follow up to make a final determination of whether a facility meets the DHS criteria.

## 6. Did You Know?

- ChemTracker's database of reference chemicals includes nearly 35,000 unique materials and 275,000 synonyms. Of the 35,000 unique chemicals, 29,000 have associated Chemical Abstract Numbers and 24,000 have molecular formulas. When a chemical is entered into ChemTracker that isn't in our database, the Data Integrity Team can classify the material for Members from a simple request submitted to [chemtracker\\_support@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:chemtracker_support@lists.stanford.edu). Also, the more background chemical data you can provide about the chemical of interest when you submit such requests, the faster the classification process can be completed.
- **Manufacturer Names** are not required to add an inventory item; please remind your Users this is not one of the 8 required fields (Owner, Department, Building, Room, Chemical Name, Physical State, Unit, Amount)
- A list of the 2235 **Manufacturer Names in CT** is posted on the CT Admin site (v3 Main Screen/Help button/For CT Administrators link.)