

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Opening Statement
Ranking Member Kelly
Oversight Subcommittees on Information Technology
and Government Operations:
"The Federal Information Technology Acquisition and Reform Act Scorecard 2.0"

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you Chairman Meadows and Ranking Member Connolly for your continued leadership and partnership as our subcommittees continue to monitor how federal agencies fund, manage and implement their information technology projects.

Today's hearing is the third in a series that our subcommittees have held to learn how agencies are implementing the requirements of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, or FITARA.

As was noted during November's hearing, these hearings help us ensure that agencies are hitting the required benchmarks as we move towards a more efficient, modern, and secure federal government.

At the last hearing, we released a FITARA scorecard assessing agencies' implementation of four of the seven initiatives required by the act. Today, we released an updated FITARA

Scorecard measuring agencies' progress in the areas of Data Center Consolidation, IT Portfolio Review Savings, Incremental Project Development, and Risk Assessment Transparency.

I'm looking forward to discussing the grades received by the four agencies here today. Since the last scorecard I'm encouraged to see that out of the 24 agencies that are covered by FITARA, seven have shown improvement in their overall grade and others have improved in individual categories.

Looking beyond the grades, let me say that I've been encouraged by the responsiveness of most agencies and the progress in FITARA implementation to date. I especially want to recognize the Department of Commerce's work in exceeding their goal of saving \$222 million through fiscal year 2016 in data center consolidations. I hope to see this effort continued. Government-wide, data center consolidations alone have realized \$1.3 billion in savings, and we're expecting to save an additional \$8.2 billion by 2019.

These are good first steps. But it's clear that there are obstacles to overcome in implementation. This new scorecard shows that numerous agencies have hit roadblocks, and others have fallen behind in implementation. I look forward to addressing these challenges today. I'm especially interested in hearing how agencies plan to stick to their FITARA implementation plans as a new Presidential administration takes charge next year. No transition is seamless, so I look forward to learning what steps your agencies are taking to ensure a transition that will continue the progress that we've made so far.

We all know what's at stake here. The federal government's IT acquisition process isn't just an inefficient use of taxpayer money. It's also a security risk. Too many agencies are still reliant on outdated, legacy systems. With each passing year, these systems cost more and more to secure and maintain. FITARA not only helps federal agencies save money in IT procurement, it also helps them make smarter IT investments. Quite frankly, FITARA implementation is the change that the federal government has sorely needed.

I want to thank the witnesses for testifying today. I know that an overhaul of your IT acquisition and management is not an easy task. So I look forward to hearing how your agencies are handling the challenges in implementing FITARA.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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