

## COR Biannual IT Scorecard – December 2020

The eleventh iteration of the Committee on Oversight and Reform’s (COR) IT scorecard continues to grade agencies implementation of four key pieces of IT legislation:

- Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform provisions (FITARA)<sup>1</sup>,
- Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016 (MEGABYTE),<sup>2</sup>
- Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) act,<sup>3</sup> and
- Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA).<sup>4</sup>

The COR staff selected these because:

- they represent major legislative requirements,
- the data are generally publicly available and regularly updated,
- implementation would improve IT acquisitions and operations, and
- GAO may have completed or ongoing work to verify reporting in these areas.

In addition, the staff selected specific scoring methodologies for the areas from a wide range of options and then tasked GAO to collect and score the information according to COR’s direction. The resulting grades are in the table to the right.

Since the August 2020 Scorecard, 3 agencies’ grades increased, 5 decreased, and 16 remained unchanged. Notably, many agencies’ grades were impacted by the removal of the Software Licensing and addition of agencies’ efforts to transition off GSA’s expiring telecommunications contracts.<sup>5</sup> If the same methodology had been used from the prior scorecard, 4 agencies’ grades would have increased and 20 would have remained the same.

Unsurprisingly, the removal of the Software Licensing metric, which consisted of 24 A grades, put downward pressure on the overall grades of agencies. The addition of the new metric on agencies’ efforts to migrate off GSA’s expiring telecom contracts put mixed, but generally downward, pressure on agencies’ grades.

Despite the downward strain these changes put on agencies’ grades, all 24 agencies maintained “passing” grades. However, there are no longer any A grades in this iteration of the scorecard.

Agency	Overall grade
USDA	B+
DOC	C+
DOD	C+
Ed.	B+
Energy	C+
HHS	B
DHS	C
HUD	C+
DOI	C+
DOJ	C-
DOL	B-
State	C-
DOT	C+
Treas.	B
VA	B+
EPA	B+
GSA	B+
NASA	C+
NSF	B+
NRC	C-
OPM	C+
SBA	C+
SSA	C+
USAID	B

<sup>1</sup>Title VIII, Subtitle D of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, Pub. L. No. 113-291.

<sup>2</sup>Pub. L. No. 114-210 (July 29, 2016); 130 Stat. 824.

<sup>3</sup>Title X, Subtitle G of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-91.

<sup>4</sup>The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA 2014) (Pub. L. No. 113-283, Dec. 18, 2014) partially superseded the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA 2002), enacted as Title III, E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2946 (Dec. 17, 2002).

<sup>5</sup>GSA is responsible for ensuring that federal agencies have access to the telecommunications services and solutions that they need to meet mission requirements. GSA’s current telecommunications contracts support not only agencies’ basic telephone needs, but also provide an acquisition vehicle for wireless and satellite services, as well as managed network services and IT security services. According to data provided by GSA officials, federal agencies spent about \$2.5 billion on services acquired through these contracts in fiscal year 2019.

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## Agency CIO Authority Enhancements (Incremental Development)

FITARA requires CIOs to certify that IT investments are adequately implementing incremental development.

**Why it’s important:** Agencies have reported that poor-performing projects have often used a “big bang” approach—that is, projects that are broadly scoped and aim to deliver functionality several years after initiation. Consequently, OMB has required agencies’ investments to deliver functionality every 6 months. Congress, OMB, and GAO’s work support the use of incremental development practices.

**Calculation:**

The portion of an agency’s projects that have at least one associated activity that plans to deliver functionality in approximately 6 months.

