

OGR Biannual IT Scorecard

The seventh iteration of OGR's IT scorecard continues to grade agencies implementation of the 1) Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform provisions (FITARA)¹, 2) Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016 (MEGABYTE),² and 3) Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) act.³ It also extends the scorecard's preview of an additional area related to the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA).⁴

These areas were selected by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR) staff because (1) they represent major legislative requirements, (2) the data are generally publicly available and regularly updated, (3) implementation would improve IT acquisitions and operations, and (4) GAO may have completed or ongoing work to verify reporting in these areas. The staff selected specific scoring methodologies for each of the areas from a wide range of options and then tasked GAO to collect and score the information according to OGR's direction. The resulting A through F grades are displayed below.

A	B	C	D	F		
0	11	7	6	0		
	Ed.	GSA	DOC	DOI	USDA	Treas.
	Energy↑	NASA↑	DHS↑	State↑	DOD↑	NRC
	HHS↑	NSF	HUD	DOT	DOJ	OPM
	DOL	SBA↑	EPA			
	VA↑	SSA↑				
	USAID↑					

Since the prior scorecard in May 2018, 11 agencies increased their letter grade and 13 remained the same. Much of this growth is due to agencies' improvements in the software licensing area. In particular, since the committee included software licensing area on the Scorecard in June 2017, 16 agencies have implemented a comprehensive, regularly-updated inventory of software licenses; and also used their inventory to make cost-effective decisions. In addition, HHS's CIO now reports directly to the Secretary, which changed their prior "-" suffix to a "+."

¹Title VIII, Subtitle D of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, Pub. L. No. 113-291.

²Pub. L. No. 114-210 (July 29, 2016); 130 Stat. 824.

³Title X, Subtitle G of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-91.

⁴The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA 2014) (Pub. L. No. 113-283, Dec. 18, 2014) partially superseded the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA 2002), enacted as Title III, E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2946 (Dec. 17, 2002).

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Agency CIO Authority Enhancements (Incremental Development)

FITARA requires CIOs to certify that IT investments are adequately implementing incremental development.

Why it's important: Agencies have reported that poor-performing projects have often used a “big bang” approach—that is, projects that are broadly scoped and aim to deliver functionality several years after initiation. Consequently, OMB has required agencies’ investments to deliver functionality every 6 months. Congress, OMB, and GAO’s work support the use of incremental development practices.

Calculation:

The portion of an agency’s software projects which planned to deliver functionality incrementally (every 6 months).

Data source (monthly):

Data feeds on OMB’s IT Dashboard as of Dec. 2018.

Highest-rated agencies:

Seventeen agencies received an A

Agency	Software projects	Incremental software projects	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016	Nov. 2015
USDA	35	24	69%	80%	79%	83%	69%	71%	68%
DOC	70	67	96%	90%	83%	78%	77%	83%	78%
DOD	24	8	33%	8%	8%	8%	37%	41%	8%
Ed.	37	37	100%	100%	100%	84%	58%	55%	31%
Energy	6	6	100%	77%	100%	90%	60%	100%	50%
HHS	110	107	97%	99%	91%	85%	70%	71%	80%
DHS	20	19	95%	88%	83%	80%	48%	40%	45%
HUD	13	12	92%	91%	92%	89%	0%	0%	30%
DOI	10	10	100%	94%	94%	83%	75%	78%	0%
DOJ	16	14	88%	100%	92%	80%	100%	100%	0%
DOL	31	30	97%	92%	67%	45%	100%	75%	60%
State	13	13	100%	100%	100%	94%	27%	33%	29%
DOT	19	11	58%	53%	50%	35%	9%	10%	15%
Treas.	55	41	75%	82%	60%	55%	74%	70%	63%
VA	77	76	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%
EPA	18	14	78%	92%	92%	92%	100%	100%	92%
GSA	32	32	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
NASA	8	6	75%	0%	0%	0%			
NSF	8	8	100%	100%	100%	100%			
NRC	8	8	100%	100%	100%	100%			100%
OPM	18	18	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	83%	50%
SBA	4	4	100%	50%	100%	43%	50%	100%	25%
SSA	15	14	93%	87%	69%	23%	42%	41%	35%
USAID	2	2	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	

for this portion of the scorecard. Ten of these agencies reported that all of their projects planned to deliver functionality incrementally.

Lowest-rated agencies: Two agencies received failing grades.

