

Bankruptcy Version 2.3

Version 2.3 Summary

Docketing

- AddPty DPF
Previously, if the user finished creating a new party, but clicked the browser's "Back" button and resubmitted the data, duplicate person records were created and would be displayed on lists returned by a party search. Now, only one instance of the person is saved.
- AddTr DPF — EMR 851
If a trustee had previously been in the case but was terminated, you could not add that same person to the case as an active trustee. You can now do so (the termination date is removed from the trustee's data record).
- doc DPF
In Version 2.2, a document containing hyperlinks was rejected. Now, such a document is accepted.
- fee DPF — EMR 1034
In earlier releases of Version 2, an attorney user could edit only the case filing fee for a bankruptcy case fee that was being paid in installments. Now, editing of any filing fee for any case will be allowed if the Site table entry AllowFeeEdit exists and is set to 'y'.
- JudgeNamePhone deadline function — EMR 1005
In some circumstances, having JudgeNamePhone included in a deadline definition would cause a significant slowdown in the application. This has been corrected.
- OpeningBKStatistics DPF — EMR 801

This DPF now displays an additional choice of "Clearing Bank" for "Type of debtor". The new debtor type affects other functions; see the Queries/Reports section, Automatic Closing/Automatic Discharge; and the Utilities section, Edit Case Data.

Refer to "Configuring Bankruptcy CM/ECF Version 2.3" Section for configuration changes.

- TermDoc DPF — EMR 591

TermDoc will “hang” or otherwise malfunction with cases that have a large number of docket entries. To avoid this, you may specify a new value of “silent” for the second parameter, resulting in documents being terminated without being displayed.

Also, there was an error in docket text generated by the setting of a schedule when the event included TermDoc: text relating to the terminated documents was being included. Text shown on the Monthly Calendar for the scheduled item was also incorrect. Text is now generated correctly.

Notes: TermDoc is not needed in an order-on-motion event; if the Order Action table entry for the action taken has “mterm” specified in the “Action” field, docket entries are terminated automatically. The use of TermDocRelSched is recommended for silently terminating related schedules.

- When a user docketed an event over the Internet, he might see an error message “DPF error: dpf function must occur before function....”. This error occurred if the DPF’s entry in the DPF table had spaces in the df_pre field. Spaces are now ignored so that the error does not occur.
- A transaction would fail after the final docket text screen if a parameter in the event definition included a word that was the same as a function name, e.g., if text specified for the Display DPF included “location”. This has been corrected.
- When a large number of email notices was to be generated, the process would sometimes fail: not all emails would be produced, and the Notice of Electronic Filing would not be displayed. This no longer occurs. — EMR 776
- Sometimes attorneys were not being given their “one free look” at documents referenced in the Notice of Electronic Filing. This has been corrected. — EMR 783

Noticing

- Symbols and special characters in templates — MR 987

Previously, the only special characters that could be included in a template were (non-breaking space) and § (§). Now, you can include any symbol or character in the “ISO-8859-1 character set” by specifying its symbolic representation (e.g., “¢” for the cent sign). The table below shows some characters which might be useful; the full character set is listed in the *CM/ECF Application Administrator’s Guide*.

Description	Character	Symbolic
quotation mark	"	"
ampersand	&	&
less_than sign	<	<
greater_than sign	>	>

non_breaking space		
cent sign	¢	¢
broken vertical bar		¦
section sign	§	§
paragraph sign	¶	¶

- Special characters entered in text boxes — EMR 994
When a user enters data in a text box, he can now include ampersands, dollar signs, apostrophes, and other special characters, and they will print correctly on the notice. Previously, the code value for the character (e.g., “$” for \$) was printed.
- Ampersand in case data — MR 814, MR 823
Noticing failed if any of the data to be displayed included an ampersand that was not preceded and followed by a space. This has been corrected.
- User input items
When two forms were generated in the same event, and the templates for both contained identically-named text boxes, radio buttons, check boxes, or drop-down lists, values entered/selected for the first form would appear in the second -- they should not have appeared in the second form at all. This only occurred if the second form was not editable. This has been corrected.
- Template corrections — EMR 1064
 - Spelling and formatting errors in the standard template for the B10 Proof of Claim form have been corrected.
 - The label for debtor name and address in all standard templates has been modified/expanded to “Debtor(s) (name(s) used by the debtor(s) in the last 6 years, including married, maiden, trade, and address).”
 - Templates for discharge forms have been changed to display the district name rather than the address of the divisional office.
 - Miscellaneous changes in wording, fonts, etc. were made to standard templates to match the official versions published at <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/jc09-2002/BKRulesJC.pdf>.
- Properties
 - A new method of displaying alias names and types is available. The existing name/type properties continue to work as before (dbAliasName, dbAliasType, fstDbAliasName, trmDbAliasName, trmDbAliasType, and similar ones for other types of parties). Instead of the “getProperty” tag specifying one of these properties, you can use the `<ecf:alias ... />` tag in the template, with specifications for the type of party, whether type should be displayed, how many aliases are shown, etc. You may also control what is appended to the list when not all aliases

