

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

October 18, 2007
Room 526-S and 313-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Joe McLeland, Chairperson
Senator Tim Huelskamp, Vice-Chairperson
Senator Janis Lee
Senator Mike Petersen
Senator Vicki Schmidt
Representative Mike Burgess
Representative Harold Lane
Representative Jim Morrison

Staff

Don Heiman, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer
Aaron Klaassen, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees

David Larson, Director, Computer Services, Kansas Legislative Administrative Services
Alan Weis, Project Manager, Kansas Legislative Information Systems Strategic Plan
Denise Moore, Executive Chief Information Technology Officer
Bill Roth, Chief Information Technology Architect
Bob Benson and Tom Bugnitz, Beta Group
Greg Webb, Chief Operations Officer and Senior Consultant, The Persimmon Group

Morning Session

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and welcomed David Larson, Director, Computer Services, Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, who reviewed the Information Technology (IT) operations budget for the Kansas Legislature, as well as the budget for the Kansas Legislative Information System Strategic Plan (KLISS) ([Attachment 1](#)). Regarding the operations budget, he said that the FY 2009 budget request (\$1.4 million) represented a 19.2 percent increase from the FY 2008 budget (\$1.18 million), an increase driven by four factors:

- Expanded wireless service;
- Microsoft Office licenses;
- Training on XML; and
- Conversion to Comvault servers.

Commenting on the KLISS budget, he said ongoing projects continue to move toward an electronic legislature. He noted:

- The design phase will be completed in September of 2008;
- The Data Center will be a dual-use facility—development, testing, production, and backup;
- The Propylon vendor license is a one-time fee; and
- A disaster recovery site is being considered in Wichita.

Answering questions, Mr. Larson said staff can operate the remote site from Topeka. He replied that staff turnover has temporarily delayed adapting Formative software for sending bulk e-mail. He explained that the extended life expectancy of legislative printers has made him reluctant to purchase network printers.

Alan Weis, Project Manager, KLISS, gave a project status report ([Attachment 2](#)). He listed the core services of the project—Law Making, Chamber Automation, and Decision Support, noting that the project is presently in Phase 3, a \$1.9-million project to develop a detailed design plan, which, under vendor Propylon, began on May 15, 2007, and is scheduled for completion September 15, 2008. He referenced the project structure, commenting that the principals were trained by the Persimmon Group and have shown excellent cooperation, displaying a shared purpose in creating a comprehensive design. He concluded by stating that the project is on time and within budget parameters. A member commented that the chamber automation design should include legislators' input and not be developed solely from a staff perspective.

Denise Moore, Executive Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), and Director, Division of Information Systems and Communications (DISC), Kansas Department of Administration, provided a brief history of the state's IT disaster recovery endeavors, noting that DISC has moved from mainframe backup (1980s) to an off-site data center ten miles north of Topeka in 2000 ([Attachment 3](#)). She stated that in 2005 six state agencies (Departments of Administration, Health and Environment, Labor, Transportation, Revenue, and Social and Rehabilitation Services) completed a study to identify critical applications and to determine how large an off-site location would be needed. She stated that DISC is considering Unified Communication technology as a forward-thinking solution to replace separate voice, video, and data services; she noted the need for inter-agency collaboration and budgeting if such a system is to be implemented. She recommended that a to-be-determined site in Wichita would best serve for disaster recovery, pledging that DISC will support an enterprise disaster-recovery initiative and urging timely action to assure agency support.

Answering questions, she said KDOT's fiber-optic lines to Wichita would be available for a unified network and that the Kansas Board of Regents is involved in the disaster-recovery discussions. Ms. Moore introduced the DISC team working on the disaster-recovery initiative: Eldon Rightmeier, Deputy Director, Bureau of Telecommunications; Dan Swearingen, Business Continuity Director; Joe Hennes, Consultant; Larry Kettlewell, Information Resource Manager; and Loren Westerdale, Deputy Director of DISC.

The minutes for the September 20-21 JCIT meeting were approved (Motion, Representative Morrison; second, Senator Huelskamp).

Don Heiman reported on the legislative wiring project, saying that delays by the general contractor will impinge on the time available to complete the wiring and installation of the voting boards in the House chamber (Attachment 4). He noted that the new chandeliers in the chamber interfere with members' viewing of the new voting boards, a situation requiring some adjustments.

Afternoon Session

Joint Meeting with the Information Technology Executive Council

ITEC Members Present

Duane Goossen
John Fitzgerald
Pete Kitch
Dan Strom
Richard Vogt
Denise Moore
Don Heiman
Kelly O'Brien
Jim Garner
Don Jordan
Kathy Gosa
Jim Hollingsworth

ITEC Members Absent

Carol McCoy
Colonel William Seck
Howard Schwartz
Reginald Robinson

After greetings by Secretary Goossen and Representative McLeland, Bill Roth, Chief Information Technology Architect (CITA), reviewed the duties of JCIT and ITEC as established by the 1998 SB 5 (Attachment 5). He noted the responsibility of ITEC to provide policy direction and coordination for IT resources, the assignment of Branch CITO's to implement and monitor the execution of ITEC policies, the CITA's directive to coordinate strategic IT activities, and the JCIT's responsibilities of oversight and budget recommendations.

Mr. Roth commented on the Strategic Information Management (SIM) Plan, saying that since 1997 two plans have guided IT development in Kansas, and that presently a third SIM Plan is being developed by the Beta Group. He introduced the two principals of the group, Bob Benson and Tom Bugnitz.

Mr. Benson outlined the process by which the new SIM Plan is being developed, a process which includes input from Kansas government entities, businesses, IT leaders, and the public (Attachment 6). He said the 2008-2013 SIM Plan provides the road map for Kansas IT and services, transforming the way government services are produced and consumed; it encompasses expanded services, collaboration, information sharing, and convergence of various agencies' activities. He identified outcomes of the SIM Plan—establishing an IT foundation for government services, cooperation to achieve strategic initiatives, and establishing a management framework for collaboration among government entities. Answering a question, Mr. Benson said the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Department of Education have been fully engaged in SIM discussions. Mr. Benson invited input from JCIT and ITEC members through e-mail or phone calls. Mr. Benson and Mr. Bugnitz referenced the preliminary draft of the new SIM Plan (Attachment 7).

Greg Webb, Chief Operations Officer and Senior Consultant, The Persimmon Group, testified regarding the value of a Project Management Methodology (PMM) (Attachment 8). Commenting on the key role of PMM, he said nationally 31 percent of projects are canceled before completion and only 16 percent of projects are completed on time and within budget; he noted the positive results Kansas has realized (97 percent of projects completed within budget) through use of PMM. Stating that a PMM includes four phases (initiating, planning, executing, and closing), he said Kansas has gained national recognition through effective project management. Observing that the Kansas PMM has been in place since 1999, he commented that a PMM refresh will eliminate some inconsistencies in application, will help agencies balance the workload of the PMM with the need for oversight, and will help determine when and how PMM is applied to varying projects. He listed possible refresh initiatives, saying that the first priority will be to develop a project rating matrix.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next JCIT meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2007.

Prepared by Gary Deeter
Edited by Aaron Klaassen

Approved by Committee on:

November 9, 2007

(Date)