

What you need to know about FITARA

The **Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA)**, passed by Congress in December 2014, gives agency chief information officers (CIOs) greater authority over information technology (IT) investments. FITARA empowers CIOs to make decisions across the agency on IT project planning and implementation, such as governance, budgeting, contracting, and personnel. The law requires closer relationships between the CIO, the chief financial officer (CFO), chief acquisition officer

(CAO), and the chief human capital officer (CHCO). FITARA sets the “Common Baseline” which provides accountability by describing roles and responsibilities of the CIO and other senior agency officials in IT implementation. It also requires data center consolidation, IT portfolio reviews, transparent IT investment reporting, government-wide software purchasing, a cadre of IT acquisition professionals, and strategic sourcing.

Why is this important?



Establishes an enterprise-wide approach to federal IT investment



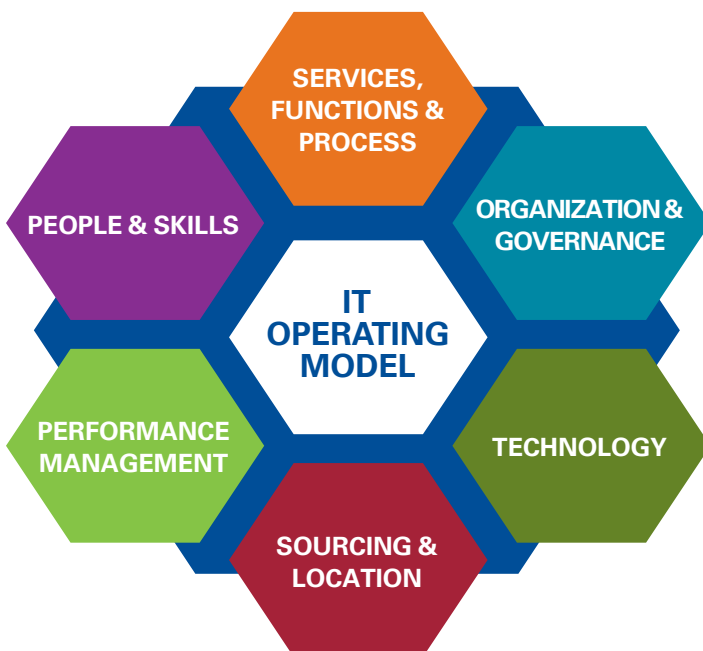
Promotes cross-functional partnerships between the CIO and key senior agency officials



Provides an opportunity to move to a more disciplined and “agile” IT investment strategy



Emphasizes IT and asset management to facilitate value-delivery of IT investments and resource planning



FITARA 2015 Timeline



Considerations:

- What is the current state of your agency’s IT Operating Model?
- Does your model incorporate IT investment management and lifecycle planning?
- Which IT management areas are operating effectively and which could be more robust?
- What mechanisms exist to promote enterprise-wide IT governance?
- How can existing governance structures be leveraged to foster greater CFO, CAO, and CHCO collaboration?
- How do you use IT to drive and support agency business strategy?
- Have you experienced cost overruns, long delays, and outdated, sub-optimized IT investments?
- Has your agency had to pay penalties due to software licensing problems?

Transforming the CIO's Responsibilities

Final OMB FITARA Guidance (Issued June 10, 2015)



Budget Formulation & Planning

- Ensure visibility of IT resources throughout planning, programming, and budgeting
- Join the CFO and CAO in making decisions pertaining to IT budget formulation
- Manage and advise IT resource planning and operation
- Review and approve all major IT investments in the budget



Execution

- Regularly engage, such as by evaluating IT resources supporting agency strategic objectives
- Join the CFO and CAO in defining policy for planned expenditure reporting for all IT resources
- Define IT processes and policies for capital planning and project management and reporting
- Join and make executive decisions on agency IT governance boards (such as IT investment review boards)



Acquisition

- Review IT cost estimates, acquisition strategies, and acquisition plans
- Monitor IT program performance and recommend modification, termination, or pause of projects/initiatives
- Approve all IT acquisition strategies, plans, and interagency agreements
- Approve any movement of IT funds requiring Congressional notification



Organization & Workforce

- Recruit and approve selection of any new bureau or component CIO
- Perform bureau CIO performance evaluations in conjunction with the CHCO
- Develop IT leadership directory in conjunction with CHCO
- Establish competency requirements for the IT workforce
- Report to the agency head (or the deputy or chief operating officer)

Contact us

To learn more about FITARA, please contact:

Rob M. Dwyer

Principal, Federal Advisory

T: 703 286-8590

E: rmdwyer@kpmg.com

Brian Jewett

Director, Federal Advisory

T: 202 309-1958

E: bjewett@kpmg.com

Sheila Y. Branam

Senior Analyst, Federal Advisory

T: 240 421-6373

E: sybranam@kpmg.com

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