

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
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MEMORANDUM

July 25, 2022

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

Fr: Subcommittee Staff

Re: Hearing on “FITARA 14.0”

On Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on the Zoom video platform, the Subcommittee on Government Operations will hold a hybrid hearing. This hearing is the Subcommittee’s biannual assessment of the implementation of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA), the Modernizing Government Technology Act, and the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA).

I. SCORECARD RELEASE AND KEY ISSUES

Prior to the hearing, the Subcommittee will release its 14th biannual FITARA Scorecard, which grades agencies based on their performance of FITARA-related reform and improvement activities. The FITARA Scorecard is a tool Congress, chief information officers (CIOs), agency heads, and outside stakeholders can use to better understand how agencies across the federal government are managing and securing their information technology (IT) assets. The Scorecard also helps Congress hold federal agencies accountable for implementing basic and fundamental IT practices that improve the operation of the federal government.

The table below provides an overview of how federal agencies ranked in their final averaged and cumulative FITARA scores for both the 13.0 and 14.0 Scorecards.

Overall Grades Compared			
Grade	Scorecard 13.0 (Dec. 2021)	Scorecard 14.0 (July 2022)	Change from Previous
A	2	1	(1)
B	10	7	(3)
C	12	14	2
D	0	2	2
F	0	0	0

FITARA Scorecard grades remained generally consistent in the 2020-21 reporting cycles, with slight downward movement for the most recent reporting period in July 2022 (see above): one agency grade increased, eight decreased, and 15 remained unchanged.

Compared to overall grades reported in the 13.0 Scorecard, there is one fewer “A” grade, three fewer “B” grades, two more “C” grades, and two more “D” grades. The United States Agency for International Development’s grade remained an “A.” While no agency has received an “F” since May 2018, an “A” grade remains unusual—with two in last Scorecard and one this Scorecard. As discussed during the January 2022 FITARA 13.0 Scorecard hearing, a variety of factors have resulted in stalled FITARA progress, including methodology shifts, data availability, agency motivation, and the cycle of the scorecard.¹

Key pillars of the FITARA Scorecard—including cybersecurity posture and IT modernization efforts—continue to be on the Government Accountability Office’s High Risk List, highlighting the need for continued oversight of these issues.² To be effective, 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.

Since January, the Subcommittee has engaged stakeholders to explore potential updates to the methodologies behind the Scorecard with the goal of better aligning metrics with best IT practices. Further, the Office of Management and Budget changed the types of IT data that it collects and reports, prompting the need to rethink how the Subcommittee tracks agency progress. As technologies and policies evolve, so must the FITARA Scorecard. The hearing will facilitate a discussion about how the Scorecard can continue to serve as an effective tool for oversight of federal IT management and acquisition.

II. WITNESSES

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Chief Information Officer
Environmental Protection Agency

John Sherman

Chief Information Officer
Department of Defense

David A. Shive

Chief Information Officer
General Services Administration

¹ Subcommittee on Government Operations, Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on FITARA 13.0* (Jan. 20, 2021) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/fitara-130>).

² 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>).

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