Developing a V24 Metafile: Importing Customizations

Matt Mayfield, MS, CTR
NPCR EDITS Coordinator

cancerinformatics@cdc.gov

Informatics, Data Science, and Applications Team (IDSAT)
Cancer Surveillance Branch
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control
NCRA
Focus of this Presentation

- NPCR’s **EditWriter** software
- Associated with a **major update** or **new metafile** version release
- Agencies will import V23b customizations (Import metafile) into V24 standard metafile (Target metafile)
- Know your customizations.
- Import order is important.
- Some agencies may require a different approach to updating custom objects. Support is available at: [cancerinformatics@cdc.gov](mailto:cancerinformatics@cdc.gov).
NPCR-EDITS Software

EditWriter

GenEdits Plus

Exchange Plus

Metafile
Customizations

Generates Edit Reports

Create User Defined Dictionary. This should be completed before starting your custom metafile. You will need the assigned field numbers

https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/tools/edits/edits50.htm
New Metafile Release

**New Metafile Release**
(major update)

**Customizations**
- Import previous customizations
- Add new fields and new edits
- User defined dictionary is required for custom fields that are edited (NPCR’s Exchange Plus)

**No Customizations**
- Download the standard V24 metafile. Choose your edit set and rename the metafile before distributing.
PRIOR TO BEGINNING THIS PROCESS

- Review the NAACCR V24 changes spreadsheet
  - Standards for Cancer Registries, Standard Data Edits, Volume IV – NAACCR

- Carefully review custom edits and edit sets
  - Many edits have changed (see Elaine’s presentation)
    - Edit examples:
      - Avoid reintroducing deleted edits or dependencies that have changed
      - All changes will need to be reflected in your custom edits/edit sets
      - Always review the Required Status Table

- Create a User Defined Dictionary: NPCR’s Exchange Plus
  - Match field number in metafile with data dictionary
  - We recommend newly added custom item numbers range from 9500-9999 to be consistent with NPCR RegPlus control tables (9000-9999 allowable)
EditWriter: Import Metafile Definitions

• **Target Metafile**
  • Metafile that will *receive* imported objects (V24)
    ▪ This metafile has updated dependencies in the standard objects.

• **Import or Source Metafile**
  • Metafile from which objects will be selected for import (V23)(V23a)(V23b)
    ▪ This metafile has the previous versions of standard dependencies.
Download the V24 metafile

Download the V24 NAACCR metafile to any location on your computer.
Download NPCR’s EditWriter

Download or verify you are using the latest version of EditWriter. Note that the version shown (2017Aug15) is appropriate for V24 customizations. EditWriter 6 may be available for download at the time of your customization. If so, use EW6 to take advantage of the software’s enhancements.
Open the V24 metafile in EditWriter

- Select OPEN (upper left) and browse to the location on your computer where you saved the V24 metafile. Now select OPEN in the file window (lower right).
Login Prompt will appear

- Select CANCEL to access the V24 metafile without logging in.

- Existing users will import login credentials in a later step.

- New users will need to create a login and password. Instructions are found in the EditWriter help menu. Remember your credentials. NPCR does not have access to your application.
Import Metafile: Open your V23 Metafile

Select IMPORT from the EditWriter tool bar and browse to your customized V23 metafile. Highlight the metafile you need and select OPEN in the file browser.
EW5 Users Only: Use TAG to Match Objects

EW5: Keep default options on TAG and select OK.
MCO
Now in import order!

Objects selected for import will show here

Generates Report of Object
Import Agency

Select only AGENCIES from the MCO menu and import your agency to the V24 metafile.
Import Custom Field

Filter to your agency for quick access to your custom objects

Move highlighted object(s) from import metafile into target metafile grid

All new fields added to the metafile must have a item numbers specified. The item numbers must correspond with your user defined dictionary.
Import Custom Messages

Filter to your agency for quick access to your custom objects

Move highlighted object from import metafile into target metafile grid
Import Custom Tables
Import Custom Edits
Tip: In some scenarios it is better to recreate your custom edit set to guarantee that you have the latest version of all dependencies.
LAYOUTS

- Starting with V23, metafile LAYOUTS are no longer required
- EW6 does not include an option for a layout
- Edits will correspond with the data dictionary by way of item numbers

Do not import a previous LAYOUT
V24 METAFILE VERSION DOCUMENTATION

- Documentation is one of the last metafile tasks before implementation in central registry software or distribution to reporting facilities.
- Within the Edit Writer Tools menu, there is a feature for Metafile Version and Comment.
- Facilitates communication among reporting facilities, the central registry, vendors, and edits staff who respond to queries and concerns about edits.
After recompiling and saving with a unique name, your metafile is ready for distribution!

Next steps:
• You will use NPCR's GenEDITS Plus to process your datafile edit reports.
• If you haven’t already, utilize NPCR’s Exchange Plus to create a data dictionary to include any custom item not included in the standard metafile.
Resources

- **Edits Software Downloads:**
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/tools/edits/edits50.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/tools/edits/edits50.htm)

- **Knowledge Base:**

- **Metafile and Data Dictionaries:**

- **Review the EditWriter Help documentation**
  - F1 menu
  - Sections for Updating a Metafile to a New Major Version
Thank you!

Go to the official federal source of cancer prevention information:
www.cdc.gov/cancer