Agency	Projects	Incremental projects	Dec 2020	Aug 2020	Dec. 2019	June 2019	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016
USDA	99	73	74%	74%	79%	83%	69%	80%	79%	83%	69%	71%
DOC	103	89	86%	89%	80%	80%	96%	90%	83%	78%	77%	83%
DOD	119	42	35%	53%	93%	91%	33%	8%	8%	8%	37%	41%
Ed.	66	59	89%	90%	96%	95%	100%	100%	100%	84%	58%	55%
Energy	16	16	100%	100%	19%	24%	100%	77%	100%	90%	60%	100%
HHS	135	105	78%	78%	99%	98%	97%	99%	91%	85%	70%	71%
DHS	60	33	55%	43%	55%	46%	95%	88%	83%	80%	48%	40%
HUD	16	15	94%	94%	100%	100%	92%	91%	92%	89%	0%	0%
DOI	15	13	87%	87%	82%	82%	100%	94%	94%	83%	75%	78%
DOJ	26	21	81%	81%	87%	84%	88%	100%	92%	80%	100%	100%
DOL	50	45	90%	50%	92%	92%	97%	92%	67%	45%	100%	75%
State	7	7	100%	100%	88%	88%	100%	100%	100%	94%	27%	33%
DOT	69	29	42%	37%	23%	25%	58%	53%	50%	35%	9%	10%
Treas.	67	52	78%	75%	81%	83%	75%	82%	60%	55%	74%	70%
VA	80	74	93%	90%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%
EPA	66	65	98%	98%	68%	58%	78%	92%	92%	92%	100%	100%
GSA	103	96	93%	97%	87%	84%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
NASA	32	19	59%	59%	76%	76%	75%	0%	0%	0%		
NSF	9	9	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
NRC	8	8	100%	100%	67%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
OPM	27	24	89%	89%	97%	96%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	83%
SBA	11	6	55%	62%	100%	100%	100%	50%	100%	43%	50%	100%
SSA	16	12	75%	75%	73%	73%	93%	87%	69%	23%	42%	41%
USAID	2	2	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%

**Data source:**

Data feeds on OMB’s IT Dashboard.

**Highest-rated agencies:**

Ten agencies received an A for this portion of the scorecard.

These agencies’ projects were delivering functionality in an incremental fashion.

**Lowest-rated agencies:** Five agencies (DOD, DHS, DOT, NASA, and SBA) received failing grades.

**GAO reports:** In a November 2017 report ([GAO-18-148](#)), GAO reported that agency CIOs certified 62 percent of major IT software development investments as implementing adequate incremental development in fiscal year 2017, as required by FITARA. GAO made 19 recommendations to 17 agencies and OMB, to improve reporting accuracy or policies. Most agencies generally agreed with the recommendations or had no comments; however, OMB disagreed with several of GAO’s conclusions, which GAO continued to believe were valid.

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## Enhanced Transparency and Improved Risk Management (OMB’s IT Dashboard)

FITARA requires OMB to publicize detailed information on federal IT investments and requires agency CIOs to categorize their major IT investments by risk.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, in the case of major IT investments that rate an IT investment as high risk for 4 consecutive quarters, the law requires that the agency CIO conduct review aimed at identifying and addressing the causes of the risk.

**Why it’s important:** OMB’s IT Dashboard is a public website (<https://itdashboard.gov/>) that enables federal agencies, industry, the general public and other stakeholders to view details of federal IT investments. For each major investment, the responsible agency CIO submits an assessment of risk and the investment’s ability to accomplish its goals. This calculation rewards the agencies that are reporting more risk, because the string of high-profile federal IT failures demonstrates that increased attention is needed in this area.

**Calculation:** Agencies are ranked by the portion of their major IT investments rated “red” or “yellow” (by dollar). The 8 agencies with the highest portion are given an A, the next 6 a B, the next 6 a C, the next 3 a D, and the final 1 an F (a total of 24 agencies). In this scorecard, the committee recognized the additional progress agencies have made in this area by decreasing the number of Fs and increasing the number of Cs.

**Data source:** Data feeds on OMB’s IT Dashboard.

**Highest-rated agencies:** Eight agencies received A grades for this portion of the scorecard. For example, State reported 84% of its IT spending on major investments as at risk and received an A in this metric.

