

The background of the slide is a collage of various US dollar bills, including \$100, \$20, and \$50 bills, arranged in a somewhat chaotic but overlapping pattern. The bills are rendered in a light, semi-transparent style, allowing the text to be clearly visible.

Upcoming Transition Includes Key Information Technology Challenges

**Gene L. Dodaro
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Outline

- Dynamics shaping the environment
- GAO efforts to assist upcoming transition
- Examples of key information technology challenges

No Ordinary Transition: Dynamics Shaping our Environment

- A nation at war and facing first homeland security change
- Near-term and long-term economic challenges
 - Financial Turmoil
 - Economic Slowdown
 - Long-term fiscal imbalance as backdrop
- Personnel and Performance Challenges

Near Term: GAO Role in Financial Rescue

- Oversight roles included in Economic Stabilization Act
- Auditors of FDIC, FHFA and governmentwide statements
- Advice and analysis in reassessing regulatory structure

Long Term: GAO Simulations on Federal Fiscal Path

- Short term issues require responses
- Long term unsustainable path will ultimately need attention
- Need to reexamine base, reform entitlements and review revenue structures

Transition: GAO Objectives

- Provide insight into pressing national issues
- Highlight the growing need for innovative, integrated approaches to solve national and global challenges
- Document targeted opportunities to conserve resources that can be applied to new initiatives
- Underscore critical capacity-building needs in individual agencies that will affect implementation of whatever new priorities are pursued
- Help inform the management improvement agendas of Congress and the new administration
- Update High Risk list

Work with the Private Sector and Other Levels of Government to Protect Critical Cyber Infrastructures

- Bolster cyber analysis and warning capabilities
- Reduce organizational inefficiencies
- Complete actions identified during cyber exercises
- Develop sector-specific plans that fully address all of the cyber-related criteria
- Improve cybersecurity of infrastructure control systems
- Strengthen DHS's ability to help recover from Internet disruptions

Strengthen Information Security Controls

- Implement controls that prevent, limit, or detect access to computer resources
- Manage the configuration of network devices to prevent unauthorized access and ensure system integrity
- Create and maintain inventories of major systems, implement common security configurations, ensure staff receive information security training, test and evaluate controls, take remedial actions for known deficiencies, and certify and accredit systems for operation
- Implement controls that reduce the chance of incidents involving data loss or theft, computer intrusions, and privacy breaches

Federal Information Security Continues to be Weak

Number of agencies

24

18

12

6

0

Access control

Configuration management

Segregation of duties

Service continuity

Entitywide security program

Source: GAO analysis of agency, IG, and GAO reports for FY2007.

Better Manage IT to Achieve Benefits and Control Costs

- Improve the planning, management, and oversight of IT investments
- Institute key management controls (e.g., disciplined investment and acquisition management processes) to effectively define, design, develop, acquire, and implement investments
- Hold executives accountable for ensuring that program commitments and expectations are met

Develop and Implement Well-Defined Modernization Blueprints

- To advance the state of enterprise architecture development and use in the federal government,
 - senior leadership in the departments and agencies need to demonstrate their commitment to this organizational transformation tool,
 - they need to ensure that the kind of management controls embodied in GAO's Enterprise Architecture Management Maturity Framework are in place and functioning

Ensure Citizen Access to Government Information

- The timeliness of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processing continues to be a challenge for many agencies
- Agencies will need to ensure that plans to reduce backlogged FOIA requests are developed and implemented appropriately, and the results monitored
- GAO will continue to provide agencies, the Department of Justice, and the Congress with recommendations to help address backlogs and improve FOIA processing

Ensure Privacy Protections in a Post-9/11 Environment

- Amend applicable laws to better ensure the protection of citizens' privacy rights
- Enhance protection of personally identifiable information through revisions or supplements to OMB's privacy guidance

Further the Exchange of Electronic Patient Health Information

- Ensure that privacy principles (such as limiting access appropriately) and challenges (such as resolving legal and policy issues) are fully addressed within HHS' federal health IT strategic plan
- Increase the numbers and kinds of health IT systems that are certified, as well as encourage the widespread use of such systems in the public and private health care sectors, while protecting privacy
- Progress made in sharing of electronic patient health information, but more work remains between VA and DOD to achieve fully interoperable electronic health records
 - Agree to standards for categories of medical information that are not yet standardized,
 - Complete the development of modernized systems, and
 - Transition to these modernized systems

Key IT Contacts

- Better manage IT to achieve benefits and control costs (David A. Powner/pownerd@gao.gov and Randolph C. Hite/hiter@gao.gov)
- Work with the private sector and other levels of government to protect cyber critical infrastructures (David A. Powner/pownerd@gao.gov)
- Develop and implement well-defined modernization blueprints (Randolph C. Hite/hiter@gao.gov)
- Ensure privacy protections in a post-9/11 environment (Joel Willemsen/willemsenj@gao.gov)
- Ensure citizen access to government information (Joel Willemsen/willemsenj@gao.gov)
- Strengthen information security controls (Greg Wilshusen/wilshusheng@gao.gov)
- Further the exchange of electronic patient health information (Valerie Melvin/melvinv@gao.gov)

The background of the slide features a collage of US dollar bills, including \$100, \$20, and \$50 denominations, overlaid on a dark blue gradient. The bills are slightly faded and arranged in a way that suggests movement or a transition.

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On the Web

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