GAO reports: In a November 2017 report ([GAO-18-148](#)), GAO reported that agency CIOs certified only 62 percent of major IT software development investments as implementing adequate incremental development in fiscal year 2017, as required by FITARA. GAO made 19 recommendations to 17 agencies and OMB, to improve reporting accuracy or policies. Most agencies generally agreed with the recommendations or had no comments; however, OMB disagreed with several of GAO’s conclusions, which GAO continued to believe were valid.

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Enhanced Transparency and Improved Risk Management (OMB's IT Dashboard)

FITARA requires OMB to publicize detailed information on federal IT investments and requires agency CIOs to categorize their major IT investments by risk.⁵ Additionally, in the case of major IT investments that rate an IT investment as high risk for 4 consecutive quarters, the law requires that the agency CIO conduct review aimed at identifying and addressing the causes of the risk.

Why it's important: OMB's IT Dashboard is a public website (<https://itdashboard.gov/>) that enables federal agencies, industry, the general public and other stakeholders to view details of federal IT investments. For each major investment, the responsible agency CIO submits an assessment of risk and the investment's ability to accomplish its goals. This calculation rewards the agencies that are reporting more risk, because the string of high-profile federal IT failures demonstrates that increased attention is needed in this area.

Calculation: The five agencies with the most reported risk (the portion of investments rated "red" or "yellow," by dollar) are given an A, the next five a B, etc... (note: there are only 4 F grades as only 24 agencies were evaluated).

Data source (monthly): Data feeds on OMB's IT Dashboard as of December 2018.

Highest-rated agencies: Five agencies received A grades for this portion of the scorecard. For example, HHS reported 92% of its IT spending on major investments (\$2.8 billion) as at risk.

Lowest-rated agencies: Conversely, four agencies received failing grades, one of which (NRC) identified none of their major IT investments as at risk.

GAO reports: While OMB and the agencies have taken steps to improve the ratings on the Dashboard, GAO found in June 2016 ([GAO-16-494](#)) that agencies underreported the risk of almost two thirds of the investments it reviewed.

Agency	Majors (\$)	\$ at risk	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016	Nov. 2015
USDA	600	163	27%	6%	10%	38%	47%	48%	39%
DOC	728	462	63%	83%	82%	86%	79%	79%	74%
DOD	6,800	2,753	40%	26%	26%	36%	24%	24%	20%
Ed.	403	317	79%	75%	18%	5%	1%	6%	2%
Energy	405	377	93%	84%	14%	12%	21%	8%	4%
HHS	2,887	2,660	92%	93%	43%	14%	12%	13%	11%
DHS	2,464	718	29%	40%	38%	48%	50%	47%	40%
HUD	53	34	63%	100%	75%	75%	79%	73%	74%
DOI	341	157	46%	36%	20%	74%	81%	81%	72%
DOJ	573	83	15%	32%	27%	58%	8%	7%	9%
DOL	184	125	68%	53%	43%	62%	55%	61%	14%
State	460	401	87%	67%	71%	42%	37%	37%	2%
DOT	1,133	212	19%	16%	12%	16%	14%	14%	24%
Treas.	1,598	432	27%	28%	24%	40%	12%	12%	8%
VA	782	782	100%	24%	41%	79%	79%	15%	19%
EPA	72	67	92%	52%	61%	75%	83%	76%	62%
GSA	254	152	60%	53%	38%	0%	40%	43%	44%
NASA	389	46	12%	4%	0%	21%	0%	0%	0%
NSF	61	54	89%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NRC	43	-	0%	25%	21%	51%	67%	61%	57%
OPM	191	35	18%	12%	47%	6%	49%	49%	43%
SBA	43	13	31%	20%	21%	35%	5%	5%	47%
SSA	150	105	70%	47%	52%	0%	15%	15%	10%
USAID	34	34	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%

⁵"Major IT investment" means a system or an acquisition requiring special management attention because it has significant importance to the mission or function of the government; significant program or policy implications; high executive visibility; high development, operating, or maintenance costs; an unusual funding mechanism; or is defined as major by the agency's capital planning and investment control process.

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Portfolio Review (PortfolioStat)

FITARA requires OMB to develop and most agencies to implement a process to review agency IT investment portfolios in order to, among other things, increase efficiency and effectiveness, and identify potential waste and duplication. In developing the process, the law requires OMB to develop standardized performance metrics, to include cost savings, and to submit a quarterly report on Congress on cost savings.