have been shown, either specified in the alias tag or in a new Site table entry, **MoreAliasIndicator** [Tomcat must be restarted after this and certain other Site table entries are created or modified]. See the *CM/ECF Application Administrator's Guide* for details (Chapter IX Section B, "Setting Site and Code Variables", and "Creating and Modifying Template Files"). New versions of the standard template files are included in this release which use the alias tag instead of the alias properties (b9a, b9b, b9c, b9d, b9e, b9f, b9g, b9h, b9i, b18, b18f, b18fh, b18j, b18jo, b18jo1, b18jo2, b18w, b18wh). Alias types are displayed with alias names in a comma-separated string.

- Properties for dates of events in a case. An error occurred when more than one docketed event qualified to supply the value for a given date property (an event qualifies if its type/subtype match one of the pairs of values given in a Codes table entry of type EventDate). This has been corrected.
- The property curEvtRefDktx was not providing data. Now it provides the text for all events related to the current event; multiple events are separated by a blank line. The docket text for each related event is preceded by the document number and a hyphen.
- If either of the "docket text" properties (curEvtDktx, curEvtRefDktx) was included in the template and the docket text included invalid HTML tags, the user would see a "Forms processing failed" message. This has been corrected by removing all HTML tags from extracted docket text.
- The property docuNum was providing the number of the document for only the current event. Now, it provides the document number for the current event, followed by a hyphen and a comma-separated list of document numbers for all events related to the current event.
- The locPrtIndv property is no longer supported and has been removed from the standard B10 template.
- The numParties property was returning a count that included aliases. This has been corrected.
- Two versions of a 341 notice are now produced: one with the debtor's full SSN (for parties and creditors) and one with a "masked" SSN (all except the last 4 digits are replaced by "x"). The second version is the "court copy" (stored in a file with a ".crt" suffix), which is used for all displays; it is also saved with the docket entry and used for local printing.

The two versions are produced if the Forms Table screen for the notice has a "Yes" for "341/first meeting notice" (see "Utilities" section).

Note that if a warning message is issued (as when the maximum number of aliases is exceeded), the user will see it twice, once for each of the two versions of the form.

- If the “Generate Notices” utility was used to recreate a notice consisting of a PDF document, an error would occur if the document was no longer in the database. [Documents are stored in the database when they are filed, but an overnight process removes them from the database and puts them into separate files.] This has been corrected. — EMR 907
- For a form with silent selection of creditors, an empty creditor selection screen was being displayed if that form was preceded by a form that had “chatty” creditors. This has been corrected.
- In a multi-part event, if the first part did not include the DoForm DPF but subsequent parts did, an error message appeared on the Notice of Electronic Filing (“form_request record cannot be found”) and no forms were generated. This has been corrected.
- The recipient’s address on DoForm’s “Add recipient” screen, on labels produced by DoForm, and on the form itself now includes five lines. Only four address lines were appearing; party address did not include the “office” line, and two lines of creditor address were being combined.
- Creation of a form for a large number of creditors is now faster. However, if creditor selection is “chatty” and there are thousands of creditors, the process may still “hang”; setting up form records for “silent” creditor selection will lessen the potential for problems. — EMR 996
- BNC charges for some notices (as reflected on the Daily Cost Worksheet) were not always being calculated correctly when the notices were created via the “Generate Notices” utility and were copies of filed documents. This error has been corrected. — MR 1012
- BNC charges for some notices (as reflected on the Daily Cost Worksheet) were not always being calculated correctly when some copies were undeliverable. The undeliverables list could be placed on the back of a notice page (no additional charge) or on an extra page (additional page charge). This error has been corrected. — EMR 1013
- When the BNC Certificate of Service event was being docketed automatically, the docket entry was not being linked to the entry which created the notice. The two entries will be related if the event contains the rel DPF (the parameters for rel have no effect in this situation). — MR 1024
- Previously, if there was no automatic docketing of the Certificate of Service (controlled by ImageCert Site table entry), BNC cost information was not being

recorded, resulting in discrepancies in BNC charges. Cost data will now be recorded without automatic docketing if the ImageCert Site table entry is set to “n” or does not exist. — MR 1024

