February 26, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS

FROM: Vivek Kundra   Vivek Kundra
          Federal Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative

The reported number of Federal data centers grew from 432 in 1998 to more than 1,100 in 2009.[1] This growth in redundant infrastructure investments is costly, inefficient, unsustainable and has a significant impact on energy consumption. In 2006, Federal servers and data centers consumed over 6 billion kWh of electricity and without a fundamental shift in how we deploy technology it could exceed 12 billion kWh by 2011.[2] In addition to the energy impact, information collected from agencies in 2009 shows relatively low utilization rates of current infrastructure and limited reuse of data centers within or across agencies. The cost of operating a single data center is significant, from hardware and software costs to real estate and cooling costs.

The Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative aims to address these challenges by leveraging best practices in the public and private sector. The focus of this initiative is to:

- Promote the use of Green IT by reducing the overall energy and real estate footprint of government data centers;

- Reduce the cost of data center hardware, software and operations;

- Increase the overall IT security posture of the government; and

- Shift IT investments to more efficient computing platforms and technologies.

I have designated Richard Spires, CIO for the Department of Homeland Security and Michael Duffy, CIO for the Treasury Department, to lead this effort within the Federal CIO Council.

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[1] 2009 OMB Budget Data Request 09-41

[2] EPA Report to Congress on Server and Data Center Energy Efficiency Public Law 109-431, U.S. Environmental protection Agency ENERGY STAR Program, August 2, 2007