Why it's important: To better manage existing IT systems, OMB launched the PortfolioStat initiative, which requires agencies to conduct an annual, agency-wide IT portfolio review to, among other things, reduce commodity IT spending and demonstrate how their IT investments align with the agency's mission and business functions.

Calculation: Each agency's total PortfolioStat cost savings and avoidances are divided by its total IT budget for the most recent 3 fiscal years. Similar to the Dashboard grade, the five agencies with the highest percentage are given an A, the next five a B, and so forth.

Data source (quarterly): The President's Budget and each agency's cost savings file, as posted on its website as of December 2018.

Highest-rated agencies: Five agencies—DOC, HHS,

Agency	3 FY IT budgets	Savings	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016	Nov. 2015
USDA	6,258	170	2.7%	1.9%	1.3%	1.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.6%
DOC	8,207	1,897	23.1%	23.1%	18.7%	18.7%	10.0%	4.8%	4.8%
DOD	105,500	905	0.9%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	0.4%
Ed.	2,096	88	4.2%	3.2%	1.3%	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%
Energy	6,034	324	5.4%	2.6%	1.2%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.3%
HHS	17,041	4,439	26.0%	25.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
DHS	20,227	1,633	8.1%	7.6%	7.3%	6.2%	6.8%	4.1%	4.2%
HUD	1,045	5	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%
DOI	3,506	266	7.6%	7.1%	6.8%	6.8%	5.8%	5.4%	4.8%
DOJ	8,381	537	6.4%	5.7%	5.2%	5.1%	3.7%	3.2%	2.4%
DOL	2,127	236	11.1%	6.2%	1.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
State	6,948	433	6.2%	3.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
DOT	9,209	361	3.9%	3.9%	2.6%	2.6%	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%
Treas.	13,410	1,593	11.9%	11.9%	12.0%	6.0%	5.3%	5.3%	4.9%
VA	14,339	632	4.4%	4.2%	4.5%	4.3%	2.5%	1.6%	1.1%
EPA	1,143	39	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%	2.7%
GSA	2,097	184	8.8%	8.9%	8.4%	7.7%	5.4%	5.4%	4.0%
NASA	4,901	775	15.8%	14.3%	9.9%	8.1%	4.5%	3.2%	3.6%
NSF	340	33	9.8%	9.0%	2.7%	2.7%	2.3%	2.3%	1.7%
NRC	456	14	3.2%	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	2.5%
OPM	433	5	1.1%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
SBA	297	11	3.7%	3.4%	2.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
SSA	5,109	551	10.8%	10.2%	9.4%	9.2%	7.3%	7.2%	5.7%
USAID	515	80	15.6%	12.7%	15.4%	15.4%	6.3%	6.0%	4.3%

Treasury, NASA, and USAID—received A grades for this portion of the scorecard. The same five agencies received A grades in the prior iteration of the scorecard, the first such repeat performance.

Lowest-rated agencies: Four agencies—USDA, DOD, HUD, and OPM—received failing grades. However, all of these agencies have now reported some cost savings through this effort.

GAO reports: In April 2015, GAO reported ([GAO-15-296](#)) that agencies continued to identify duplicative spending as part of PortfolioStat, but decreased their planned savings from \$5.8 billion to \$2.0 billion through fiscal year 2015. GAO made recommendations to improve federal implementation of the PortfolioStat initiative.

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Federal Data Center Optimization Initiative (DCOI)

FITARA requires agencies (with a few caveats) to provide OMB with a data center inventory, a strategy for consolidating and optimizing the data centers (to include planned cost savings), and quarterly updates on progress made. The law also requires for OMB to develop a goal of how much is to be saved through this initiative, and provide annual updates on cost savings achieved.

Why it's important: Concerned about the number of federal data centers and recognizing the potential to improve the associated efficiency, performance, and environmental footprint, OMB established a goal of saving \$2.7 billion on federal data centers.

Calculation: This calculation combines data center savings, metrics, and closures. Savings and metrics are each part half of the grade, and the result is adjusted up if an agency had closed more than 50% of its total data centers (▲). For example, USDA met its planned savings goal (A), but failed to meet 4 metrics (F). The resulting C was adjusted to a B because USDA achieved more than 50% of its planned closures.

