Fostering the Development of Common Systems and Solutions

To foster the development and use of common solutions across the Federal Government, the Office of Management and Budget established E-Government Implementation plans with each agency in fiscal year (FY) 2005. These plans were developed to promote and monitor agency adoption and utilization of government-wide solutions and schedule decommissioning of unnecessarily redundant systems.

The agency E-Government Implementation plans contain quarterly measurable milestones agreed-upon by agencies to implement the E-Government Initiatives. Of the 811 agency milestones due in the first quarter of FY 2006, only 12 milestones (2 percent) were missed due to the fault of those agencies.

Recent Results in the Expanding Electronic Government Initiative:

Grants.gov: Grants.gov is the Federal Government's single website for over 1,000 grant programs that award more than $400 billion by the 26 grant-making agencies and other Federal grant-making organizations. This single site enables Federal agencies to publish grant funding opportunities and application packages online while allowing the grant community, which includes over 1 million organizations, to search for opportunities, and download, complete, and electronically submit applications. Over 30,000 applicants are now authorized to prepare and submit their applications electronically, and the grant community has submitted over 15,600 applications to agencies via Grants.gov (representing approximately 32 percent of all Federal grants). In 2005, 994 funding opportunities for discretionary Federal assistance, representing 44 percent of all grant opportunities, were available for electronic application through Grants.gov. The Grants.gov website also receives over 1.5 million hits and sends over 1 million email notifications per week at the public's request. As the Grants.gov program has grown, the website has been continually enhanced, including a recent streamlining of its functionality, offering applicants much improved search capabilities and a single look-and-feel throughout the website.

Financial Management Lines of Business (LoB): Federal agencies have begun implementing the Financial Management Line of Business (FM LoB) initiative by actively migrating to Centers of Excellence service providers and initiating solutions to integrate financial data among and between agency business systems. Agencies have submitted their FY 2007 business cases to continue migrations or submit applications to become a Center of Excellence service provider for other agencies. The FM LoB also announced new milestones and changes to the initiative governance structure. These changes will facilitate agency migrations and improve the cost, quality and performance of financial management systems government-wide. During FY2006, the FM LoB will develop migration planning guidance and common performance measures to establish greater transparency in evaluating shared service provider alternatives. Additionally, the FM LoB will develop standard business processes and a common government-wide accounting code structure to mitigate the costs and risks of migrations and to facilitate data sharing across agencies. The Financial Systems Integration Office in the General Service Administration's Office of Government-wide Policy will now have direct responsibility for completing these priority projects under the FM LoB.

Integrated Acquisition Environment: The Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE) initiative launched the new electronic Subcontractor Reporting System (eSRS) (http://www.acq.osd.mil/scst/esrs.htm)in October, 2005. eSRS promises to create higher visibility and introduce greater transparency into the process of gathering information on Federal subcontracting accomplishments. This Internet-based tool will streamline the process of reporting on subcontracting plans and provide agencies with access to analytical data on subcontracting performance. Specifically, the eSRS eliminates the need for paper submissions and processing of the SF 294's -- Individual Subcontracting Reports, and SF 295's -- Summary Subcontracting Reports, and replaces the paper process with an easy-to-use electronic process to collect the data. IAE has seen increased usage of its major acquisition systems over the past year. For example, as of January 2006, over 400,000 vendors have registered on the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) (http://www.ccr.gov/).

Information Systems Security Line of Business (LoB): In 2005, the Information Systems Security Line of Business (ISS LoB) Task Force, co-managed by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency, identified information security services to be shared across government. The task force was comprised of representatives from all 24 CFO Act agencies, the Small Agency Council, the Inspectors General community, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This multi-agency group defined common solutions in four areas: 1) security training, 2) FISMA reporting, 3) situational awareness & incident response, and 4) evaluating and selecting security products and services. Moving forward, Federal agencies will submit proposals to become shared service providers for several of these solutions. Agencies not designated as service providers will be expected to acquire information security services from the service providers.

Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA): In December 2005, OMB released the Enterprise Architecture (EA) Framework Version 2.0. This framework will be used to focus agency attention on completing and using EA to realize tangible results toward achieving their agency mission. The EA Assessment Framework 2.0 will be used to assess an agency's EA practice in three dimensions: Completion, Use and Results. OMB also released Version 2.0 of the FEA Data Reference Model (DRM). This version will better support information sharing and reuse, as well as provide a standard approach to describe, categorize, and share government data. The DRM will provide Lines of Business (LoB) and other communities of practice with an improved framework and methodology for data harmonization, standardization, and integration across government. OMB continues to provide guidance to agencies on their transition towards implementing Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6).

IT Privacy and Security: Quarterly security performance updates have demonstrated government-wide progress toward achieving the IT security goals of the President's Management Agenda (PMA) E-Gov Scorecard and implementing the privacy provisions of the E-Gov Act. Currently, 85 percent of agency systems have identified and validated the effectiveness of security controls - a process called certification and accreditation. Furthermore, agency Inspectors General report agency processes to identify, manage, and remediate security weaknesses are becoming more effective. These improvements, as well as the continued monitoring of agency activities through the PMA Scorecard, are continuing to improve the security and privacy of the Federal Government's information and systems.

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,

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