- Email messages for automatic docketing were not being sent if the name of the user specified in the CertAdmin Site table entry had more than 9 characters. This has been corrected. — MR 1033
- If a paper notice and mailing matrix were submitted to the BNC, the Certificate of Service returned by the BNC for that notice would cause automatic docketing to fail. This has been corrected. — MR 1026.
- BNC Recipient File
 - The first record of the recipient file contained data that was not used by BNC. This data is no longer included in the file. — MR 822
 - The “case record” previously included a debtor’s SSN in several fields. SSN is no longer included.
 - The EDI data which is part of the recipient file contains the debtor’s complete SSN for 341 notices and a masked SSN for all other notices.
 - When a creditor address had five lines, two of them were being combined into a single field in the recipient file; if the total length exceeded 40 characters, a BNC error would occur. This has been corrected. [Also because of this change, notices and certificates of service show 5 address lines for creditors instead of 4.] — EMR 901
 - Previously, the “office” field was not being included in the party address. Creditor address did not include all available address lines, resulting in notices that were undeliverable. Both problems have been corrected. — EMR 647
 - Some address lines were being placed in the wrong fields of the EDI record. This has been corrected. — EMR 1001
 - If an attorney’s address had only 5 digits of zip code, an extraneous hyphen was being included in the recipient file. This has been corrected.

Queries/Reports

- Query - search by name.

The user must now type at least 2 consecutive letters of the last name when searching by name – the two may be preceded by “*” (wild card). You may optionally require that he enter the first two letters in the last name field – i.e., neither of the characters can be “*” or blank. This restriction is enforced if the “RestrictQueryByName” Site table entry is defined and set to “y”. Previously, a user was able to enter only one letter, which returned too many names and could affect performance adversely.

Refer to the “Configuring Bankruptcy CM/ECF Version 2.3” Section for configuration changes.

- Query – search by SSN. The user must now enter all 9 digits (with no “wild card”).

- Query/Parties. A party’s SSN is “masked” for non-court users (all except the last 4 digits are replaced by “x”).

- Cases Report.

- The parties in a case were not sorted. Now, they are sorted by their sequence number.
- When “Party Information” is requested, the party’s SSN is “masked” on the public version (all except the last 4 digits are replaced by “x”).
- Minor changes to the display of selection criteria and the results summary have been made in accordance with CM/ECF standards.
- The number of pages billed to PACER users has been reduced.
- Performance has been improved.

- Docket Report.

- A party’s SSN is “masked” on the public version (all except the last 4 digits are replaced by “x”).
- Previously, a link to the Notice of Electronic Filing did not appear if the event had no PDF document or assigned document number. The link now appears.

- Automatic Closing/Automatic Discharge

Bankruptcy cases filed by a debtor with the new type of “Clearing Bank” can be closed or discharged automatically. If you choose this option, you must create Codes

Table entries of type “AutoClose” or “AutoDisch” with a code value of “debtypclear”. See the *CM/ECF Application Administrator’s Guide*, Chapter XI Section D.

- Calendar – Monthly

When a calendar entry was edited via Internet Explorer, the location value would be removed, resulting in notices without a meeting/hearing location. This has been corrected. — EMR 1054

- Chapter 11 Progress Report. Trustee name was not being displayed. Office number was displayed instead of office name. These errors have been corrected, and performance has been improved.

- Claims Register

The calculation of billable pages for the Claims Register has been revised so that page counts (and charges) are approximately the same as those generated for the Claims Activity Report when the two reports are run with the same selection criteria. This is true when the number of claims is small (e.g., 25). However, the Claims Activity Report extracts more data; as the number of selected claims increases, the difference in pages becomes greater.

