

2009 Federal Government IT Strategic Agenda

Each year the American Council for Technology (ACT) prepares a strategic agenda of high priority government IT issues. This agenda is used to guide the activities of ACT and its Industry Advisory Council (IAC) to ensure that this unique partnership is addressing the government's issues.

The scope of the strategic agenda of ACT-IAC includes the use of IT to meet business and mission goals by the CIOs, CFOs, CAOs, CHCOs, and mission area leads within government, primarily federal but increasingly at the state and local level as well.

Recognizing that the country is going through unprecedented change, this first draft of the 2009 agenda is based upon the priorities established by the Federal government's CIO and additional issues – continuing and new – that will benefit from public-private collaboration. This agenda is being released in draft form as we want ACT-IAC to be continuously proactive and our agenda needs to be enriched by input from you.

The main elements of the draft agenda are:

1. **Increase government transparency:** Provide citizens with information and data about the operations of government to promote citizen engagement, increase accountability across government, and encourage innovation. Potential issue areas include:
 - **External transparency (citizen facing)** – Improve the public's trust in government by enhancing transparency and engagement.
 - **Internal transparency (government facing)** – create a more efficient government by promoting information sharing across government to improve decision-making and reduce waste and inefficiencies. Promote a more integrated government by working across functional and mission silos
 - **American Recovery and Reinvestment ACT (ARRA)** – Utilize best practices and innovative technologies to provide citizens with accurate, timely and detailed information regarding the investment of economic stimulus funds.
 - **Tie input to outputs** - Develop processes and systems that identify the outputs achieved with specific investments and measure the value of those outputs.
 - **Model of Engagement** - Identify and develop a model for engagement of large constituencies.

2. **Increase citizen engagement :** Create a government that is open and encourage participatory democracy so that decisions may be informed before they are made rather than after.
 - **Access to information** – Protect and enhance the public's right to access government information

- ***New technologies*** – Use cutting edge technologies to increase citizen inclusion in government while protecting security and privacy and reduce the digital divide.
- ***Policy implications*** – Assess the policy implications on the use of new media to increase citizen engagement and how to we break down the perceived barriers.
- ***Return on investment*** – How much does it cost to increase citizen engagement?
- ***Engage constituencies*** - Identify and develop models for effective engagement with large constituencies

3. Lower the cost of government operations: Reduce the cost of government while improving its efficiency of operations and delivery of services to the public.

- ***Open source technologies*** – Reduce the need for and the cost of building proprietary IT systems for the government through the use of open source technologies
- ***Cloud computing*** – Identify best practices and policies for taking advantage of cloud computing and SaaS to reduce government expenses.
- ***Improve the procurement process*** – Identify opportunities to improve the procurement process to increase innovation and reduce the time it takes to procure major systems while enhancing competitive opportunities.
- ***Enterprise-wide initiatives*** – Identify cross-cutting government operations shared by multiple organizations and reduce government expenses through the reduction of duplication.
- ***Electronic health records*** – Reduce the cost of government and improve national health care through electronic health records.
- ***Green IT*** – Explore the use of energy efficient technologies to reduce energy costs and promote a cleaner environment.
- ***Renovate an out-of-date government inventory*** – identify opportunities to reduce costs by replacing obsolete and out-of-date government IT systems.
- ***Improve the budget process*** - Improve the federal budget process through the application of enterprise architecture principles.
- ***Integrate related processes*** - Increase quality and lower cost of related process through process integration.

4. Promote and encourage innovation in government: Restore innovation to government IT and improve the delivery of services to the citizen.

- ***Acquisition innovation*** – Explore acquisition reform and strategies that will promote innovation.
- ***Encourage risk acceptance within the federal workforce*** – Identify policies and practices that will encourage risk acceptance and greater accountability on the part of the federal workforce

- **Emerging technologies** – Identify emerging technologies with potential application to government activities and recommend ways to permit government agencies to take advantage of those technologies.
- **Small business** – Promote innovation through support for small businesses with leading-edge ideas.
- **Improve American competitiveness** - Manage government IT as a national strategic asset that contributes to America’s ability to compete in the global marketplace.
- **Modernize the financial regulatory system** – Develop an up-to-date and integrated IT system to support a financial regulatory system based on complex financial transactions and public transparency.

5. **Cyber Security:** Create a safe environment for government IT assets that protects the national interest and privacy while promoting the appropriate exchange of data.

- **Personally identifiable information (PII)** – Develop methodologies for protecting PII is critical in this age of identity theft..
- **Data and infrastructure protection** – Secure data systems and infrastructure in order to maintain the day-to-day operations of government.
- **Identity management** – Continue the development of standards of identification to protect electronic and physical assets.
- **Promote public-private partnerships** – Establish a collaborative partnership with the private sector that provides the networks and systems used by government.
- **Information Sharing** – Identify strategies to overcome the dichotomy between information security and information sharing.
- **Cyber Warfare** – Examine ways of proactively disabling enemies of the United States

Other Issues

In addition to the above pillars identified by the current administration, there are a number of other significant and ongoing issues that require attention. These include the following:

- **Human capital issues:**
 - **Blended workforce** – Develop strategies to effectively manage a blended workforce comprised of both federal and contracting staff.
 - **Improve program and change management skills** - Ensure that program managers (public and private) have the appropriate level of skills, authority and accountability.
 - **Attract and retain skilled federal IT staff** – Government needs to address the recruitment and retention of a skilled IT workforce.
 - **Develop next generation of IT workforce** – Define a strategy for developing the next generation of the IT workforce.
 - **Acquisition workforce** – Ensure that government has the people and skills to conduct and manage complex acquisitions.

- **Improve coordination among the CXO community and program managers:** Improve IT governance and acquisition management by improving coordination and leverage among the CXO community and program managers
- **Enterprise Risk management:** Develop effective enterprise-wide risk management programs.
- **Public-private collaboration:** Encourage and support objective and ethical opportunities for government and industry to collaborate on IT issues of interest to the government.

Next Steps

The ACT-IAC agenda is a living document – we encourage and welcome your participation to keep ACT-IAC proactive. On that note:

- The agenda will be made publicly available thru a blog that will request suggestions regarding opportunities and initiatives to achieve the above objectives.
- The agenda will be circulated to leaders and organizations in the government IT community – public and private – for their input.
- ACT-IAC will use the agenda to help guide its 2009 restructuring of its Shared Interest Groups to ensure that they are working on the highest priority issues.
- ACT-IAC will use the agenda to guide its other activities, such as MOC, ELC, program events and professional development activities.
- ACT-IAC will design training activities to help the government execute its agenda effectively and efficiently