**Lowest-rated agencies:** Conversely, one agency (SSA) received an F, because it reported 3% (\$6 million) of its major investments as at risk.

**GAO reports:** OMB and the agencies have taken steps to improve the ratings on the Dashboard and have addressed 14 of the 25 recommendations that GAO made in its June 2016 report ([GAO-16-494](#)). That report found that agencies underreported the risk of almost two thirds of the investments it reviewed.

Agency	Majors (\$)	\$ at risk	Dec 2020	Aug 2020	Dec. 2019	June 2019	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016
USDA	740	532	72%	72%	48%	74%	27%	6%	10%	38%	47%	48%
DOC	2,141	1,658	77%	77%	70%	38%	63%	83%	82%	86%	79%	79%
DOD	5,989	3,024	50%	48%	57%	59%	40%	26%	26%	36%	24%	24%
Ed.	499	419	84%	84%	89%	78%	79%	75%	18%	5%	1%	6%
Energy	235	31	13%	15%	52%	75%	93%	84%	14%	12%	21%	8%
HHS	2,984	2,835	95%	95%	94%	95%	92%	93%	43%	14%	12%	13%
DHS	2,690	1,423	53%	33%	15%	14%	29%	40%	38%	48%	50%	47%
HUD	96	62	65%	65%	48%	68%	63%	100%	75%	75%	79%	73%
DOI	312	207	66%	66%	67%	61%	46%	36%	20%	74%	81%	81%
DOJ	617	524	85%	85%	100%	100%	15%	32%	27%	58%	8%	7%
DOL	219	208	95%	95%	95%	95%	68%	53%	43%	62%	55%	61%
State	382	321	84%	84%	84%	87%	87%	67%	71%	42%	37%	37%
DOT	996	288	29%	29%	30%	28%	19%	16%	12%	16%	14%	14%
Treas.	1,591	424	27%	27%	29%	27%	27%	28%	24%	40%	12%	12%
VA	2,228	1,841	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	24%	41%	79%	79%	15%
EPA	70	65	92%	92%	100%	92%	92%	52%	61%	75%	83%	76%
GSA	301	261	87%	87%	71%	67%	60%	53%	38%	0%	40%	43%
NASA	547	125	23%	23%	0%	7%	12%	4%	0%	21%	0%	0%
NSF	63	63	100%	100%	17%	100%	89%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NRC	44	29	67%	67%	79%	45%	0%	25%	21%	51%	67%	61%
OPM	312	118	38%	38%	59%	12%	18%	12%	47%	6%	49%	49%
SBA	62	50	80%	80%	78%	79%	31%	20%	21%	35%	5%	5%
SSA	234	6	3%	3%	14%	77%	70%	47%	52%	0%	15%	15%
USAID	38	38	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%

<sup>6</sup>“Major IT investment” means a system or an acquisition requiring special management attention because it has significant importance to the mission or function of the government; significant program or policy implications; high executive visibility; high development, operating, or maintenance costs; an unusual funding mechanism; or is defined as major by the agency’s capital planning and investment control process.

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## Portfolio Review (PortfolioStat)

FITARA requires OMB to develop and most agencies to implement a process to review agency IT investment portfolios in order to, among other things, increase efficiency and effectiveness, and identify potential waste and duplication. In developing the process, the law requires OMB to develop standardized performance metrics, to include cost savings, and to submit a quarterly report on Congress on cost savings.

**Why it's important:** To better manage existing IT systems, OMB launched the PortfolioStat initiative, which requires agencies to conduct an annual, agency-wide IT portfolio review to, among other things, reduce commodity IT spending and demonstrate how their IT investments align with the agency's mission and business functions.

**Calculation:** Each agency's total PortfolioStat cost savings and avoidances are divided by its total IT budget for the most recent 3 fiscal years. As with the Transparency and Risk Management grade, the 8 agencies with the highest ratio receive an A, then 6 Bs, 6 Cs, 3 Ds, and 1 F.