- Claims Activity Report run over the Internet — EMR 863

Previously, an error would occur if a user tried to run this report from the Internet. The report now runs correctly, but with restrictions for non-court users. A non-court user does not see the selection items **Terminal digit**, **Judge**, **Filer type**, or **Entered by**, or the sort options for **Terminal digit**, **Judge**, **Filer type**, or **Entered by**. Also, defaults for the “Entered between” date range for the non-court user are taken from Codes table entries of type ClmActRpt with Code values of RptStartPub and RptEndPub (for court users, RptStart and RptEnd provide the defaults). This allows the court to set a narrower default range for the public than would be normal for court users.

Refer to the “Configuring Bankruptcy CM/ECF Version 2.3” Section for configuration changes.

- Docket Activity Report. Performance was very slow when a large number of docket entries was being retrieved. This has been corrected.

- Docket Report

➤ If the “Public Docket” option is checked on the selection screen, the SSN will be masked regardless of user type.

- When docketing an event without a document and/or a document number, the notice of electronic filing was produced, but the receipt could not be later retrieved because there was no link for it on the docket sheet. The “silver ball” link is now shown for these events, unless they are marked as “private”.
- Performance was poor for some large cases, and has been improved.
- Late Docket Entries Report
Docket entries made by users who had been deleted were not being included; this has been corrected. Entries listed within a sort category were appearing in random order; they are now listed by sequence number. Performance has also been improved.
- Missing/Invalid SSN Report
This new report lists bankruptcy cases in which a debtor’s social security number is missing or in an incorrect format. A “debtor” is any party whose role is listed in the Site Table entry “DebtorRoles”.

Missing/Invalid SSN Report

Office Chapter Terminal digit(s)

Filed to

Entered

Include 000-00-0000 SSN in Report

Sort by

Refer to the “Configuring Bankruptcy CM/ECF Version 2.3” Section for configuration changes.

- Cases Report, Case Summary Query, and Status Query. Under rare circumstances, a PACER user would be billed for extra pages. This has been corrected. — MR 1042

Utilities

- Copy Case was not copying document page counts to the new case. This has been corrected.
- Edit Case Data/Edit Statistical Data now displays an additional choice of “Clearing Bank” for “Type of debtor”.
- Edit Case Participants/Add Trustee - EMR 851
If a trustee had previously been in the case but was terminated, you were not able to add that same person to the case as an active trustee. You can now do so (the termination date is removed from the trustee’s data record).

Edit Case Participants/Add Alias - MR 1002

If aliases were entered when the case was opened, additional aliases entered through this utility might not be saved. This has been corrected.

- Mailings/Mailing Labels by Case - Performance has been improved when the user selects "Creditors who have filed claims " for the Creditors item. [Note: a creditor’s city, state, and zip code should be entered in one address line (i.e., zip code should not be in a separate line).]
- Maintain Your ECF Account/Maintain User Accounts – the format of the SSN entered for a user is now checked for valid format.
- Edit a Document Type Table – “UST Flag” was added to the detail screen.
- System Administrator Reports/System Transactions. Several of the selection criteria did not work or created errors, and the report was not formatted properly. These problems have been corrected. Also, the wording of some section titles has been improved (document and case deletions).
- Update System Tables/Dispatch Table. The docket text specification might include spurious characters (\r and ^M) which resulted in incorrect generation of docket text. These characters are now removed when the dispatch definition is edited.
- Update System Tables/Forms Table. A new item, “341/first meeting notice” has been added to the screen to designate that the form is a 341 notice which must be produced in 2 versions: one with the debtor’s full SSN (sent to parties and creditors) and one with a redacted SSN (the “court copy” which is saved with the docket entry that produced it). Both versions are available for local printing.

- Automatic Assignment/Scheduling

- Cases were not being properly batched and assigned when the application was configured to make assignments based on county, zip code, or county and zip code. – MR 1017

Now the program will batch cases as follows:

Configuration Setting	Case batching criteria
County	attorney/office/chapter/counties covered by a trustee
Zip Code	attorney/office/chapter/zip codes covered by a trustee
County and Zip Code	attorney/office/chapter/zip codes and counties covered by a trustee

No assignment will be made unless all cases in a batch can be assigned to a single trustee on a single day.

