OMB FY2007 E-Government Act Report

1. Implementation of Electronic Government Initiatives

   In last year's report, the automated process of collecting information for the Appendix Text was described as a way to transform the Office of Management and Budget Budgeting process. As planned, the Appendix Text application provides the OMB staff with more time to perform the budget analysis and decision making process instead of manually processing the Appendix Text data; especially during the compressed time period leading up to the publication of the President's Budget. In addition, by eliminating the manual process of gathering data for the Appendix Text and applying editing rules, the automated process decreases the number of errors when publishing the Appendix Text.

   To maintain an ongoing dialogue with interested parties to find innovative ways to use information technology to improve the budgeting process, OMB communicates with the agency budget offices in several ways. The Budget Officers Advisor Committee (BOAC) meets regularly to coordinate activities between OMB and the agencies. The Budget Formulation and Execution (BFE) Line of Business (LoB) provides a platform for using IT to improve the budgeting community's data collection exercise. OMB conducts surveys of agency users after each major exercise to find out which processes are going well and which processes need to be improved.

   OMB coordinated the initial data design with its counterpart in the Legislative Branch. In addition, all Federal agencies collaborate with OMB, both as users and through the BFE LoB taskforce. This BFE LoB taskforce identifies opportunities for common budgeting solutions, as well as automated tools to enhance the agency budget process.

   The OMB 2006 E-GOV Report to Congress estimated that this initiative would save over 1,500 hours per year during the highly compressed time period leading up to the publication of the President's Budget, freeing up time for the analysis and decision-making process. This initiative was not intended to save costs but to reduce errors and improve analytical performance. The replacement of the prior labor-intensive manual paper-based process with an electronic process will free up the analyst's limited time. This would lead to an improvement of the analysis and decision-making process. Since the Appendix Text application is a government-only application, it is not accessible to the public, which includes the internet access and access for those with disabilities. As part of the OMB MAX Budget System, the Appendix Text project is managed through the OMB Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC) process.

ExpectMore.gov

ExpectMore.gov is a website that provides the public with information on how Federal programs perform. ExpectMore.gov was launched in February 2006 and includes information about every Federal program assessed - what its purpose is, how it performs, and what it is doing to perform better. There are <u>over 1000</u> assessment summaries and detailed assessments available on ExpectMore.gov. By making candid assessments of programs more accessible to the public, ExpectMore.gov raises awareness of what Federal programs are doing to improve. You can easily browse for program assessments by either their rating or topic, or conduct a keyword search on ExpectMore.gov. Each assessment summary provides a brief program overview, some of the key findings of the assessment, and the follow-up actions agencies are taking to address those findings. Each summary includes links to the program's website and the search results for similar Federal programs. The summaries also link to the detailed PART program assessment. There you can find the evidence to support the program's rating along with the program's level of funding and actual results achieved.

Federal agencies and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget collaborate extensively to complete assessments and rely on evidence to support their conclusions. After working with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to come up with the right answers to questions, Federal agencies have the opportunity to formally appeal the answers with which they still disagree. In the appeals process, agency appeals are considered and adjudicated by a five-person panel comprised of members of the President's Management Council, a group of deputy secretaries responsible for management issues at their respective agencies.

2. <u>Agency Information Management Activities</u>

OMB has developed an Information Resources Management (IRM) Strategic Plan which outlines OMB IT missions and goals and the plan to achieve these missions/goals. However, the OMB IRM Strategic Plan has not been adopted and released to the public.

To improve the dissemination of and access to OMB information by the public, since OMB is one of the EOP components, the OMB web team has used the Executive Office of the President's web posting application/tool to directly post OMB information to the www.whitehouse.gov/omb web site. Since OMB's established practice is to make final agency guidance and directives publicly available, and since the volume of the material is relatively low, OMB is able to publish documents to the web as soon as they become officially available to their constituencies. Since OMB does not have a "backlog" of final agency guidance and direction to publish to the web for public access, there is no separately created and maintained schedule for this process.

OMB primary Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) website is at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/foia. This site provides helpful information on FOIA and frequently asked questions (FAQs) about OMB and FOIA. The OMB FOIA handbook contains information to assist the public on how to obtain OMB information available

through the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act, as well as requests to access OMB's public reading area. The OMB FOIA handbook is accessible at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/foia/foia_handbook.html.

To improve the access to and dissemination of government information to the public, OMB publications and budget-related information are also available at the Government Printing Office web site, www.gpo.gov. OMB Research and Development (R&D) information is published in the OMB Budget. The Regulatory Information Service Center (RISC) of the General Services Administration (GSA) operates two information systems for OIRA: (1) the Regulations Review (REGS) and AGENDA modules of the RISC and OIRA Consolidated Information System (ROCIS), and (2) the Reports Management System (RMS).

The ROCIS AGENDA module provides agencies with a uniform reporting of data on regulatory and deregulatory actions under development throughout the Federal Government, i.e., the Unified Agenda and Regulatory Plan. The ROCIS public website, RegInfo.gov, makes available Regulatory Plans and Agendas dating back to 1981.

The ROCIS REGS module enables agencies to electronically submit regulations to OMB for review and comment. ROCIS REGS assigns each submission a unique OMB tracking number and tracks the review through the OIRA review and Agency notification process. OIRA's review information is maintained in the ROCIS REGS database. ROCIS REGS provides a listing of all pending and recently approved regulations for internal OMB use, and to the public on the ROCIS public website, RegInfo.gov, which is pointed to from the OMB home page. ROCIS REGS also includes copies of Return Letters, Prompt Letters, and Post Review Letters.

RMS is used to support OIRA Paperwork Reduction Act reviews. The system maintains almost 10,000 "active" records containing data on each of the Federal government's approved information collections. RMS tracks the hour and cost burden imposed on the public and the expiration date of each collection. RMS also provides a listing of all pending and recently approved information collections. This information is made available for internal OMB use and to the public on the OMB home page.

OMB is a component of the Executive Office of the President (EOP). The EOP-Office of Administration (OA) – Records Management Division is responsible for the records management programs for the EOP components. Therefore, the NARA approved record schedules, the implementation of NARA Bulletin 2006-02 are being managed by the EOP-OA-Records Management Division.