OHRPP UCLA
Office of the Human Research Protection Program

Home

Contact OHRPP
Office
Staff Directory
Program Feedback
Kinross Consults

For Researchers
Clinical Research Toolkit
Consent Form Templates **New!**
Emergency Use of a Test Article
External IRBs
Getting Started **New!**
HIPAA
IRB Feedback Survey
IRB Review Fees
Letter to Sponsors
Meeting Calendars
ORA Research Portal
Other Resources
Participants' Bill of Rights
Policies & Guidance

What's New
Human Research News

About OHRPP
Overview and Purpose
Organization Chart
HRPP Program Description

Education & Training
Certification (CITI Training)
HIPAA Training
Monthly Training Sessions
Training Upon Request

Post Approval Reporting
Overview
PI Reporting Requirements
Decision Trees
Other Post Approval Activities

Quality Improvement

About UCLA IRBs
IRB Descriptions
FWA and IRB Registration
Human Research Policy Board
IRB Statistics

For and About IRB Members
Meeting Calendars
IRB Member Rosters
Members Checklists
Member Standards
References
Assessing Risk

For Research Participants
Información Para Participantes
Participant Survey

webIRB System Performance Update

Date: 2011-08-09

In recent months webIRB performance has noticeably slowed down and has in many instances become unstable. The Office of Human Research Protection Program (OHRPP) and the Office for Research Information Systems (ORIS) teams take this situation very seriously. We are committed to repairing the performance of webIRB and ensuring that the performance continues to improve.

Why is webIRB experiencing performance issues?

webIRB is a very complex system. Because our offices took a gradual approach of converting from paper to webIRB, it has taken nearly two years to incorporate both the old studies and the new studies into the system. While we accurately predicted the number of users the system was to accommodate, we did not know the full impact of the both the various enhancements and the volume of users until the majority of the users were incorporated into the system.

Since going live in January 2010, the webIRB system has grown and changed tremendously:

- 7,800 protocols have been submitted.
- 7,000 approvals were processed.
- 9 major deployments of webIRB, with over 435.
  enhancements.

What is being done to address these issues?

webIRB is an application critical to the mission to the UCLA research community and we have taken active steps, both long term and short term, to assure that this application better serves your needs.

Short Term Solution
Last month, the ORIS team in conjunction with the webIRB vendor, Click Commerce, initiated a Performance Audit of webIRB. Out of that collaboration, four significant recommendations have been implemented. While each item had a small impact on an individual basis, together they add up to a major improvement in performance:

- Minor version upgrade of underlying vendor software.
- Reduced and optimized study snapshots.
- ptimized efficiency of critical software code.
- Comprehensive and routine data clean up.

Long Term Solution
A major upgrade of webIRB will be completed this fall:

- webIRB hardware will be upgraded.
- webIRB base software will be upgraded through the latest software release.

This upgrade will result in

- Significant performance improvements.
- Enhanced functionality.
- Improved user interface.

A Performance Audit will be performed annually on webIRB.

Research Community Collaboration

We'd like to give special recognition to our human subject researchers for their outstanding effort and support as we move through this process. You have dedicated countless hours to this with immeasurable patience. Thank you! We truly want to hear from you, so please send your questions, comments, and suggestions to
webIRBhelp@research.ucla.edu
.

Sharon Friend
Director, OHRPP

Jackson, Jeng
Director, ORIS

[Add comment] [Revise]