

PressRelease

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Minnesota iGov: Enabling intelligent, integrated and innovative state government
Initiative will streamline the state's information technology management and improve service delivery to the public

St Paul, MN – With more than 30,000 workers relying on some part of the state's IT network to serve the citizens of the state, the efficient management of Minnesota's computer systems is more critical than ever. To meet that challenge, the Minnesota Office of Enterprise Technology has released Minnesota iGov, an innovative approach to enterprise governance that will set the direction for managing the state's IT network for the future.

"This is a truly exciting and unique approach to managing the state's information technology systems," said Gopal Khanna, Minnesota's Chief Information Officer. "These systems, which manage our citizens' data and information, are the foundation for government. iGov will allow us to better manage our network and leverage the state's tradition of public partnerships to build a stronger, more secure digital infrastructure, continually improving services to agencies and citizens and providing the best value to Minnesota taxpayers."

iGov will build on the work already being done by state agencies and take advantage of new technologies and emerging best-practices to complete work on seven key initiatives – many of which are already underway – to make Minnesota a leader in IT management and service delivery.

iGov's focus on improving service delivery and finding the best value for Minnesota taxpayers has resulted in the signing of two landmark software agreements: One with ESRI will expand the use of geographic information systems technology and another with Microsoft Corp. will allow the executive branch to avoid more than \$14 million in software licensing fees [OET Press Release: "[Minnesota Signs First Enterprise Software Agreement](#)", August 12, 2009].

An initiative to streamline the state's data center locations is also underway. Currently, the executive branch has three times the necessary server capacity it needs spread out among 36 data centers around the state. A physical and/or virtual data center consolidation – including the introduction of a secure, government "cloud computing" environment which would allow users to access business applications and programs over the internet without additional hardware and software – will not only save money, but will also be easier to maintain and keep secure.

State CIO Khanna sees the emergence of new technologies as one of the driving forces behind the need to rearticulate the state's IT strategy.

"Success in the public sector demands just as much innovation and dedication to economy as there is in the private sector. The kind of virtualization that a new technology like cloud computing offers will not only reduce the size of the state's physical IT footprint, but it will also provide citizens with the on-demand, locally available and data-intensive information and services they want. The launch of iGov is the first major step towards realizing the value of secure cloud computing in Minnesota."

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