Colleague UI5

This article describes Colleague UI5. Colleague User Interface v 5.2 will be installed in production on Sunday, March 19, 2017 and will be made widely available on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

What is Colleague UI5?

The Colleague User Interface (aka UI), used mainly by administrators and staff, is the administrative web interface to Ellucian Colleague. Colleague UI5 is an upgrade to the currently installed UI4. UI5 is built on HTML5, which requires no plug-ins, and works on virtually any modern browsers on any device. Ellucian has posted a PDF explaining all about UI5 here, but its main benefits are summarized below:

- Modernized user interface, industry standard Web controls
- Consistency between Colleague SelfService and Colleague UI
- Easier adoption of upgrades and innovation with minimal disruption
- Works on mobile devices.
- Improved accessibility

In short, it's a significant improvement over UI4. With the exception of removing the need for Silverlight, and updating the look and feel, UI5 is a 1:1 release UI4. Ellucian attempted to make it a "1-to-1" release, so that, for the most part, all of the existing functionality is maintained, and most things appear most of the time in the same place in UI5 as it did in UI4. But there are some changes that they implemented which do require some orientation.
Does this affect DaVinci, WebAdvisor, Informer, Self-Service interfaces or the Envision colon prompt?

DaVinci (aka "WebAdvisor"), Informer, Self Service and Envision colon prompt are not impacted by this upgrade. These interfaces will continue to appear and function as they currently do.

Will I still be able to access the existing UI4?

Colleague UI4 will remain active and available after Colleague UI5 is installed. With both UI4 and UI5 active at the same time, users will have more time to test and acclimate to Colleague UI5, and be able to continue to use UI4 to prevent any interruptions to the College’s normal operations. This transition period also provides the Technology department with more time to test and resolve any issues with UI5.

Technology will work with internal partners to establish a reasonable date to deprecate UI4 completely over the next couple of months. Users are advised that updates to major browsers will deprecate UI4 completely at some point in the near future, and that the schedule for these updates is beyond the control of the Technology department.

Why do we need UI5? Can’t we just keep using UI4?

UI4 requires the use of Microsoft's Silverlight technology, which users typically enable by adding the Silverlight plug-in to their browser. The Silverlight plug-in is built on the Netscape Plugin Application Programming Interface (NPAPI). For a variety of reasons, Microsoft has abandoned Silverlight development and discouraged its continued use. Additionally, many browsers are deprecating or dropping support for NPAPI plug-ins in favor of plugin-free, open-source standards and technologies like HTML5.

Modern desktop browsers have either already abandoned support for NPAPI plug-ins (including Silverlight), or have announced plans to do so soon:

- Google Chrome dropped support in 2015 with release 45: http://www.chromium.org/developers/npapi-deprecation
- Microsoft’s newest browser Edge, which ships with Windows 10 and is the successor to Internet Explorer, does not support NPAPI.
- Many mobile browsers like Apple’s Safari on iOS devices (iPhone, iPad) never supported NPAPI to begin with.

For all intents and purposes, Silverlight and UI4 have reached the end-of-life and we will not be supportable for long.

What is the implementation schedule for UI5 to go into production?

The implementation schedule for Colleague User Interface v 5.2 (UI5.2) is provided below:

- UI5.2 will be installed on production servers on Sunday March 19th.
- UI5.2 Internal testing will occur on Monday March 20th.
- UI5.2 will be made widely available on Tuesday March 21st.

How do I access UI5 once it goes into production?

Links to Colleague UI5 will be posted on the Colleague splash page at colleague.massart.edu on Monday, March 20th after the close of business.

How can I learn more about Colleague UI5?

Ellucian has provided an introductory video which you can view at this URL: https://goo.gl/FpD7qm.
How do I access the test instance of Colleague UI5?

We strongly recommend that you log in to Colleague UI5 test instance and step through some of the tasks you normally do in Colleague prior to the wide availability of UI5 on Tuesday, March 21st. Go to http://ui44test.mca.massart.edu:8084/ui/home/index.html and login using the same credentials you currently use to login to Colleague.

Who do I contact if I discover an issue with Colleague UI5?

If you discover issues, please submit them via email to Tech Central at helpdesk@massart.edu and put “Colleague UI5 issue” in the subject line of the email.