Data source

(quarterly): Agencies' quarterly data center submissions.

Agency	Percent of goal realized	Metrics	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016	Nov. 2015
USDA ▲	100% (24)	●●●●●	B	D	D	D	D	D	F
DOC	100% (95)	●●●●●	C	C	C	C	A	A	A
DOD	20% (1,800)	●●●●●	F	F	F	F	D	C	F
Ed. ▲		●●●●●	A	A	A	A	A	B	F
Energy		●●●●●	F	F	F	F	B	C	F
HHS	100% (78)	●●●●●	C	C	F	F	F	F	F
DHS	100% (155)	●●●●●	C	C	C	C	A	A	A
HUD		●●●●●	A	A	A	A			
DOI	24% (88)	●●●●●	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
DOJ ▲	100% (66)	●●●●●	B	B	B	C	A	A	A
DOL ▲	100% (24)	●●●●●	B	C	F	F	F	F	F
State	100% (17)	●●●●●	C	C	C	C	F	F	C
DOT	100% (30)	●●●●●	C	C	F	F	F	F	F
Treas. ▲	100% (86)	●●●●●	B	B	B	B	C	D	
VA	12% (66)	●●●●●	F	F	F	F	D	F	F
EPA ▲		●●●●●	B	C	C	C	F	F	F
GSA ▲	100% (8)	●●●●●	A	A	A	B	D	F	D
NASA ▲	100% (15)	●●●●●	B	B	B	B	A	F	F
NSF ▲		●●●●●	B	A	B	B	A	B	A
NRC ▲	100% (1)	●●●●●	B	B	C	F	A	B	F
OPM	21% (22)	●●●●●	F	F	D	F	F	F	F
SBA	100% (1)	●●●●●	C	C	C	F			
SSA	1% (165)	●●●●●	D	D	C	C	A	F	F
USAID		●●●●●	A	B	B	B			

Note: OMB did not set a savings goal for 6 agencies (Ed., Energy, EPA, NSF, and USAID)

Highest-rated agencies: Four agencies—Education, HUD, GSA, and USAID—received A grades. Education and HUD have no agency-run data centers and were rewarded with an A.

Lowest-rated agencies: Five agencies received failing grades. For instance, VA reportedly saved 12% of its \$66 million savings goal and didn't meet any optimization metrics.

GAO reports: In a series of reports ([GAO-17-388](#), [GAO-17-448](#), and [GAO-18-264](#)), GAO described the potentially billions of dollars in savings. GAO found issues in agencies' planned savings and limited progress on optimization metrics and made related recommendations which agencies generally agreed with. In a draft report planned for issuance in early 2019, GAO preliminarily found that agencies continued to report mixed progress toward achieving OMB's goals for closing data centers and realizing the associated savings.

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Software Licensing (included in both FITARA and MEGABYTE)

FITARA requires GSA to enhance use of software license agreements across all executive agencies. More recently, the “Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016” (known as “MEGABYTE”)⁶ required OMB to issue a directive to every executive agency CIO to, among other things, establish a comprehensive, regularly updated inventory of software licenses and analyze software usage to make cost-effective decisions.

Why it’s important: Agencies could potentially achieve hundreds of millions of dollars in government-wide savings, federal agencies should apply better management of software licenses and the Office of Management and Budget should issue a directive to assist agencies in doing so.

Calculation: An agency receives a C if it has a comprehensive, regularly-updated inventory of software licenses. Those agencies receive an A if their inventory is used to make cost-effective decisions.

Data source (quarterly): GAO’s recommendation follow-up activities.

Highest-rated agencies: Eighteen agencies received an A grade, more than doubling the number of such ratings since December.

Agency	Complete inventory	Inventory used to make \$ decisions	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016	Nov. 2015
USDA	●	●	A	A	A	F	Not previously graded		
DOC	●	●	F	F	F	F			
DOD	●	●	A	F	F	F			
Ed.	●	●	A	A	A	C			
Energy	●	●	A	F	F	F			
HHS	●	●	A	A	F	F			
DHS	●	●	A	F	F	F			
HUD	●	●	F	F	F	F			
DOI	●	●	F	F	F	F			
DOJ	●	●	A	C	F	F			
DOL	●	●	A	C	C	F			
State	●	●	A	F	F	F			
DOT	●	●	A	A	F	F			
Treas.	●	●	F	F	F	F			
VA	●	●	A	A	A	F			
EPA	●	●	F	F	F	F			
GSA	●	●	A	A	A	A			
NASA	●	●	A	A	A	F			
NSF	●	●	A	F	F	F			
NRC	●	●	A	F	F	F			
OPM	●	●	F	F	F	F			
SBA	●	●	A	F	F	F			
SSA	●	●	A	F	F	F			
USAID	●	●	A	A	A	A			

Lowest-rated agencies: 6 agencies received failing grades, although each of them had efforts underway to create and use an inventory.