**Data sources:** The President's Budget and each agency's cost savings JSON file, as posted on their websites.

**Highest-rated agencies:** Eight agencies received A grades for this portion of the scorecard. These agencies all reported

significant cost savings and avoidances. For example, DOL reportedly saved or avoided almost a half a billion dollars through its PortfolioStat effort since 2012.

**Lowest-rated agencies:** One agency (HUD) continued to receive an F, because it has reported \$7 million saved or avoided through PortfolioStat since 2012.

**GAO reports:** In April 2015, GAO reported ([GAO-15-296](#)) that agencies continued to identify duplicative spending as part of PortfolioStat, but decreased their planned savings from \$5.8 billion to \$2.0 billion through fiscal year 2015. GAO made recommendations to improve federal implementation of the PortfolioStat initiative.

Agency	Saved / avoided	Dec 2020	Aug 2020	Dec 2019	June 2019	Dec 2018	May 2018	Nov 2017	June 2017	Dec 2016	May 2016
USDA	342	4.9%	4.5%	4.0%	3.9%	2.7%	1.9%	1.3%	1.3%	0.4%	0.7%
DOC	2,719	27.4%	19.4%	19.6%	19.2%	23.1%	23.1%	18.7%	18.7%	10.0%	4.8%
DOD	2,403	2.2%	1.1%	1.1%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%
Ed.	309	12.0%	12.0%	13.5%	5.7%	4.2%	3.2%	1.3%	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%
Energy	477	7.5%	4.2%	7.0%	6.0%	5.4%	2.6%	1.2%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%
HHS	5,231	26.8%	26.1%	26.7%	26.7%	26.0%	25.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
DHS	1,759	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.6%	8.1%	7.6%	7.3%	6.2%	6.8%	4.1%
HUD	7	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
DOI	272	6.8%	6.7%	7.4%	7.3%	7.6%	7.1%	6.8%	6.8%	5.8%	5.4%
DOJ	661	7.0%	6.6%	6.8%	6.6%	6.4%	5.7%	5.2%	5.1%	3.7%	3.2%
DOL	477	20.5%	17.6%	16.4%	13.7%	11.1%	6.2%	1.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
State	1,217	16.1%	13.0%	3.8%	3.8%	6.2%	3.0%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
DOT	1,077	10.9%	10.9%	10.9%	10.6%	3.9%	3.9%	2.6%	2.6%	0.1%	0.5%
Treas.	1,638	11.4%	11.4%	11.2%	11.1%	11.9%	11.9%	12.0%	6.0%	5.3%	5.3%
VA	772	3.9%	3.8%	4.6%	3.9%	4.4%	4.2%	4.5%	4.3%	2.5%	1.6%
EPA	55	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%
GSA	497	24.0%	21.3%	18.3%	16.3%	8.8%	8.9%	8.4%	7.7%	5.4%	5.4%
NASA	1,055	15.7%	14.5%	13.8%	12.7%	15.8%	14.3%	9.9%	8.1%	4.5%	3.2%
NSF	37	9.5%	11.3%	9.3%	9.1%	9.8%	9.0%	2.7%	2.7%	2.3%	2.3%
NRC	23	5.2%	4.5%	3.7%	3.1%	3.2%	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
OPM	142	41.1%	41.1%	32.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
SBA	14	4.3%	4.3%	4.4%	4.2%	3.7%	3.4%	2.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
SSA	1,533	25.7%	25.7%	9.9%	9.9%	10.8%	10.2%	9.4%	9.2%	7.3%	7.2%
USAID	87	12.3%	11.7%	11.8%	11.7%	15.6%	12.7%	15.4%	15.4%	6.3%	6.0%

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## Federal Data Center Optimization Initiative (DCOI)

FITARA requires agencies (with a few caveats) to provide OMB with a data center inventory, a strategy for consolidating and optimizing the data centers (to include planned cost savings), and quarterly updates on progress made. The law also requires for OMB to develop a goal of how much is to be saved through this initiative, and provide annual updates on cost savings achieved.

