

E-Government Expansion with New Cross Agency Initiatives

In order to advance cross agency collaboration and expansion of E-Government, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has launched three new Lines of Business (LoBs):

- IT Infrastructure Optimization
- Geospatial
- Budget Formulation and Execution

These new LoBs will examine opportunities for improvement to share common information technology infrastructure, geospatial data and capabilities, and budgeting processes and functions across government. The purpose of these new initiatives is to continue to identify opportunities to reduce the cost of government and improve services to citizens through business performance improvements.

The IT Infrastructure Optimization LoB will define specific performance measures for service levels and costs, identify best practices, and develop guidance for transition plans within agencies and/or across agencies. The Geospatial LoB will identify opportunities for optimizing and consolidating Federal geospatial-related investments to reduce the cost of government and improve services to citizens. The Budget Formulation and Execution LoB will focus on building a “budget of the future” by employing standards and technologies for electronic information exchange to link budget, execution, performance, and financial information throughout all phases of the annual budget formulation and execution cycle.

These LoBs will continue building on the successes of the existing LoBs in attaining efficiencies and savings across the government.

Recent Results in the Expanding Electronic Government Initiative:

E-Clearance: The E-Clearance initiative streamlines and improves the quality of the current security clearance process through automation and deployment of common systems and policies to manage the security clearance process. E-Clearance seeks to ensure sensible policies and procedures are in place to improve the current security clearance process. The initiative’s first component is the Electronic Questionnaire for Investigations Processing (E-QIP), an automated on-line version of security clearance application form SF-86. With E-QIP, current work processes have started to move from a paper-based to an electronic environment, with information requested and transmitted remaining the same. All agencies are currently setup and submitting investigation requests to OPM via e-QIP. The second component entails the development and implementation of a cross-agency Clearance Verification System (CVS). The CVS provides the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and all partnering agencies access to the clearance data of each participating agency database. By increasing the availability of each agency’s database and making clearance information more accessible, CVS has improved agency accountability and supported the transfer of clearances from one agency

to another. As of March 31st, 2006, all agencies are providing daily updates to the CVS database.

E-Rulemaking: Since launching on September 25, 2005, the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS), the second generation of Regulations.gov, has received over 39 million hits and has over 1,500 registered Agency users. Since the beginning of FY 2006, the following agencies have migrated to the eRulemaking solution: the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce's Patent and Trademark Office, the Department of Energy, the General Services Administration including the Federal Acquisition Regulation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and three agencies within the Department of Agriculture including the Farm Service Agency, Food Safety and Inspection Service, and Foreign Agricultural Service. Currently, 33 rulemaking entities, comprising all or portions of 10 Federal Departments and Agencies, are using FDMS and Regulations.gov as their rulemaking outlet to the public enabling the public. These entities represent approximately 23% of the Federal government's annual rulemaking output. Within the next two years, approximately 90% of the Federal government's regulatory information will be accessible through FDMS / Regulations.gov.

Grants Management LoB (GMLOB): The Grants Management Line of Business (GMLOB) seeks to develop a government-wide solution to support end-to-end grants management activities promoting citizen access, customer service, and agency financial and technical stewardship. The end result is a government-wide streamlined grant making process providing transparency and efficiency in the grant decision making process. The benefits of GMLOB include increased service to citizens through standardized processes; cost savings for grant-making agencies through use of shared IT infrastructure; a reduction in the number of redundant grants management systems; and improved reporting on government-wide grant activities and results.

The GM LoB adopted a "consortia-based" approach to implementation and developed a process for forming consortia and having agencies participate in consortia as members. The consortia approach aligns agency work teams (consortia) around shared business interests. Three agencies were named as Consortia Leads for the GMLOB: The Department of Education, Health and Human Services-Administration for Children and Families, and the National Science Foundation. The Consortia Leads will identify and offer technical shared services for grants management resulting in streamlined and standardized processes in partnership with other grant-making agencies. Consortia Lead agencies meet regularly to develop common approaches to implementing GMLOB and share lessons learned. GMLOB developed a Consortia Lead 'Playbook', grants database, and interactive portal site, and has begun working on a financial management interface solution. Moving forward, the Consortia Leads will work with agencies in developing their grants management solution.

IT Security and Privacy: Quarterly security performance updates have demonstrated government-wide progress toward achieving the IT security goals of the E-Gov Scorecard and implementing the privacy provisions of the E-Gov Act. Currently, 83% of

agency systems have identified and validated the effectiveness of security controls - a process called certification and accreditation (C&A). Although this number has decreased slightly from last quarter, the number of agencies with C&A processes rated as "Satisfactory" or better by the agency IG has improved over the last year. Furthermore, agency Inspectors General report agency processes to identify, manage, and remediate security weaknesses are becoming more effective. Continued quality improvement and monitoring of security and privacy-related metrics incorporated into the President's Management Agenda Scorecard, is continuing to improve the security and privacy of the Federal government's information and systems.

Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA): In February 2006, OMB received Enterprise Architecture (EA) submissions from federal agencies for the annual OMB EA assessment. Agency EAs were assessed using the Enterprise Architecture Framework Version 2.0. This framework was used to assess each agency's EA practice in three dimensions: Completion, Use and Results. OMB included the results of these EA assessments in the E-Gov score on each Agency's PMA scorecard. Overall, 80% of assessed agencies achieved a "Green" rating for EA, while 20% received a "Yellow" rating for EA this quarter. OMB is continuing to work with the CIO Council to develop an implementation guide for the Data Reference Model (DRM) version 2.0 released in December 2005. OMB is providing ongoing architecture guidance for the three new E-Gov Line of Business task forces that were kicked off in March: Geospatial, Budget Formulation & Execution, and IT Infrastructure Optimization. OMB continues to provide guidance to agencies on their transition towards implementing Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6).

Sincerely,

Karen Evans
Administrator
Office of E-Government and Information Technology