

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 3:42 P.M. on January 30, 2008, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Loganbill, Johnson, Tafanelli, Wilk, Frownfelter, Holland, and Mah, all of whom were excused.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Eldon Rightmeier, Deputy Director, Division of Information Systems and Communications

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair welcomed Eldon Rightmeier, Deputy Director, Division of Information Systems and Communications (DISC), who continued a report on Unified Communications (UC) from January 22, 2008 (Attachment 1). He said that a state-wide strategic approach is crucial if UC is to be established among state agencies, an approach that will converge systems to integrate service offerings around customers' and employees' habits and needs. As an example of the need for a new system, he cited agencies whose voice communications systems are obsolete, having technologies unsupported by vendors. He commented that DISC staff have been talking to agencies and to the Kansas Board of Regents regarding cross-functional planning in order to develop a strategic plan.

Mr. Rightmeier announced that the Gartner Group will hold a symposium for DISC and agency technical personnel at the Shawnee Country Club on Thursday and Friday, March 13-14, 2008; the symposium will provide the foundation for developing a strategic direction for migrating state communications systems to UC. He stated that current plans are to develop an RFP (Request for Proposal) in the fall, 2008, and deploy a UC system in 2009-2010. He illustrated the need for a strategic plan, saying that one direction would create a UC within the state network; another direction would allow commercial enterprises to develop a system.

Mr. Rightmeier explained that a common communications platform will give all state agencies the same type of services, will provide better use of resources, and will result in significant cost savings. Answering questions, he said the Regents system is primarily data and that his first concern is creating a voice platform. Replying to another question, he said that the proposed UC can embrace all three branches of state government. He explained that selecting a UC provider among all the vendors will be a crucial decision.

Members discussed what legislators can do to advance the UC approach among agencies. Mr. Rightmeier said a key element for success in promoting UC is avoiding a federated approach, which would create multiple platforms; he recommended an aggregated approach to UC. He said that if individual agencies develop their own systems, the cost would run from \$80,000 per agency upwards; he noted that Colorado

CONTINUATION SHEET

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effected savings of \$22 million annually by deploying UC. He cited Sprint's new two-platform system, which created unanticipated gaps in communications. Responding to another question, he acknowledged that UC will ultimately result in data center consolidation.

A member commented on the need for consistent broadband connectivity for Kansas libraries, since presently only 20% of libraries have adequate internet service. Mr. Rightmeier said an RFP was issued in November and negotiations are nearly complete to deploy a T1 connection to every public library in Kansas. A pilot system will be deployed from August to December 2008 and by the end of 2009 all of the 326 libraries can connect to the network. He stated that KAN-Ed can build the system with current dollars, that the system will be supported by the E-rate, that the sites themselves will cost less than at present, and that the state will spend less money that it presently does on the sites.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 31, 2008.