**Why it's important:** Concerned about the number of federal data centers and recognizing the potential to improve the associated efficiency, performance, and environmental footprint, OMB and the agencies worked to close several thousand data centers and saved more than \$2.0 billion from fiscal years 2016 through 2018. Moving forward, OMB has set a goal of saving \$241.5 million dollars, and has set a series of goals related to additional data center closures and optimization metrics (virtualization, uptime, energy metering, and utilization).

**Calculation:** Each agency's progress towards meeting goals set by OMB are calculated, weighted, and averaged according to the committee's priorities. The weights are: savings (30%), closures (30%), virtualization (20%), and energy metering (20%). Notably, the committee decided not to include uptime or utilization in its calculation due to concerns about the reliability of the associated data. These percentages are generally calculated by dividing the current value by the goal.

**Data source:** Agencies' quarterly data center submissions to OMB, as posted on the Dashboard. Those data are as of December 8, 2020.

Agency	Weighted average % of goals realized	Weighted									
		Dec 2020	Aug 2020	Dec. 2019	June 2019	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016
USDA	100%	A	A	F	B	B	D	D	D	D	D
DOC	90%	A	A	F	C	C	C	C	C	A	A
DOD	100%	A	B	D	F	F	F	F	F	D	C
Ed.	100%	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
Energy	97%	A	D	A	F	F	F	F	F	B	C
HHS	96%	A	C	B	C	C	C	F	F	F	F
DHS	82%	B	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	A	A
HUD	100%	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
DOI	100%	A	D	D	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
DOJ	100%	A	A	C	B	B	B	B	C	A	A
DOL	100%	A	B	D	B	B	C	F	F	F	F
State	79%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	F	F
DOT	60%	D	D	D	C	C	C	F	F	F	F
Treas.	93%	A	B	F	B	B	B	B	B	C	D
VA	99%	A	F	B	F	F	F	F	F	D	F
EPA	100%	A	A	A	B	B	C	C	C	F	F
GSA	100%	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	D	F
NASA	100%	A	A	C	B	B	B	B	B	A	F
NSF	100%	A	A	A	B	B	A	B	B	A	B
NRC	79%	C	A	A	B	B	B	C	F	A	B
OPM	80%	B	B	D	F	F	F	D	F	F	F
SBA	100%	A	B	B	C	C	C	C	F		
SSA	100%	A	A	A	D	D	D	C	C	A	F
USAID	100%	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B		

**Highest-rated agencies:** Nineteen agencies received A grades.

**Lowest-rated agencies:** DOT's D was the lowest grade.

**GAO reports:** In a series of reports ([GAO-17-388](#), [GAO-17-448](#), [GAO-18-264](#), [GAO-19-241](#), and [GAO-20-279](#)), GAO noted the potential for billions of dollars in savings. Most recently, GAO found that agencies continued to report progress, but identified oversight and cybersecurity risks that needed to be addressed.

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## Software Licensing (included in both FITARA and MEGABYTE) – Sunset

FITARA requires GSA to enhance use of software license agreements across all executive agencies. More recently, the “Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016” (known as “MEGABYTE”)<sup>7</sup> required OMB to issue a directive to every executive agency CIO to, among other things, establish a comprehensive, regularly updated inventory of software licenses and analyze software usage to make cost-effective decisions.

**Why it’s important:** Agencies could potentially achieve hundreds of millions of dollars in government-wide savings, federal agencies should apply better management of software licenses and the Office of Management and Budget should issue a directive to assist agencies in doing so.

**Calculation:** An agency receives a C if it has a comprehensive, regularly-updated inventory of software licenses. Those agencies receive an A if their inventory is used to make cost-effective decisions. As of December 2020, the committee decided to sunset this metric and no longer include it in the overall calculation of grades.

