

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

January 14, 2022

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

Fr: Subcommittee Staff

Re: Hearing on “FITARA 13.0”

On **Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ET**, the Subcommittee on Government Operations will hold its biannual hearing to assess implementation of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA), Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act, and the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 and consider opportunities for modernizing future iterations of the scorecard. **The hearing will convene remotely on the Zoom video platform.**

The hearing will consist of two panels. The first panel will feature a witness from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Chief Information Officer (CIO) from the Department of Energy, and the CIO from the Office of Personnel Management. The second panel will feature private sector experts.

I. FITARA CONTINUES TO HOLD AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE, BUT MAJORITY OF AGENCIES’ SCORES REMAIN STAGNANT

Prior to the hearing, the Subcommittee will release the latest FITARA Scorecard, the thirteenth iteration of a biannual scorecard, which grades agencies based on their performance of FITARA-related reform activities. The FITARA Scorecard is a tool for Congress, CIOs, agency heads, and outside stakeholders to understand how federal agencies across the enterprise of government are performing in various IT-related categories. The Scorecard can be viewed as a way for Congress to hold federal agencies accountable for implementing basic and fundamental IT practices and processes that improve the operation of the federal government.

Since the July 2021 FITARA 12.0 Scorecard, seven agencies’ overall grades increased, four decreased, and 13 remained unchanged. These grades resulted in all agencies receiving a passing “C” or higher grade. Two agencies received an “A” grade—National Science Foundation and United States Agency for International Development.

FITARA Scorecard grades have remained stagnant in recent cycles: for the past two years (i.e., four scorecard cycles), most agencies received an overall “C” grade or better. Yet, key pillars of the FITARA Scorecard—including cybersecurity and IT modernization—continue to be on GAO’s high-risk list, highlighting the need for continued oversight of agency IT management and operations.¹ To conduct oversight effectively, the FITARA Scorecard must accurately reflect the progress agencies have made in their IT efforts, which will in turn motivate agencies to prioritize meaningful changes to their IT infrastructures.

Given the stagnation of agency grades and the Fiscal Year 2023 changes to IT data that the Office of Management and Budget intends to report, the Subcommittee plans to update the methodologies and data used to generate the Scorecard. As technology and policy evolve, so must the FITARA Scorecard. This hearing will explore possibilities for a future FITARA Scorecard that continues to serve as an effective tool for oversight of federal IT management and acquisition.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I

Ms. Ann Dunkin
Chief Information Officer
Department of Energy

Mr. Guy Cavallo
Chief Information Officer
Office of Personnel Management

Ms. Carol C. Harris
Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity
Government Accountability Office

Panel II

Mr. David Powner
Executive Director, Center for Data-Driven Policy, MITRE
Former Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity,
Government Accountability Office

Ms. Suzette Kent
CEO, Kent Advisory Services
Former Federal Chief Information Officer

¹ Government Accountability Office, *High-Risk Series: Dedicated Leadership Needed to Address Limited Progress in Most High-Risk Areas* (Mar. 2021) (GAO-21-119SP) (online at <https://files.gao.gov/reports/GAO-21-119SP/index.html>).

Mr. Richard Spires (*Minority witness*)
Principal, Richard A. Spires Consulting

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