- Add 341 Calendar Entry - EMR 991
If a user selected more than one county or zip code and clicked the *Submit* button, an SQL error was displayed on the next screen. Now, the selected counties or zip codes that match those stored in the trustee’s 341 setup record are displayed.
- If a judge has more than one confirmation hearing record in a rotation, the program will now assign the earliest available hearing.
- The program creates separate card decks for each group of counties and/or zip codes established for a particular office and chapter. Previously, when a card deck for one county/zip code group was reshuffled before another card deck for a different group, the Edit Judge Card Deck program prevented users from editing cards in the smaller deck. The program will now permit users to edit cards in decks that have been defined by the same office and chapter but different groups of counties and zip codes.
- When the translation of a Codes table entry of type “location” included special characters (such as parentheses), the “View Trustee/341 Setup” function might not display the correct location. This has been corrected.

- EOUST Data Extraction

The Executive Office for US Trustees (EOUST) in Washington, D. C. handles administrative functions for the U. S. Trustee Program and provides support to individual U.S. Trustee Offices (it is separate from the regional/local US Trustee offices). The EOUST relies on data extracted from CM/ECF to monitor bankruptcy cases. They have been obtaining this data from the Docket Activity Report for loading into their own application. Version 2.3 of CM/ECF provides an improved, simpler method for doing this. A nightly program (run automatically by a cron job) creates a data file with one record for each “public” docket entry made to a bankruptcy case that day; it also extracts copies of selected PDF documents filed that day which are of interest to the EOUST (those events are marked in the Document Type table). The EOUST computer later picks up the appropriate files.

Note: This data extraction is separate from any similar process which may have been arranged with your local US Trustee’s office.

The docket entries for which PDF documents are extracted are marked in a new “UST flag” field in the Document Type table with a “y” (see “Database Changes” below).

Refer to the “Configuring Bankruptcy CM/ECF Version 2.3” Section for configuration changes.

If the automatic process fails or needs to be repeated for some other reason, a new utility is available to extract data and documents for a single day:

US Trustee Data Extraction

Extract information for this date:

Flat (data) files
 PDF (document) files

View recent log entries

Miscellaneous

- Party search/selection - when performing a search/select on a party (e.g., case opening) the social security number is masked for a non-court user.

- Creditor Maintenance/Edit Creditors (Bankruptcy Events menu) – only 40 characters of creditor name could be entered as a search clue. Now, 50 characters can be entered (i.e., the entire name).
- File Claims (Bankruptcy Events menu) – only 40 characters of creditor name could be entered as a search clue. Now, 50 characters can be entered (i.e., the entire name).
- VCIS - debtor information was not being provided to callers if the debtor's role was anything other than "db", "jdb", or "jtdb". This has been corrected. See *Upgrading CM/ECF VCIS*, available on the Bankruptcy CM/ECF Product Page, for more information.
- Error logging

Log entries are written by many functions throughout the application. In this release, much of the logging is accomplished via a single, consistent method: the "LogIt" function (programs that are being modified for V2.3 for other reasons have this change; remaining programs will be changed in Version 3).

During installation of Version 2.3, the required system modifications are made automatically (update the /etc/syslog.conf file to include the logs called by LogIt; create empty log files; and modify the log backup process).

- Security – changes have been made to enhance security; the functioning of the application is not affected.
- System utilities – an error occurred when the "dm" program was run (discussed in the *System Administrator's Guide*). This has been corrected.

Database Changes

The following schema changes and data modifications are made by a script which is part of the V2.3 installation process.

- Added do_ust_flag to the **document_type** table. See "EOUST Data Extraction" in the Utilities section above.
- Added fm_341 to the **form** table and set it to "y" for forms which are 341 notices (9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 9e, 9f, 9g, 9h, 9i, 7ba, 7Ia, 11b, 11i, 12b, 12i, 13i; the form names may have uppercase or lowercase letters). This marks a form which must be produced in 2 versions, one with the debtor's full SSN and one with a redacted SSN.
- Changed definition of fr_notice_count in the **form_request** table — EMR 996

Users were unable to generate notices on cases with large recipient lists. The definition of `fr_notice_count` in the `form_request` table was changed from `smallint` to `integer` so that a count greater than 32,767 could be stored.

- Added `bk_td_clearingbank` to the `sardbk` table — EMR 801.
- Connect privileges have been restored to user "nobody".
- A stored procedure was added which produces a “masked” version of the SSN (the first 7 characters are replaced with `xxx-xx-`).
- Added an index to the `u_ascscase` table to improve the performance of the email notification program which produces the Daily Summary Report (`MailReport.pl`).
- Added an index to the `dkentry` table (document number field) to make document retrieval faster in cases with a large number of docket entries.
- Added indices to the `cookie` and `session_info` tables (session fields) to improve overall performance.