**Data source:** GAO’s tracking of agencies efforts to address [GAO-14-413](#).

**Highest-rated agencies:** All twenty-four agencies received an A grade.

**Lowest-rated agencies:** none.

**GAO reports:** GAO reported ([GAO-14-413](#)) that better management of software licenses was needed to achieve significant savings. Most agencies agreed with GAO’s recommendations or had no comments.

Agency	Complete inventory	Inventory used to make \$ decisions	Inventory used											
			Dec 2020	Aug 2020	Dec. 2019	June 2019	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016		
USDA	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F			
DOC	●	●	A	A	F	F	F	F	F	F	F			
DOD	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F				
Ed.	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C				
Energy	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F				
HHS	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F			
DHS	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F	F			
HUD	●	●	A	A	A	A	F	F	F	F	F			
DOI	●	●	A	A	A	F	F	F	F	F	F			
DOJ	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	C	F	F				
DOL	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	F				
State	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F				
DOT	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	F				
Treas.	●	●	A	A	A	A	F	F	F	F				
VA	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F				
EPA	●	●	A	A	F	F	F	F	F	F				
GSA	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A				
NASA	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F				
NSF	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F				
NRC	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F				
OPM	●	●	A	F	F	F	F	F	F	F				
SBA	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F				
SSA	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F				
USAID	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A				

Not graded

<sup>7</sup>Pub. L. No. 114-210 (July 29, 2016): 130 Stat. 824.

# COR Biannual IT Scorecard – December 2020

## Modernizing Government Technology Act (MGT)

The Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act authorizes agencies to establish working capital funds (WCF) for use in transitioning from legacy IT systems, as well as for addressing evolving threats to information security. These working capital funds allow agencies to reinvest savings into modernization or cybersecurity initiatives. The law also created the Technology Management Fund within the Department of the Treasury, from which agencies can “borrow” money to retire and replace legacy systems as well as acquire or develop systems.

**Why it’s important:** Federal legacy IT investments are becoming increasingly obsolete: many use outdated software languages and hardware parts that are unsupported. For example, some federal agencies reported using some system components that are at least 50 years old.

**Calculation:** An agency receives an A if it has an MGT-specific WCF with a CIO in charge of decision-making, a B if it plans to setup an MGT WCF in 2020 or 2021, a C if it has a department WCF, a D if it has some other IT-related funding method, and an F otherwise.

**Data source:** agencies’ responses to COR’s questions on the MGT Act.

**Highest-rated agencies:** Three agencies received an A by creating separate accounts within departmental working capital fund that are managed by the CIO.

**Lowest-rated agencies:** Two agencies (VA and OPM) received a D because they do not have plans to implement an MGT WCF or another means of transferring funds at the department-level.

**GAO reports:** Most recently, GAO reported ([GAO-19-471](#)) that federal agencies needed to develop modernization plans for critical legacy systems and made 8 related recommendations in a sensitive version of the report. The 8 agencies agreed with GAO’s findings and recommendations, and 7 of the agencies described plans to address the recommendations.

Agency	Dec 2020	Aug 2020	Dec. 2019	June 2019	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016
USDA	B	B	B	B	B	C				
DOC	B	B	B	B	C	F				
DOD	C	C	C	C	C	F				
Ed.	B	B	B	B	D	D				
Energy	C	C	C	C	C	C				
HHS	C	C	C	C	C	C				
DHS	B	B	B	B	B	B				
HUD	C	C	C	C	C	C				
DOI	B	B	C	C	C	C				
DOJ	C	C	C	C	D	F				
DOL	A	A	A	A	A	B				
State	B	B	C	C	C	C				
DOT	C	C	C	C	C	C				
Treas.	B	B	C	C	C	C				
VA	D	D	D	D	D	D				
EPA	B	B	C	C	C	C				
GSA	A	A	A	A	C	C				
NASA	B	B	B	C	C	C				
NSF	C	C	D	D	D	D				
NRC	C	C	D	D	D	D				
OPM	D	D	D	D	D	D				
SBA	A	A	A	A	B	B				
SSA	C	C	C	C	C	C				
USAID	B	B	B	B	D	D				

