



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Move Will Result in Reliable and Secure Computing Services

RICHMOND -- Mainframe computing services – the processing and storage of computer applications and critical information – for state government will move from downtown over the weekend of Dec. 15-16.

“We are cutting services over to a new mainframe at the Commonwealth Enterprise Solutions Center (CESC) in Chester,” Chief Information Officer Lem Stewart said. “This is part of the transformation of the state government’s information technology (IT) infrastructure. It marks a significant milestone and will provide greatly enhanced, reliable and secure mainframe services.”

For more than a dozen state agencies, mainframe computing services will be down all weekend -- applications will not run and data will not be processed.

“Representatives of state agencies that will be without mainframe services have spent months meeting, planning and preparing for this event with technical and customer service staff from the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and Northrop Grumman,” Stewart added.

The most visible disruption of service is the closing of the Department of Motor Vehicles offices on Saturday, Dec. 15. The list of remaining agencies is not being released for security reasons.

In addition, a planned outage between 4-5 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, will result in the following:

- Web sites, e-mail, Internet file sharing and network connections will be unavailable if they are provided through these mainframes and CESC servers.
- CESC server applications may not be available for approximately 20 agencies.

Stewart said there are plans to return to the old mainframe if challenges are encountered that prohibit technicians from completing the move. But, he said he believes that unlikely because of the months of advance work and testing.

The move is part of the public-private partnership with Northrop Grumman. The partnership work is bringing 21st century technology to bear through the modernization of mainframes, servers, networks, desktops, e-mail, help desk, voice and video, and facilities. CESC, which houses 600 employees, the data center and VITA operations, opened last July. The Southwest Enterprise Solutions Center in Russell County will open this month creating more than 400 new high-tech jobs in rural Virginia. It will house the primary help desk and back-up data center.

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