Continuing to Achieve Results

The Office of E-Government and Information Technology (IT) has made significant accomplishments in the past quarter. To highlight a few, in February 2005 the IT budget was rolled out with the release of the President's 2006 Budget. In addition, we re-launched the E-Gov website, www.egov.gov, to consolidate content for the Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA), Information Policy, Presidential initiatives, and the Chief Information Officer's Council. In March 2005 OMB released the annual E-Gov Implementation Report, the annual Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) Report, and the 2005-2006 Action Plan for the FEA PMO. These accomplishments and accomplishments of the Presidential initiatives are highlighted below.

Recent Results in the Expanding Electronic Government:

President's E-Government Initiatives:

GovBenefits.gov/E-Loans: In April 2005 the Department of Labor announced the launch of GovLoans.gov en Español and the expansion of the GovBenefits.gov website to more than 1,000 federal and state benefit programs. GovLoans.gov En Español offers Spanish-speaking communities greater access to available federal and state loan program information. GovBenefits.gov also announced the launch of "Customized Connections," which allows agencies to customize their websites with GovBenefits.gov functionality. Specifically, agencies can reuse the GovBenefits.gov pre-screening questionnaire and search capabilities, while maintaining their own branding and overall design. GovBenefits.gov has attracted more than 17 million visitors since it went online in April 2002, increasing citizens' access to benefit programs and information they may not have known existed.

International Trade Process Streamlining: The International Trade Process Streamlining initiative, Export.gov, answers the business community's request to unify and consolidate government-sponsored export assistance programs and market information into an agency-neutral information portal. The initiative accomplishes this by providing a central source of information for the business community of federal export promotion and export financing programs through Export.gov. By making the process easier, clearer, and more available, more small and medium-sized (SME) businesses will choose to export their products, and current U.S. exporters will increase their markets to include additional countries. If results facilitated by this initiative see a modest ½ percent increase in the level of SME exports ($1.1 billion), this would result in a significant growth in export-related employment. To date, over 10,000 businesses have registered on Export.gov and over 100,000 trade leads have been accessed by SMEs through Export.gov.

Grants.gov: This initiative, which creates a single portal for all federal grant customers to find and apply for grants online, recently deployed applicant system-to-system functionality, a standing request for many years from the grant community. The applicant system-to-system interface allows the grant community to submit electronic applications to Grants.gov Apply directly from its grants management systems. This interface eliminates the need for applicants to re-enter data into their organization's back office grant system. Pilot groups including

universities, governmental organizations, and vendors will begin interfacing with Grants.gov in the next few months. In addition, Grants.gov continues to work with its partner agencies to post grant opportunities and application packages to the website. As of April 2005, over 6,000 opportunities have been posted on Grants.gov Find, over 800 application packages have been published on Grants.gov Apply, and over 3,700 electronic applications have been received from grantees.

E-Payroll: The Office of Personnel Management's E-Payroll initiative now provides payroll services for 80 percent of Executive Branch federal employees. Migration for the remaining agencies currently is proceeding. The four E-Payroll Providers, the National Business Center, the National Finance Center, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and the General Services Administration, currently provide payroll services to approximately 1.4 million federal employees. Previously, 26 providers furnished payroll services for the federal government's 1.8 million employees. Migrations to date have occurred for the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the American Battlefield Monuments Commission, the National Science Foundation, the Railroad Retirement Board, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Transportation, the Surface Transportation Board, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, and certain departments of the Department of Homeland Security.

E-Training: In February 2005 the E-Training initiative, one of five winners, received the Industry Advisory Council's (IAC) Excellence.Gov Award for demonstrating best practices in Federal E-Government implementations. This year's winners were recognized for successful outreach and adoption of the federal E-Government implementation. Through proactive outreach to agencies, vendors, and government employees, the E-Training Initiative has registered more than 655,000 federal enrollees in the government-wide E-Training Initiative's Gov Online Learning Center, http://www.golearn.gov, and the numerous agency training systems provided by the GoLearn Service Provider. Additionally, the E-Training initiative's E-Learning environment has been successfully adopted by more than 70 federal agencies - doubling the growth of participating agencies from 32 to 70 in one year.

Lines of Business (LoB): On March 23, 2005 OMB kicked off an information systems security line of business co-managed by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency. Since the kick-off, an interagency task force has formed and met twice. The task force comprises of representatives from all 24 CFO Act agencies, the Small Agency Council, the Inspector General community, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. In just two weeks the task force came to consensus on its vision and goals. Additionally, the task force identified five activity areas for consideration in the development of common IT security solutions. On April 4, 2005 the task force released a public request for information soliciting IT security best practices from industry and government. Over the next few months, task force members will be gathering and analyzing information to develop recommendations for each of the five areas which could most benefit from a common solution, collaboration, or standardization of processes. More information on the security line of business can be found on the E-Gov website at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/c-6-6-its.html.

Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA): In March 2005 OMB released the 2005-2006 FEA PMO Action Plan, Enabling Citizen Centered Government. The plan identifies the following 2005 strategic initiatives for the FEA: articulate FEA value and build trust with EA partners, evolve the FEA to drive results, develop and evolve the lines of business and other collaborative opportunities, and measure EA value with the EA Assessment Program. The plan can be found on the E-Gov website at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/e-5-documents.html.

Throughout April 2005 Dick Burk presented at EA-related workshops and conferences to discuss the FEA PMO's strategic vision and action plan. In addition, the FEA PMO continues to meet with agencies to discuss their plans for completing and using their EAs. To date, the FEA PMO has completed 15 of 27 agency meetings.

IT Privacy and Security: OMB issued our second annual report on implementing FISMA in March 2005. The report concluded the federal government continues to make significant progress in identifying and addressing its security weaknesses. Specifically, agencies demonstrated progress from FY 2003 to FY 2004 in the following areas: certification and accreditation of federal systems increased from 62 percent to 77 percent; percentage of systems with "built-in" security costs increased from 77 percent to 85 percent; annual testing of systems control increased from 64 percent to 76 percent; and percentage of systems with tested contingency plans increased from 48 percent to 57 percent. However, the report also concluded much work remains and OMB will continue to work with agencies, Inspector Generals, the Government Accountability Office, and the Congress to strengthen the federal government's information technology security program and improve compliance with FISMA. The FY 2004 FISMA report can be found on the E-Gov website at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/e-2-reports.html.

More information about Expanded Electronic Government, the E-Gov Report, or other E-Gov topics of interest can be found at www.egov.gov, the official website of the President's E-Government Initiative. The website is an up-to-date, public source of information about the E-Government Initiative and its accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Karen Evans
Administrator
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