Not graded

# COR Biannual IT Scorecard – December 2020

## Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA)

Congress enacted the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA)<sup>8</sup> to improve federal cybersecurity and clarify government-wide responsibilities. The act promotes security tools with the ability to continuously monitor and diagnose the security of federal agencies, and provide improved oversight of security programs. The act also clarifies and assigns additional duties to entities such as OMB and DHS.

### Why it's important:

The increasingly sophisticated threats and frequent cyber incidents underscore the urgent need for effective information security.

**Calculation:** This area combines the assessments of agencies' Inspectors General (IG) and cross-agency priority (CAP) cybersecurity goals, which are each half of the grade. For example, if an agency's average IG assessment were 2.4 out of 5 (48% - an F) and the agency met all 10 CAP goal

Agency	Average IG assessment	% of CAP metrics met	Dec 2020	Aug 2020	Dec. 2019	June 2019	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016
USDA	2.4 of 5 (48%)	80%	C	C	D	F	D	F				
DOC	2 of 5 (40%)	30%	F	F	F	F	F	F				
DOD												
Ed.	2.2 of 5 (44%)	100%	C	C	C	C	C	F				
Energy	2.6 of 5 (52%)	0%	F	F	D	D	D	D				
HHS	2.8 of 5 (56%)	80%	C	C	F	F	F	F				
DHS	2 of 5 (40%)	90%	C	C	B	B	D	D				
HUD	2.2 of 5 (44%)	70%	D	D	D	D	C	C				
DOI	3.4 of 5 (68%)	40%	D	D	D	D	C	D				
DOJ	3.2 of 5 (64%)	90%	B	C	C	D	D	D				
DOL	3.2 of 5 (64%)	90%	B	C	D	C	D	F				
State	2.2 of 5 (44%)	80%	C	C	D	C	C	F				
DOT	2 of 5 (40%)	90%	C	C	C	C	D	F				
Treas.	3 of 5 (60%)	80%	C	C	D	D	D	D				
VA	2.6 of 5 (52%)	80%	C	C	C	D	D	D				
EPA	3 of 5 (60%)	70%	C	C	D	D	D	D				
GSA	3.8 of 5 (76%)	100%	B	B	B	B	C	D				
NASA	2.2 of 5 (44%)	70%	D	D	C	D	F	F				
NSF	3.2 of 5 (64%)	100%	B	B	A	A	B	C				
NRC	4 of 5 (80%)	100%	A	A	B	B	B	C				
OPM	2.4 of 5 (48%)	80%	C	C	C	C	D	C				
SBA	2.8 of 5 (56%)	80%	C	C	D	D	F	F				
SSA	2 of 5 (40%)	100%	C	C	C	C	C	C				
USAID	3.4 of 5 (68%)	100%	B	C	B	B	B	D				

Not graded

metrics (100% - an A). The A and F would be averaged to a C for this area.

**Data source:** IGs' most recent FISMA reports (2019) and OMB's quarterly cybersecurity CAP goals (2020 Q4).

**Highest-rated agencies:** One agency—NRC—received an A because its IG's annual assessment averaged 4 of 5 (80%) and it met all 10 CAP goal metrics (100%).

**Lowest-rated agencies:** Two agencies (DOC and Energy) received F grades, by receiving failing marks on both their IG assessments and the percentage of CAP goals met.

**GAO reports:** GAO first identified federal IT security as a government-wide high-risk area in 1997 ([GAO-HR-97-9](#)). Subsequently, GAO has updated and expanded the area (e.g. [GAO-HR-97-1](#), [GAO-03-119](#), and [GAO-15-290](#)) and continued to identify it as a high-risk area in its most recent March 2019 update ([GAO-19-157SP](#)).

