Improved Management Discipline

The Federal government is continually improving the discipline used in portfolio management of IT capital assets, which helps ensure resources are wisely invested. Improved capital planning has helped agencies and their partners achieve several of the overall goals of E-Government - improved citizen service and measurable results towards agency missions.

The Management Watch List and the High Risk List are just some of the tools OMB uses to help agency officials successfully manage IT investments and improve project performance. OMB recently released quarterly updates on both lists showing the progress Federal agencies have made in their efforts to plan, manage, and monitor their IT investments.

These lists demonstrate agencies have continued to improve their discipline in effectively managing IT investments.

Below, please find examples of agencies progress in overall investment portfolio management and specific examples of recent progress in government-wide transformation efforts.

• FY 2008 (Q3) Management Watch List

In Q3 FY08, 352 agency IT investments were identified as remaining on the MWL. This figure represents a 40 percent decline from the 585 agency IT investments that were identified on the MWL in O1 FY08.

• FY 2008 (Q3) High Risk List

In Q3 FY08, 477 projects were determined to be High Risk due to varying factors, such as complexity, scope or level of importance. This figure represents a 21 percent decline from the 601 projects that were identified on the HRL in Q1 FY08.

• Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-12)

In Q3 FY08, agencies reported issuing HSPD-12 credentials to 10% of their employees and 10% of their contractors. These percentages reflect an increase from Q1 FY08, where 1% of employees and 1% of contractors were issued HSPD-12 credentials. Going forward, an additional 50,000 credentials are projected to be issued monthly.

• Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6)

In Q3 FY08, all agency CIOs provided a written statement verifying their agency demonstrated IPv6 capability as called for in the Federal CIO Council IPv6 Demonstration Plan. IPv6, when fully functional, will ultimately produce a number of benefits to federal government operations and services to the public. Devices and applications will be able to cooperate with each other, through the internet, in ways they could not before due to address space and mobility limitations of IPv4.

• Federal Enterprise Architecture (EA)

OMB recently provided detailed, qualitative feedback to the agencies regarding their EA assessments and, in return, agencies developed quarterly milestones to manage future evolution of the EA programs. In the most recent EA assessment, 93% of scorecard agencies achieved a green rating on status, a 19% increase from last year.

As part of the EA assessment process, agencies provided status on their efforts to measure EA program value and to increase the effectiveness of EA in supporting business decisions.

OMB provided guidance to agencies, helping them link their IT investments to EA-defined segment architectures. This linkage enabled greater transparency between the agency's enterprise transition plan and its investment proposals. Additionally, OMB is in the process of updating the EA assessment framework in order to evaluate how agencies are improving mission performance through the use of technology.