

To: Agency Directors and CIOs/Lead IT Administrators

From: Robert Blair, Director

CC: Beth Hanson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Wayne Struble, Director of Policy, Office of the Governor

Date: July 10, 2012

Re: IT Optimization Status Update

Ohio's decentralized IT environment has led to numerous inefficiencies and higher than normal cost structures. This legacy presents a significant challenge and opportunity for the State to centralize common IT functions.

As Governor Kasich has stated on numerous occasions, IT optimization is the right course of action for Ohio. IT Optimization is a multi-part strategy that will produce cost savings for the State as an enterprise as well as at the agencies, set the foundation for future savings, and provide the tools necessary to improve the services State government delivers to its citizens and businesses.

The multi-part strategic approach can be broken down into four components:

- Improving central IT planning
- Reducing infrastructure complexity
- Increasing the use of enterprise and shared applications
- Employing advanced business intelligence and data analytics

Combined these strategic components will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State government.

The approach to reduce infrastructure complexity will be carried out through the implementation of several strategic initiatives—some of which are currently in progress – including email consolidation, storage virtualization, mainframe consolidation, server virtualization, network services consolidation, data center remediation and business intelligence. In order to fully implement and provide these shared infrastructure solutions, an IT Development Fund is being established. The fund will be supported through an agency assessment based on FY12 IT spend.

Historically, the business case for development of a central service was based on the needs of a single agency that would provide the funding; DAS OIT would implement the service in a siloed manner focused on the needs of the funding agency, and then later DAS would incorporate the service into OIT's rated service offerings. This new approach will allow for the development of services using a statewide approach and without inflating IT service rates. A cabinet call has been scheduled for July 19 at 5pm to provide more information about the fund, its benefits and what your agency can expect.

I appreciate your support as we continue to move these efforts forward and identify new opportunities to optimize IT infrastructure for the state of Ohio. The success of the IT optimization strategy depends on our ability to work as a team to share resources, expertise, perspectives and solutions.

Thank you for your continued support in saving taxpayers' dollars, increasing efficiencies and reducing duplication through IT Optimization.