



# IDE NEWSLETTER



**Brigade Combat Team**  
Project Management Office



## SPOTLIGHT – DEVELOPING IDE AWARENESS



Our efforts to improve IDE communication and awareness are paying off. Since we began publishing the IDE Newsletter, we have seen steady and significant growth in the use of the IDE. Usage metrics were compiled by looking at averages for the 8-week period prior to starting the IDE newsletter and compared those measures to the latest 8-week set of IDE statistics. The results are as follows:

- New documents added has increased by 87%
- Hits to *iFS* website has increased by 10%
- Amount of documentation added (in MB) has increased by 16%.

These results are just a start. With the server relocated locally, we should continue to see growth in use, particularly due to the performance improvement.

## AKO VS. IFS

Many of you have expressed an interest in the use of the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) system. In response to that interest we have developed two papers. The first paper contains a brief description of the functionality provided by AKO. The second paper focuses on the intent of AKO and explains how we can leverage its capabilities as part of our BCT Strategic Plan for information technology. These papers can be found at:

<https://www.bctide.army.mil/dloadpagespublic/dloadspublic.shtml>

AKO is designed to meet basic collaboration needs among organizations within the Department of the Army (DA). It includes document management as well as a portal, email, and central phone lists. Future enhancements of AKO will include standard interfaces with local project related software.

AKO should be used to store documents that have been reviewed and deemed ready to share with other government and military organizations. Access to AKO is available to all civilian and uniformed personnel within the DA and can be extended within the Department of Defense (DoD). AKO use is growing rapidly within the DA. The security process is difficult to maintain for a complex document organization structure, but adequate for simple inter-organizational sharing of documents. The user interface with the system is quite complex and time consuming. Document storage and retrieval is slow and does not support drag and drop.

*iFS* should be used to store documents that are specific to the extended PM-BCT program office. *iFS*, with the recent enhancements, provides a user interface that emulates Windows Explorer. Key performance requirements of *iFS*, such as upload, download and navigation, are significantly faster than all alternatives. The security process within *iFS* meets all known requirements. Additionally, the search capability within *iFS* is robust.

Decisions on the storage location of documents to be shared outside of the government depends on a variety of factors. If documents have complex security requirements, *iFS* should be used. The *iFS* access control lists and groups support highly compartmentalized access to documents that can be quickly adjusted. Documents to be shared with a wide audience with simple or no security requirements should be stored in AKO.

Discussions with other PMs and PEOs have indicated that their plans are consistent with this analysis. Most PEOs and PMs are leveraging AKO for Army-wide sharing of information, while maintaining a robust local IDE capability that includes a document management system.



**BCT/EDS**



This *BCT IDE Newsletter* is a joint production effort, edited by BCT with support from EDS.





## NEW IDE TRAINING IS COMING!

The Integrated Digital Environment (IDE) Team is offering new training classes covering the public website, the private website, and the document management system. This is intended to be an opportunity for new BCT personnel to receive IDE training or for anyone to get refresher training. Classes will be available on June 4, 11, 19 or 26, from 900 to 1000 hours at the Detroit Arsenal (TACOM) in Building 231, fourth floor, in the PMO-BCT MGS conference room. Please reserve your space for training by contacting the IDE Help desk at: [pm-bctidehelpdesk@eds.com](mailto:pm-bctidehelpdesk@eds.com)

## KNOW YOUR IDE TEAM LEADERS

### John Brobst – IDE Project Manager



John Brobst serves within PMO, BCT as the Manager, Information Technology and is responsible for the development and implementation of the BCT Integrated Digital Environment (IDE). John Brobst has over twenty years of government

service, all within the Detroit Arsenal, holding several positions of increasing responsibility within the information technology field. He is certified as Level III in Program Management within the Army Acquisition Corps since its inception in 1992. Mr. Brobst holds a BS degree in Math, an MBA in Finance, and is currently pursuing an MS in Information Management from Syracuse University. His related certifications include DoD Information Assurance (NSTISSI) and DoD Chief Information Officer programs. For IDE questions, web content, or any help/support, call Mr. Brobst at (586) 753-2110.

### Frank Webster – Senior Consultant for EDS



Frank Webster is a senior consultant for EDS' Modeling, Simulation and Collaborative Solutions and is currently supporting the BCT IDE effort onsite at PMO, BCT. He has over twenty-five years in applying information technology to many industry segments with an

emphasis on discrete manufacturing applications in the automotive, aerospace, and defense industries. The last sixteen years experience has been focused on product data management, document management and collaborative solutions in automotive, aerospace, and defense. He has supported United Defense, Rolls Royce Aerospace, GM, and Boeing Defense. Mr. Webster holds a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. For expert mentoring or help/support, call the Help Desk at (248) 265-6020.

## KEEPING YOU WELL INFORMED

### IDE Newsletter

Publish monthly communications that feature:

- Spotlight BCT specific articles and themes
- Promote BCT applications and success stories
- Announce "What's New" (in IDE)
- Provide IDE help/contact/resource information
- Professionally formatted and written, user orientated
- Maximum impact using color hardcopy
- High-impact, push technology approach
- Distributed to all BCT IDE/iFS users
- Electronic archive newsletters are on IDE public website: <https://www.bctide.army.mil/newpages/newsroom.shtml>

### Mentoring Program

Conduct a formal one-on-one mentoring program that:

- Ensures user success in the use of the IDE
- Identifies their daily business processes that the IDE may be able to support
- Familiarizes users with the various IDE functions
- Acquaints users with Help resources:
  - Quick Reference Guide
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Online tutorials
  - Online help
- Provides expert assistance in designing professional solutions

### BCT IDE User's Manual

A BCT IDE User's Manual has been developed to provide detailed information on accessing and using the BCT IDE. It will help answer many IDE-related questions, and provide system functions and capabilities. This User's Manual is available on the BCT public website at:

<https://www.bctide.army.mil/downloadpagespublic/downloadpublic.shtml>

### BCT IDE User Account Form

A new and improved form has been developed for requesting access to the BCT IDE. The form now includes additional information as to the application process and identifies key BCT sponsors. This User's Manual is available on the BCT public website at:

<https://www.bctide.army.mil/downloadpagespublic/downloadpublic.shtml>

## WORTH KNOWING

The IDE public website has a private download area, which requires an IDE user account. Its purpose is to provide a way to send large files to external users who do not have a business need to become part of the IDE document management user community. If you have a need to send files to this type of user community, please contact the [pm-bctidehelpdesk@eds.com](mailto:pm-bctidehelpdesk@eds.com) for assistance.

## NEED HELP?

Any time you need IDE assistance, or have any questions, please contact:

**PM-BCT IDE Help Desk**

Phone: 248-265-6020

E-mail: [pm-bctidehelpdesk@eds.com](mailto:pm-bctidehelpdesk@eds.com)

