

Results to Build On

As Americans elect a new President this fall, it is natural to take stock of what we have accomplished to date in E-Government. Initially launched in 2002, the E-Gov initiatives sought to improve services to citizens and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations. Agencies were charged with working together to achieve common goals and customer-focused results. At the time, this concept presented a significant change to the status quo, but as we near the end of 2008, it is a reality. There were those who thought it would never happen, but now citizens can access government information, apply for Federal grants, and review Federal expenditures, to name just a few activities, with the mere click of a mouse.

Additionally the initiatives are enabling new levels of transparency and accountability across the Federal enterprise. Through easy access to government information, members of the public have unparalleled insights into the Federal policy-making process and can better track the spending of taxpayer dollars. Going forward, the initiatives will continue to build upon their successes to date, optimizing existing services and discovering new ways to better serve the public.

Here are some highlights of E-Gov success:

Visualization for Understanding Expenditures in Information Technology (VUE-IT)

On October 23, 2008, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) launched a new tool, VUE-IT. VUE-IT improves understanding of the annual Federal Government Information Technology investments made through the President's Budget. VUE-IT organizes IT investments by agency and bureau, as well as by the Federal Enterprise Architecture's (FEA) service groupings.

VUE-IT incorporates OMB's High Risk List (HRL) and Management Watch List (MWL), management tools used to monitor IT budget planning and project execution. If an agency's investment plan contains planning weaknesses, it is placed on OMB's MWL and targeted for follow-up action to correct potential planning deficiencies prior to execution. Projects on the HRL are those requiring special attention from the highest level of agency management, but aren't projects necessarily "at risk" of failure.

VUE-IT provides users with a drill down browsing capability. This capability allows users to navigate from higher levels of summarized data to reveal detailed information. For example, users may view all investments being made by the FBI within the Department of Justice, or all investments across the entire Federal Government with a primary mission of supporting Law Enforcement.

Through the integration of IT Investment, FEA, and IT management tools, VUE-IT provides greater transparency and enables increased understanding of the Federal IT portfolio.

Grants.gov

In September 2008, Grants.gov received the 200,000th electronic grant application submission for Fiscal Year 2008, far exceeding a core program milestone in the fourth quarter. In fact, Grants.gov received 16% more submissions in Fiscal Year 2008 than in 2007 (172,058). This landmark achievement illustrates the institutionalization of Grants.gov for finding and applying

for Federal grants. Grant seekers no longer need to learn and comply with multiple agency systems and requirements, resulting in a simplified and effective environment for the grant community.

Grants.gov is not resting on its success: the initiative will implement a speed and reliability upgrade in late October 2008 to increase the system's processing rate up from 2,000 applications a day to 10,000 applications a day. Grants.gov will also implement additional system enhancements to increase the system's current capacity from 360 concurrent users to 2,000 concurrent users. Going forward, Grants.gov is migrating to a cloud computing environment that will allow increased scalability and functionality. The migration will help the initiative identify and implement new measures to better serve the 26 Federal grant-making agencies posting to Grants.gov as well as help citizens who are applying for Federal grants.

SAFECOM

On July 31, 2008, with the release of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), SAFECOM issued the nation's first strategic plan aimed at improving emergency response communication. The NECP sets forth a series of actions, including key milestones, benchmarks and quantitative performance measures for achieving national goals and objectives. The NECP defined three goals that institute deadlines for various Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies to reach minimum levels of interoperable communications. Through these goals, the vision of the NECP is to ensure emergency responders can communicate as needed, on demand, and as authorized, regardless of their level within the government.

Going forward, SAFECOM will work with states to integrate their approved Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIPs) with the NECP. Aligning the SCIPs to the NECP further promotes a coordinated, nationwide, communications strategy.

The Information Technology Infrastructure Line of Business (ITILOB)

The Information Technology Infrastructure Line of Business (ITILOB) provides policy and strategic leadership, guidance, and tools for the optimization of the Federal government's IT infrastructure. Twenty-three of the government's largest agencies have ratified a common set of solutions and are working together to better manage the Federal government's estimated \$30B in annual IT infrastructure spending in FY 2009. Areas of focus include End User Systems and Support, Mainframes and Servers Systems and Support, and Telecommunications Systems and Support.

In Q4 FY 2008, the ITILOB Program Management Office took delivery of Five-Year Optimization Plans from scorecard agencies. These plans cover the three aforementioned infrastructure areas and serve as a baseline in detailing each agency's path towards greater IT cost efficiencies and improved performance.

Recently, the ITILOB received the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Bethesda Chapter's Excellence Award. The program was also nominated for the National Data Center Executive of the Year Award, an industry-wide recognition.

This November, the ITILOB will host an interagency summit to discuss Federal-wide infrastructure planning. Executive leadership, enterprise architects, operations managers, and other IT professionals will attend the three-day event in St. Michaels, Maryland.

Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE)

The Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE) continues to streamline Federal acquisition process. Recently, IAE consolidated FedBizOpps (FBO) with the Federal Technical Data Solution (FedTeDs). FedTeDs provides a web-based system to disseminate sensitive but unclassified information associated with an active acquisition of solicitation to Federal Government vendors. FedBizOpps is a single point-of-entry through which commercial vendors and government buyers post, search, monitor, and retrieve opportunities solicited by the entire Federal contracting community.

The consolidation of FBO and FedTeDs is projected to save the government over \$600,000 in the first year of operation and \$1.6 million annually thereafter.

On October 22, 2008, the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE) Program was honored as one of 10 winners of the 21st Annual Government Computer News Awards for “Outstanding Information Technology Achievement in Government.” This award was in recognition of IAE’s extraordinary accomplishments and significant contributions over the past year, specifically the consolidation of FBO and FedTeDs.