

# Message From the Chief Information Officer

June 15 , 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: NOAA Assistant Administrators

FROM: NOAA Chief Information Officers  
Joseph F. Klimavicz  
Chief Information Officer  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

SUBJECT: NOAA's Unified Communications System

In the Department of Commerce E-mail Consolidation memorandum, dated February 27, 2007, the E-Mail Consolidation Project Team recommended that the Department adopt a standard for unifying communications, including e-mail, calendaring, instant messaging, and supporting mobile devices. Their research supported implementation of a single product suite hosted from a centrally managed shared facility and as a result, the Microsoft Outlook/Exchange platform was selected to be the Department of Commerce Enterprise Architecture standard for E-mail Calendaring, Instant Messaging, and for supporting mobile devices.

Although this was a Department-wide effort, each Bureau CIO was required to develop a migration strategy to comply with the Department of Commerce Enterprise Architecture requirement. After much work and requirements gathering, NOAA is moving forward with a migration strategy and implementation plan to have most of NOAA employees on the new system by the end of this calendar year.

Beginning late summer, NOAA will begin transitioning from our disjointed Thunderbird e-mail and Oracle calendar system to a Microsoft Exchange Integrated Communications (Messaging and Calendaring) Solution. This integrated solution of Office Outlook e-mail and calendar will give all NOAA employees access to their email and calendar in a single application. In addition, Microsoft Outlook will provide direct support for NOAA's Blackberry users, allowing for a solution that integrates email and calendar with their mobile devices.

The Unified Communications project team (consisting of members from each Line Office), in conjunction with the CIO Council and other NOAA working groups have and continue to work diligently toward putting NOAA's communication infrastructure in place. Coordination is ongoing within each Line Office to ensure client licenses, mailbox migration, and end user training are planned for and funded.

To gain a better understanding of what this transition will mean to you, check out the Microsoft Office Outlook 2007 Fact Sheet located at [http://www.cio.noaa.gov/Policy\\_Programs/pmo.html](http://www.cio.noaa.gov/Policy_Programs/pmo.html).



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