United States Department of the Interior

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MEMORANDUM

To: Bureau and Office Heads
            Bureau and Office Chief Information Officers

From: ᶠᵒʳ W. Hord Tipton
            Chief Information Officer, Acting

Subject: Compliance with the Interior Enterprise Architecture Technical Reference Model

The Interior Enterprise Architecture (IEA) development effort has been on a fast track since July 2001. A major IEA deliverable, the Technical Reference Model (TRM), was recently completed and subsequently approved by the IT Management Council (ITMC) in mid-August. The TRM, along with other IEA deliverables, can be viewed or downloaded from the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) website (http://www.doi.gov/ocio/architecture).

Now that the TRM is final, effectively immediately, all crosscutting Interior IT initiatives (new development or enhancement) must follow the TRM. The TRM is intended to act as a catalyst for IT personnel to better engage non-IT organizations in discussions around tradeoffs and priorities within the established governance structure (e.g., Management Initiatives Team (MIT), Information Technology Management Council (ITMC)). The TRM, like the architecture itself, is not intended to be the "last word" (e.g., some automated checklist for product selection) but it is intended to be one of the "first words" to assure that Interior's mission priorities and its IT priorities remain closely aligned.

Although the TRM and associated governance processes are intended for Interior-wide or multi-bureau IT initiatives, all of the IEA documents are a valuable resource for bureaus/offices to use as models for their own enterprise architecture development efforts. The architecture governance processes and Interior-wide collaboration introduced by the IEA development process serve as readily-available stepping stones to an Interior business model based upon enhanced inter-bureau/office cooperation.

Development of the TRM was a highly collaborative effort, involving technical representatives from Interior bureaus/offices in creating principles, and identifying and classifying technology components for the following ten technical domains:

- Application Development
- Collaboration/Directory Services
- Data Management
- Distributed Systems Management
- Information Security
- Geospatial Technologies

- Middleware
- Network
- Platform
- Web/E-Government

It is doubtful that a single TRM domain chapter can be used to address a substantive issue. More realistically, several architecture domains will need to be reviewed when addressing an important IT decision. For example, if Interior was considering the creation of a new Interior-wide reporting system that could be used by the general public, then the TRM chapters on Information Security, Application Development and Web/E-Government might all need to be reviewed.

The TRM is a critical component of developing a more systematic approach to acquiring, deploying, operating, and managing IT at Interior. As the TRM matures, it will become an even more useful tool for effectively managing Interior IT resources. My vision is to use the TRM as one of the primary tools for making sound IT investment decisions. The ITMC will use it as the basis for approving/disapproving crosscutting IT project proposals. Simply put, it will serve as a modernization blueprint for ensuring our initiatives are in direct alignment with the business vision for Interior.

We thank you again for your participation and cooperation in developing this very important product. If you have any questions about the Interior Enterprise Architecture, please contact Faye Lee, Interior Chief Architect, at 202-208-5436.

cc:
Management Initiatives Team
Interior Architecture Working Group
Domain Architecture Teams