



**Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC)
MINUTES - May 23, 2023 - 10 a.m.
The Boulders, Mary Jackson Conference Room**



Call to Order and Welcome

The Information Technology Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Mr. Craft welcomed all the members. Mr. Heslinga called the roll.

Presiding:

John A. Craft, Chair

Members Present:

Bob Osmond, CIO of the Commonwealth

Constantina Kozanas, Vice Chair

Lyn McDermid, Secretary of Administration

Adam S. Lee

Goutam Gandhi

Dr. Timothy M. Tillman

Cherif Kane

Phea Ram

James S. Kraemer

Robert I. Turner

Virtual Members:

Senator Bill DeSteph of Virginia Beach

Anthony T. Gitalado

Members Not Present:

George "Bryan" Slater, Secretary of Labor

Senator Jennifer B. Boysko of Northwestern Fairfax

Senator John J. Bell of Loudoun

Staff Present:

Leslie Allen, Senior Assistant Attorney, Office of the Attorney General

Jason Brown, Chief Administrative Officer, Virginia IT Agency

Stephanie Benson, External Communication & Outreach Manager, Virginia IT Agency

Mary Lou Bulger, Strategic Sourcing Manager, Virginia IT Agency

Joshua Heslinga, Director, Legal and Legislative Services, Virginia IT Agency

Mylam Ly, Legal Compliance & Policy Specialist, Virginia IT Agency

Melinda Stewart, Chief Executive of Enterprise Solutions, Virginia IT Agency

Beth Levermore, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Strategy and Transformation, Virginia IT Agency

Cynthia Cordova-Edwards, Chief Financial Officer, Virginia IT Agency

Naveen Abraham, Chief of Core Infrastructure Services, Virginia IT Agency

Richard Matthews, Chief of Customer Experience, Virginia IT Agency

Lindsay LeGrande, Communications Director, Virginia IT Agency

Trey Stevens, Deputy CISO, Virginia IT Agency

Mike Watson, CISO, Virginia IT Agency

Review of Agenda

Ms. Ly provided an overview of the agenda and corresponding items in the digital meeting packets.

Minutes

Mr. Lee initiated a motion to approve the minutes, which was duly seconded by Mr. Gandhi. The motion was unanimously approved through a voice vote.

Commonwealth of Virginia Technology Strategy

Opening remarks were provided by Secretary McDermid and CIO Bob Osmond. Mr. Nichols provided an overview of Gartner and presented on the strategic plan, which sparked discussions regarding commonality and standardization versus the differences between agencies. The importance of collaboration and cybersecurity was emphasized, acknowledging the involvement of numerous stakeholders from state agencies, localities, and private partners. Strategies such as the zero-trust strategy and the IIJA cyber grant program were highlighted to protect Virginians through enhanced cybersecurity measures. Attention was also given to driving better and faster decision-making processes by leveraging data, with focus on linking data and increasing data literacy through the Office of Data Governance and Analytics (ODGA). Furthermore, cultivating statewide IT take capability was identified as a crucial objective, addressing the need to fill open IT jobs, support STEM programs and promote awareness at all educational levels. The balance between career, staff, vendors, and suppliers was discussed. Considering the risk of outsourcing and the importance of strategic

workforce planning. Other topics of discussion included blockchain technology, generative AI, data privacy, citizen awareness campaigns for cybersecurity, and measuring success and performance in the industry.

VITA's Zero Trust Strategy and Roadmap

The next presentation focused on VITA's Zero Trust Strategy and Roadmap. Mr. Hankinson delivered the presentation, highlighting the key aspects of VITA's approach. The presentation emphasized the interconnection of various products and systems, underscoring that zero trust is not solely focused on cybersecurity but encompasses a broader scope. During the discussion, Mr. Gandhi inquired about Visibility & Analytics item and raised concerns regarding potential audit challenges. Secretary McDermid mentioned that Secretary Cummings has been working to establish a governance structure and holistic architecture that encourages collaboration among agencies. Mr. Kraemer suggested the involvement of a third party to ensure monitoring and alignment are properly executed. Additionally, he recommended conducting audits and reviews of the implementation process to ensure adherence to the Zero Trust Strategy and Roadmap.

Website Modernization

Mr. Osmond highlighted the need for improved structure and trustworthiness of digital real estate, as there were instances of fake websites and search result manipulation. It was emphasized that a programmatic approach was necessary to consolidate and enhance the websites, instilling more trust in the process. VITA formed a team to assist agencies in this endeavor, and Mr. Amani presented on Website Modernization.

Ms. Kozanas commended the presentations and inquired about the availability of sufficient resources and legislative authorities to implement the modernization efforts. Secretary McDermid clarified that resources and legislative authorities were separate but related considerations. Support from stakeholders and policymakers was deemed crucial, and the recent General Assembly provided additional funding for cybersecurity investments.

Mr. Osmond highlighted the significant collaboration taking place and the relationship between VITA and agencies. Both website modernization and the zero-trust strategy were collaborative efforts involving multiple stakeholder interviews. Secretary McDermid stressed the importance of reviewing, auditing, and ensuring compliance in the modernization process.

Mr. Kraemer acknowledged the positive partnerships with private entities showcased in the presentations and suggested their involvement in reviewing the implementation. Chair Craft raised the question of website and web application security scanning and inquired about the existence of a baseline. CISO Mike Watson explained that the process involved agency input and allowed for adjustments based on agency needs, representing an improvement from the previous approach of VITA solely conducting scans and providing reports to agencies. Secretary McDermid concluded by mentioning the intention to elevate those who are lagging in modernization efforts to ensure prompt action.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Other Business

Ms. Ly addressed travel forms for the council members. It was announced the next meeting September 5th at 1 pm. There was a discussion on how the council could best support the administration.

Adjourn

At 11:57 am, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Tillman and seconded by Mr. Kraemer. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting was officially adjourned.