GAO reports: GAO reported ([GAO-14-413](#)) that better management of software licenses was needed to achieve significant savings. Most agencies agreed with GAO’s recommendations or had no comments.

⁶Pub. L. No. 114-210 (July 29, 2016): 130 Stat. 824.

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Modernizing Government Technology Act (MGT)

The Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act authorizes agencies to establish working capital funds (WCF) for use in transitioning from legacy IT systems, as well as for addressing evolving threats to information security. These working capital funds allow agencies to reinvest savings into modernization or cybersecurity initiatives. The law also created the Technology Management Fund within the Department of the Treasury, from which agencies can “borrow” money to retire and replace legacy systems as well as acquire or develop systems.

Why it’s important: Federal legacy IT investments are becoming increasingly obsolete: many use outdated software languages and hardware parts that are unsupported. For example, some federal agencies reported using some system components that are at least 50 years old.

Calculation:

An agency receives an A if it has an MGT-specific WCF with a CIO in charge of decision-making, a B if it plans to setup an MGT WCF in 2019 or 2020, a C if it has a department WCF, a D if it has some other IT-related funding method, and an F otherwise.

Data source:

agencies’ responses to OGR’s oversight questions in May and November 2018.

Agency	Plans to setup MGT WCF	Has dept. WCF(s)	Other funding method	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016	Nov. 2015
USDA	Yes	Yes		B	C					
DOC	No	Yes		C	F					
DOD	No	Yes	Yes	C	F					
Ed.	Conditional	No		D	D					
Energy	No	Yes		C	C					
HHS	No	Yes	Yes	C	C					
DHS	Yes	No		B	B					
HUD	No	Yes	Yes	C	C					
DOI	No	Yes		C	C					
DOJ	No	No	Yes	D	F					
DOL	Yes	Yes		A	B					
State	No	Yes	Yes	C	C					
DOT	No	Yes		C	C					
Treas.	Evaluating	Yes		C	C					
VA	No	No	Yes	D	D					
EPA	No	Yes		C	C					
GSA	No	Yes		C	C					
NASA	Evaluating	Yes		C	C					
NSF	No	No	Yes	D	D					
NRC	No	No	Yes	D	D					
OPM	Conditional	No		D	D					
SBA	Yes	No		B	B					
SSA	No	Yes	Yes	C	C					
USAID	Conditional	No		D	D					

Not previously graded

Highest-rated agencies: The Department of Labor received an A because it created a separate account within its departmental working capital fund that is managed by the CIO.

Lowest-rated agencies: 7 agencies (Ed., DOJ, VA, NSF, NRC, OPM, and USAID) received a D because they do not have department-level WCFs that can be used for IT.

GAO reports: Most recently, GAO reported ([GAO-16-468](#)) that federal agencies needed to address aging legacy systems and made related recommendations. Agencies generally agreed or had no comments.

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Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) – PREVIEWED

Congress enacted the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA)⁷ to improve federal cybersecurity and clarify government-wide responsibilities. The act promotes security tools with the ability to continuously monitor and diagnose the security of federal agencies, and provide improved oversight of security programs. The act also clarifies and assigns additional duties to entities such as OMB and DHS.

Why it's

important: The increasingly sophisticated threats and frequent cyber incidents underscore the urgent need for effective information security.

