

From the CIO



CIO of the
Commonwealth
Lem Stewart

Coordination of IT projects that may have benefits across agencies can save the Commonwealth precious resources and is a priority of the Information Technology Investment Board (ITIB). A review of the proposed major projects last month found several with common themes, but a lack of collaboration between agencies. The ITIB asked VITA to work with agencies to determine if projects can be collaborative. VITA staff will gather information as quickly as possible to present to the ITIB this month. The ITIB's recommendations in the form of the Recommended Technology Investment Projects (RTIP) Report is due to the Governor and General Assembly by Sept. 1.



IT Partnership "pilot" agencies identified, site surveys planned

VITA and Northrop Grumman are working with agencies to determine the order for transformation of state government's IT infrastructure. The Department of Veterans Services, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Department of Minority Business Enterprise and Department of Criminal Justice Services have agreed to serve as "pilot" agencies. Work will begin this fall in those agencies on standardization and refresh of desktops and consolidation of help desks. Agencies will have input on plans for the transformation, which will occur over the next three years, so that agency business is not adversely impacted at critical times. IT partnership site survey teams will begin visiting agencies this month to validate infrastructure information required to plan transformation. Site surveys will be minimally disruptive to agency operations and will not require powering down equipment. The site survey teams will coordinate with each agency in advance.

Entries being accepted for Governor's Technology Awards

Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra has announced that entries now are being accepted for the 2006 Governor's Technology Awards, which honor outstanding achievements and recognize IT initiatives in the public sector. The awards program is part of the Commonwealth of Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium (COVITS) 2006. Winners will be announced by Secretary Chopra at that event. Entries are being accepted through Aug. 17 from Virginia government entities in seven categories. [Read full details about the 2006 Governor's Technology Awards.](#)

COVITS is scheduled Sept. 10-12 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. This year's topics will focus on the Commonwealth's critical technology issues, including:

- Transformation of infrastructure and enterprise applications
- Intelligent transportation systems
- Emerging health care IT processes
- Best practices for technology in education
- Emergency preparedness and response for pandemic flu
- Technologies for rural communities - broadband, telemedicine and distance learning



COVITS is hosted by Secretary Chopra on behalf of Governor Tim Kaine. [Read about COVITS.](#)

New Google search tool can present security risk

Google's new desktop search, if misconfigured, can put Commonwealth data at risk. Some settings in the Google tool provide the ability to search non-local drives, e-mail and across computers, and save files that were intentionally deleted. These settings have the potential of transferring Commonwealth data to Google computers. To prevent the unauthorized installation of this and other software and, as a best practice, VITA strongly recommends that staff not have local administrator rights. Exceptions should be documented and reviewed periodically. As an additional measure, VITA Security strongly recommends that all agencies that have content filtering in place blocking the URL to provide an additional layer of defense. The URL is <http://sac.enable.desktop.google.com>.

CoVA Strategic Plan for IT Implementation Program approved

The ITIB has approved the Implementation Program for the Commonwealth Strategic Plan for IT. The objective of the Strategic Plan is to help tie together the Commonwealth's long-term objectives and IT strategic plan, secretariat and agency strategic plans as they relate to IT, the budgeting process, and the RTIP Report. The Implementation Program establishes mechanisms for achieving the goals set forth in the plan.

[Read the Commonwealth Strategic Plan for IT.](#)
[Read Implementation Program documents.](#)

IT Security policy, standards adopted

The *Information Technology Security Policy* has been approved by the ITIB. This policy is applicable to all State agencies and institutions of higher education that manage, develop, purchase, and use information technology resources in the Commonwealth. The purpose of the policy is to protect the Commonwealth information technology assets and the information processed by defining the minimum information technology security program requirements. There are two related standards: the *Information Technology Security Standard* and the *Information Technology Security Audit Standard*. VITA will provide additional guidance to assist agencies with implementation in the coming months.

[Read the IT Security Policy and Standards.](#)



Enterprise architecture policy, standard approved

The ITIB has approved the *Enterprise Architecture Policy*, which establishes the Enterprise Technical Architecture as the primary source of IT direction and technical requirements for Executive Branch agencies. It also establishes a change/exception process for enhancing and controlling changes to the Enterprise Technical Architecture. The CIO approved the *Enterprise Technical Architecture Standard*, which is the consolidation of all standards and standard product tables identified in the completed seven Enterprise Technical Architecture domain reports. [Read the Enterprise Architecture Policy and Standard.](#)

On the calendar

Aug. 10 — Special meeting of the ITIB regarding RTIP

Aug. 17 – Deadline for entries, Governor's Technology Awards

Sept. 10-12 – COVITS 2006 in Roanoke

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