Nomination for State IT Management Initiatives

Title of Nomination: Extended Enterprise, Microsoft Enterprise Agreement  
Project/Service Manager: Matt Miszewski  
Job Title: Chief Information Officer  
Address: 101 East Wilson Street, 8th Floor  
City: Madison  
State: WI  
Zip: 53702  
Phone: (608) 261-8406  
Fax: (608) 267-0629  
Email: matt.miszewski@doa.state.wi.us

Category for judging: State IT Management Initiatives

Person Nominating: Matt Miszewski  
Job Title: Chief Information Officer  
Address: 101 East Wilson Street, 8th Floor  
City: Madison  
State: WI  
Zip: 53702  
Phone: (608) 261-8406  
Fax: (608) 267-0629  
Email: matt.miszewski@doa.state.wi.us

Description of project, including length of time in operation.

The State of Wisconsin Chief Information Officer (CIO), Matt Miszewski, has embraced the concept of an “extended enterprise” within the State of Wisconsin Government as a means of implementing his vision of delivering cost effective and efficient government services. The extended enterprise represents the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of state government, local units of government (e.g., county, city, municipal, school boards, law enforcement) and higher education (the University of Wisconsin system and the Technical College Board). While the Executive branch does not have authority over the IT practices of the judicial and legislative branches, and local units of government, the State CIO invites all members of the extended enterprise to participate for the mutual benefit of all.

To realize his vision, the CIO has launched a number of initiatives to maximize the State’s economies of scale with respect to purchasing power and to realize seamless integration of applications and data sharing activities between the State and Wisconsin Local Units of Government. The first successful initiative has been the creation of an enterprise agreement with Microsoft, which leverages the buying power of State of Wisconsin Government as an extended enterprise. This agreement has permitted both State and Local agencies to acquire the most recent version of software in a fiscally difficult environment.

The State of Wisconsin Chief Information Officer (CIO), Matt Miszewski, first announced his vision of the extended enterprise at a Technology Leadership Council meeting in August 2003. Other initiatives that align with the vision of an extended enterprise include: the implementation of an enterprise services bus to easily integrate disparate data sources and applications, the development of an enterprise architecture, consolidation of mid-range servers and the implementation of an enterprise web content management system.
Significance to the improvement of the operation of government and benefits realized by service recipients, taxpayers, agency or state.

At the time the State’s CIO announced his vision of the extended enterprise, information technology expenditures within executive branch agencies were singled out for a dramatic reduction by the State’s Legislature. Specifically, State agencies were required to cumulatively lapse into the State’s general fund $40 million. Direction from the Governor was that the $40 million would be either directly from IT budgets or IT modernization and/or business re-engineering efforts that result in lapsable savings within agency program areas.

One of the ideas for cost reduction that was proposed was reducing the State’s dependence upon Microsoft desktop productivity tools. As at the time there were a number of stories circulating in the press with respect to cities, who has chosen to abandon the Microsoft Office Suite, Operating System and other related products for desktop and office productivity tools that use Linux as the Operating System. Within the United States, the City of Houston\(^1\) has garnered the most press and in Europe, the City of Munich Germany\(^2\), has been the focus of a number of case studies.

At that point an interagency work group was formed to explore the viability of replacing the Microsoft desktop and office productivity tools with an open source product solution. This work group identified that there were significant costs associated with the deployment, training of new desktop and office productivity tools and there would be a cost associated with the “translation of legacy documents”. Furthermore, based upon the pilot implementations of the various open source desktop and office productivity tools, the open source products did not perform as well as the Microsoft tools. The work group concluded that while, many people do not like the business practices of Microsoft, the "standardization" of the enterprise on the Microsoft Office Suite, has been a successful project for the State. As we now can share documents across agencies and there is little re-training required for use of desktop and office productivity applications as individuals move to different positions within State Service.

Based upon the findings of the work group, the next logical step was to develop a negotiation strategy with Microsoft to leverage the buying power of not only executive branch agencies, but also the extended enterprise. By including the extended enterprise into the contract negotiations with Microsoft, the resulting economy of scale, allowed the CIO to obtain a significantly reduced purchase price for Microsoft desktop and office productivity tools.

Return on investment, short-term/long-term payback (include summary calculations). Projects must exhibit measurable operational benefit.

Based upon the number of entities that have signed the Microsoft enterprise agreement to date, we estimate the cumulative savings for the current fiscal year to be approximately $2,000,000 to executive branch agencies.

\(^1\) [http://www.houstonlibrary.org/hpl/interactive/simhouston.html](http://www.houstonlibrary.org/hpl/interactive/simhouston.html)