

2023 Data Camp Understanding the CCSQ D&A Portal Q&A

1. How is the Portal different than Confluence?

A - Compared to Confluence, the Portal search function is more intuitive. Users can type in their search queries in plain language to narrow down searches. Portal has a stronger training hub that is aware of the users needs as far as providing insight on recent training sign ups or requested access for tools. Also, Portal does not have set templates, so information is easier structure, and we can catalog content in a way that is easier for users to understand.

2. Many CMS State users are reporting difficulty get the Data Use Agreement (DUA) signed. Is there an appeal process to getting in if your DUA is not current? The State Survey agencies do not use the Enterprise Privacy Policy Engine (EPPE) system to get the DUA.

A -

The DUA process is described in detail on the following CMS page: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Files-for-Order/Data-Disclosures-Data-Agreements/Overview>

If your use case is different, for example as a State Agency; you must obtain additional guidance from the CMS component Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG), which manages business with State Agencies. We will expand our Portal capabilities to include your use case once the guidance from QSOG is obtained.

3. Are all current Application Development Organization (ADO) DUA's going to be grandfathered in or will we need to do this ourselves in the future?

A - We will absorb those tools into the Portal once it is ready.

When DUA owners, CMS Contracting Officer's Representative (CORs) or their proxies, must upload, either a brand new DUA, update a DUA or renew a DUA before expiration, that is when they can come onto the Portal to do that. For the existing DUAs that are listed in Confluence, we are going to manage that transition.

4. When is the Portal going live?

A - The Portal is going live in the next few months in phases. First we are going to release it to the DUA owners, CMS CORs, and their proxies. Next, it will be released to specific analytic HCQIS Access Roles and Profile (HARP) pools. If users have a Databricks or SAS Viya role, we will release it in the next few months.

5. Will the new Portal be for data access as well as training, a one stop shop? I am trying to understand all of what will be folded into it.

A - That is absolutely our goal to make it a real workspace with everything you need to accomplish your work in the Data and Analytics ecosystem.

One of the biggest things that Portal is going to be able to do for the user community is display immediate visibility to the system's health. As a Databricks or a Sas Viya user, you will be able to know if Databricks is online or offline.

You will be able to see when maintenance schedules are planned and implemented for systems and tools.

You will be able to see the health for those systems and tools.

You will be able to see trending topics whether it is generic or general resources that is in the public content or if it is more specific towards the training hub.

You will be able to see what is trending, what is new, and what has been updated.

You also can see everything that is happening in real time.

6. Sounds like there is overlap between the Portal and Confluence. Is this replacing Confluence?

A - It will not replace just Confluence yet.

We want to make sure that we have everything installed, as far as the public content is concerned, and make sure it's usable and it benefits the community.

We want to make sure that when we do create this experience, it is usable, and it helps with your day-to-day workloads.

Once that transition is completed, Portal become the new hub for the training material.

7. Will this Portal include more streamlines access to the data catalogs for the various data sources? Accessing those and seeing those updated has seemed to be a pain point.

A - We are looking to improve the current data catalog, and we will have the data catalog on the Portal. Users can click on the data catalog, and it will take them to that resource. We are also looking to make the data catalog more structured and easier to use.

8. Users currently use Identity Management (IDM) or a Universal Resource Locator (URL) when accessing DBX or Sas Viya? Will the Portal replace IDM regarding single sign-on?

A- No, users will still be able to use their Databricks tile or their SAS Viya tile from IDM.

We want to give users a single sign-on experience into the Portal.

That way when users are looking to use the My Access table, summary table, or if users want to check on some training resources or additional resources, they can then immediately sign in to Databricks or their tool from our landing page versus going back to the IDM.

With our strategy users will have a Portal tile in IDM available to them. Users can log into IDM. Users will see the portal tile available, click on it and it will take them right to it.

9. We heard information regarding Coarse-Grain Access Controls, but when will Portal be able to provide a solution for Fine-Grain Access Controls?

A - Our first step to providing value to the user community was solving for Coarse-Grain Access Controls by enabling the DUA owner role and its functions and creating ad-hoc access rules. We are looking to provide a solution to Fine-Grain Access Controls soon.

10. Can you clarify the difference between Coarse-Grain Access Controls versus Fine-Grain Access Controls?

A - Coarse-Grain Access Controls are what we call the rules that are being generated from the DUA. Within your DUA's, there is a table called the Data File Descriptions, and that is what is being used to fill out the DUA. We have mapped each of those data file descriptions to the relevant schema that is hosted in the CDR. That type of mapping is made available and visible to Databricks, SAS, and the other tools. Their tenant management systems can look at that mapping and create the rules within their systems for that organization.

Fine-Grain is what was available before the data was moved from on-prem to the CDR. When it was on-prem, they had the ability to slice and dice that data, whether it was state, region and other parameters and it was able to drill down into those schema datasets at a finer level.

Right now, if you have access to a schema, you have access to everything. Users do not have the ability to do Fine-Grain now.

11. Can you provide more info to what collaboration abilities there will be, such as will there be blogs and other areas for me to collaborate with others?

A - We want to make sure that we have created a forum where users can collaborate as a community, whether that is sharing code via GitHub, and contribute to data with documentation.

We want to create a forum community as well. As we have articles and training available, we can create an ongoing thread that contributes to the value of that specific content, if there is a new way to do something that's not listed in that content.

Users will be able to have the ability to publish that and make it available to the entire community.