

**Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
Office of Case Management Systems**

CM/ECF

Release Notes

For PACER Users

NextGen CM/ECF Release 1.5.1

April 2020

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Update Summary

Date	Section	Change
April 2020	All	Document created.

1 Introduction

This hotfix addresses several security, technical, access and functional issues reported by various courts to the National Support Desk over the last several months. This hotfix addresses the following specific issues:

- 1.) In December 2019, the Statistics Subcommittee and the Judicial Resources Committee approved the creation of a new nature of suit code for civil cases related to the Defend Trade Secrets Act (of 2016). The new nature of suit will be effective October 1, 2020.
- 2.) A court has reported intermittent filing issues where a white screen is displayed to attorneys, preventing the attorney from completing their filing.
- 3.) There is a bug in iText which corrupts PDF pages that have an unusual structure to the page tree. Acrobat reader will not display the corrupted pages. The same document appears correctly when the PDF is opened in a browser (IE/FF/Chrome).
- 4.) When saving Noticing Data in the Central Sign-On Utility for both court users and external filers, the frequency and format type are not saved to the user interface database.
- 5.) Courts have reported that intermittent filers receive an error message upon Pay.gov processing a fee payment. When the filer uses the back button, they are prompted for payment again and then the transaction completes in CM/ECF. This results in a duplicate payment to the court that must be refunded.

2 New Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 Nature of Suit Code

The Statistics Subcommittee agreed to create a new Nature of Suit (NOS) for cases involving the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016. A new NOS Code (880) has been created to identify these cases. The nature of suit is effective October 1, 2020 and will be accompanied by an updated JS-44, Civil Cover Sheet. The AO will not accept JS-5/JS-6 or CJRA statistical records with NOS 880 for any cases filed prior to October 1, 2020. CM/ECF will not present the new nature of suit for selection until October 1, 2020.

3 Intermittent Filing Issues with White Screen

The Northern District of New York reported that intermittent filers were unable to complete their filings in CM/ECF. Upon investigation, it was found that the filer receives a white screen during docketing which prevents the user from continuing. This hotfix prevents the problem from occurring.

4 Blank Pages Viewing PDFs in Acrobat Reader

Some PDFs have an unusual structure for the page tree. If these documents are filed in CM/ECF, when a user attempts to open them in Acrobat Reader (not the browser), Acrobat will not display any of the document pages that may be corrupted (unusual page tree structure). If the documents are opened in a browser (IE/FF/Chrome), the PDF document opens, and no pages are missing.

The CM/ECF has been upgraded to prevent this problem. As a result, all pages of the PDF display and PDF headers are displayed with no errors.

5 Central Sign-On Noticing Updates not Saved Correctly

Fixed an issue introduced in DC 1.5 where a public user's Noticing frequency and format preferences were not always saved per the selections made in the CSO Administration Utility. For example, due to this bug a noticing update could be submitted and appear with Each Transaction as the desired frequency, but it could be saved in the database as a Daily Summary when it is processed in the CSO utility. The 1.5.1 hotfix addresses this issue to avoid unexpected delays in noticing.

6 Pay.gov – Prevention of Duplicate Payments

Multiple courts have reported that outside users experience intermittent issues when using Pay.gov to pay for fees collected through CM/ECF docketing events. After entering their payment information in Pay.gov, the users receive an error message and the event will not complete in CM/ECF, however, payment was successful in Pay.gov. The users then re-attempt to file the event and pay the fees and docketing is successful in CM/ECF. The result is that the filer has been charged twice for the event and court staff must issue a refund.

This hotfix provides a solution to prevent the payment transaction from failing upon returning the user to CM/ECF.