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**U.S. Provides More Access to Information Than Any Government in World,
According to New United Nations Report;**

Report Hails Bush Administration For E-Government Policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States government leads the world in using the Internet to deliver information and services to citizens, according to a new United Nations report. A copy of the report can be viewed at <http://www.unpan.org/e-government/Benchmarking%20E-gov%202001.pdf>

“E-government improves people’s lives by making it easier for them to obtain information and services from the government, which is why President Bush has made E-government a priority from the day he took office,” said Mark Forman, Associate Director for Information Technology and E-government at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The report praised the United States for making more information available to citizens than any other government. “No government offers greater online access to official information than the United States,” the report said.

The federal government’s “remarkable ability to disseminate reliable, accurate, and timely information” following the terrorist attacks of September 11 was highlighted by the report.

The report also praised the Bush administration for appointing a federal “E-gov czar” and for jumpstarting the “slow off the E-gov mark” policy that had persisted until President Bush took office.

The report evaluated each of the 190 U.N. member states’ E-government programs by assigning each government an “E-government index.” The U.S. received an E-government index of 3.11. Its nearest competitors were Australia, which received a 2.60, and New Zealand, which received a 2.59. The United Kingdom and Canada both scored 2.52. The study’s authors hope that policy makers can use the index as a benchmark for evaluating future improvement.

The report predicts that E-government will continue to evolve and may “transform a public sector organization’s commitment so it can function as truly citizen-centric.” In coming years, the report predicts “increased experimentation, innovation and organizational learning in an effort to perfect E-government.”

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