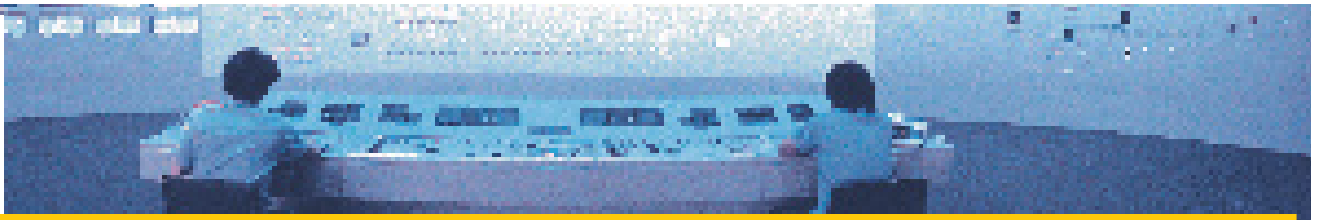




NATIONAL INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Partnering for Success



The Computer Emergency Notification System (CENS)

Saving lives and ensuring the safety of employees is crucial during crisis situations. It was recognized, especially after September 11, that a system was needed to communicate a crisis situation and the necessary action to be taken by personnel. The National Information Technology Center (NITC) is announcing the Computer Emergency Notification System (CENS) application to enhance existing procedures for emergency planning and notification. The CENS application utilizes the internet/intranet to notify personnel of emergencies, building-related alerts and messages in a designated environment.

CENS

- The CENS application consists of a message generation interface, message repository, administration interface and client configuration interface. A small client application resides on individual's computers.
- The CENS message generator allows an authorized user to send an emergency message, alert message, or information message to all machines running the CENS client.
- CENS is written in Java for cross-platform implementation.
- The CENS Client software polls the server at intervals, defined by the customer, and receives messages, as appropriate.

Benefits

- CENS ensures that its user organizations are able to effectively and efficiently communicate with staff in the event of a crisis situation. The application requires no additional software.
- CENS delivers a consistent message to all personnel, specified groups, or areas via Specified Area Messaging (SAM).
- CENS indicates the specific problem and what action to take.
- CENS works continuously if a user is logged on to the system.

Key Features

- Effectively and efficiently communicates with staff.
- Capability to reach the greatest number of people in an affected area.
- Able to reach people inside closed dwellings with high ambient noise levels.
- Able to reach those in peripheral areas of a workplace.
- Authorized personnel perform administration and use of CENS.
- Complies with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Works in multiple environments.
- Minimal impact to network performance.
- Utilizes security features.
- Flexible and adaptable.

SAVE LIVES and Ensure Personnel Safety!

888-USE-NITC

www.ocio.usda.gov/nitc



The Computer Emergency Notification System (CENS)

NITC Services Offerings

NITC will:

- acquire and/or host a CENS server or utilize customer-owned server.
- provide CENS application level support during the installation and maintenance phases.
- partner with the customer to provide technical project planning and coordination.
- provide applications development expertise to modify the most current USDA code to meet new customer requirements.
- coordinate with the customer's emergency command authority to create a database of message types and message content.
- provide application level technical assistance with systems setup, installation, testing, and deployment.
- provide application level support.
- provide application level CENS systems and end user CENS documentation.

NITC Services Pricing:

Fee based depending upon customization requirements.

CENS Application Pricing:

Available upon request for Federal Government entities.

"Partnering for Success"