Calculation:

This area combines the assessments of agencies' Inspectors General (IG) and cross-agency priority (CAP) cybersecurity goals, which are each half of the grade. For example, NRC's

Agency	Average IG assessment	% of CAP metrics met	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016	Nov. 2015
USDA	2 of 5 (40%)	6 (60%)	D	F	Not previously graded				
DOC	2.8 of 5 (56%)	4 (40%)	F	F					
DOD	Not publicly reported								
Ed.	2.4 of 5 (48%)	8 (80%)	C	F					
Energy	3.2 of 5 (64%)	1 (10%)	D	D					
HHS	2.4 of 5 (48%)	4 (40%)	F	F					
DHS	3.4 of 5 (68%)	2 (20%)	D	D					
HUD	2.2 of 5 (44%)	9 (90%)	C	C					
DOI	3 of 5 (60%)	7 (70%)	C	D					
DOJ	3 of 5 (60%)	6 (60%)	D	D					
DOL	2.8 of 5 (56%)	6 (60%)	D	F					
State	1.8 of 5 (36%)	8 (80%)	C	F					
DOT	2 of 5 (40%)	7 (70%)	D	F					
Treas.	3 of 5 (60%)	3 (30%)	D	D					
VA	3 of 5 (60%)	5 (50%)	D	D					
EPA	3 of 5 (60%)	3 (30%)	D	D					
GSA	3.2 of 5 (64%)	8 (80%)	C	D					
NASA	2 of 5 (40%)	4 (40%)	F	F					
NSF	4 of 5 (80%)	8 (80%)	B	C					
NRC	3.8 of 5 (76%)	9 (90%)	B	C					
OPM	2.6 of 5 (52%)	7 (70%)	D	C					
SBA	2.2 of 5 (44%)	3 (30%)	F	F					
SSA	2.2 of 5 (44%)	10 (100%)	C	C					
USAID	3.2 of 5 (64%)	10 (100%)	B	D					

average IG assessment was 3.8 out of 5 (76% - a C) and the agency met 9 of the 10 CAP goal metrics (90% - an A). Those average into a B for this area.

Data source: OMB's annual compilation of IGs' 2017 FISMA reports and OMB's quarterly cybersecurity CAP goals. Additionally, four agencies provided details of their 2018 IG's assessments (DOC, Ed., HHS, and State).

Highest-rated agencies: Three agencies received a B.

Lowest-rated agencies: Four agencies received F grades.

GAO reports: GAO first identified federal IT security as a government-wide high-risk area in 1997 ([GAO-HR-97-9](#)). Subsequently, GAO has updated and expanded the area (e.g. [GAO-HR-97-1](#), [GAO-03-119](#), and [GAO-15-290](#)) and continued to identify it as a high-risk area in its February 2017 update ([GAO-17-317](#)).

⁷The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA 2014) (Pub. L. No. 113-283, Dec. 18, 2014) partially superseded the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA 2002), enacted as Title III, E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2946 (Dec. 17, 2002).

OGR Biannual IT Scorecard

CIO Authority (CIO reporting structure)

Among other things, FITARA set out to ensure that federal Chief Information Officers (CIO) had a significant role in agencies' IT decisions.

Why it's important: Of the 24 major agencies, 15 CIOs report to the head of their agency (or the deputy). CIOs that do not report to the head of the agency weakens their ability to effectively manage IT. Given the history of federal IT failures, this is a concern.

Calculation:

Those agencies where the CIO reports to the Secretary or Deputy Secretary receive a "+" and those that do not receive a "-." The committee lowered the overall grade of agencies by one letter if they received a "-" in this area.

Data source (quarterly):

Organization charts on agencies' websites as well as www.cio.gov.

Resulting grades: Sixteen agencies received "+"

Agency	CIO status	CIO reports to agency head	Dec 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016	Nov. 2015
USDA	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	Not previously graded
DOC	Acting	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
DOD	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Ed.	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Energy	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	-	-	-	
HHS	Acting	Yes	+	-	-	-	-	-	
DHS	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	
HUD	Permanent	Yes	+	+	-	-	-	-	
DOI	Acting	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
DOJ	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DOL	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	
State	Acting	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DOT	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Treas.	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	
VA	Acting	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
EPA	Acting	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
GSA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
NASA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
NSF	Permanent	Yes	+	+	-	-	-	-	
NRC	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	
OPM	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
SBA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	-	-	-	-	
SSA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	
USAID	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	

marks and nine agencies received "-" marks, which are appended to their overall grades. Five agencies have changed their reporting structure since the committee began grading this area.

GAO reports: In August 2018, GAO reported ([GAO-18-93](#)) that the policies of the 24 agencies did not fully address the role of their CIOs consistent with laws and guidance. GAO attributed these shortcomings to weaknesses in OMB's guidance, and made recommendations to OMB and each of the 24 agencies to improve the effectiveness of federal CIOs.