<sup>8</sup>The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA 2014) (Pub. L. No. 113-283, Dec. 18, 2014) partially superseded the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA 2002), enacted as Title III, E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2946 (Dec. 17, 2002).



# COR Biannual IT Scorecard – December 2020

## Transition off GSA’s expiring telecommunications contracts (EIS)

GSA is responsible for contracts that provide telecommunications services for federal agencies. In preparation for the May 2023 expiration of current telecommunications programs, including one called Networkx, GSA has developed a successor program, known as Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions (EIS).

**Why it’s important:** Previous delays during the transition to Networkx resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in missed savings.

**Calculation:** This area rounds each agency’s transition percentage complete, which measures how many services each agency has moved off the expiring contracts, weighted for complexity. It compares that weighted percentage against GSA’s upcoming goal of reaching 50% by mid-2021. In other words, 45% or greater get an A, 40% to 44% get a B, 35% to 39% get a C, 30% to 34% get a D, and lower than 30% get an F.

**Data source:** GSA’s EIS “Transition Progress Tracking Report Dashboard.”

Agency	transition % complete	Dec 2020	July 2020	Dec. 2019	June 2019	Dec. 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016
USDA	47.3%	A									
DOC	24.7%	F									
DOD	29.7%	D									
Ed.	37.8%	C									
Energy	40.6%	B									
HHS	50.0%	A									
DHS	28.1%	F									
HUD	37.1%	C									
DOI	35.0%	C									
DOJ	54.4%	A									
DOL	58.0%	A									
State	32.9%	D									
DOT	35.9%	C									
Treas.	73.0%	A									
VA	56.0%	A									
EPA	36.3%	C									
GSA	34.0%	D									
NASA	20.3%	F									
NSF	74.4%	A									
NRC	86.7%	A									
OPM	21.4%	F									
SBA	28.9%	F									
SSA	43.1%	B									
USAID	36.0%	C									

Not graded

**Highest-rated agencies:** Eight

agencies received an A by having at least a 45% on GSA’s weighted percentage metric.

**Lowest-rated agencies:** Six agencies received an F by transitioning less than 30% of their services.

**GAO reports:** GAO reported ([GAO-20-155](#)) that 19 selected agencies plan to fully transition to EIS before current contracts expire in May 2023. However, 11 agencies did not plan to fully transition by the GSA’s September 30, 2022, milestone. The majority of the selected agencies also did not meet GSA’s milestones for completing critical contracting actions in 2019. In addition, five selected agencies—DOC, HHS, State, VA, and NASA—had partially implemented established planning practices that can help agencies successfully transition their telecommunications services to new contracts. GAO made 25 recommendations to DOC, HHS, NASA, State, and VA, to fully implement the established transition planning practices. The agencies concurred with all of the recommendations.

# COR Biannual IT Scorecard – December 2020

## CIO Authority (CIO reporting structure)

Among other things, FITARA set out to ensure that federal Chief Information Officers (CIO) had a significant role in agencies’ IT decisions.

**Why it’s important:** Of the 24 major agencies, 16 CIOs report to the head of their agency (or the deputy). CIOs that do not report to the head of the agency weakens their ability to effectively manage IT. Given the history of federal IT failures, this is a concern.

### Calculation:

Agencies structured so that the CIO reports to the agency head or deputy receive a “+” and those that do not receive a “-.” The committee also gave partial credit to 4 agencies based upon their recent actions (noted by the absence of a “+” or “-”). The committee lowered the overall grade of agencies by one letter if they received a “-” in this area.

Agency	CIO status	CIO reports to agency head	Dec 2020	Aug 2020	Dec. 2019	June 2019	Dec 2018	May 2018	Nov. 2017	June 2017	Dec. 2016	May 2016
USDA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOC	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
DOD	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ed.	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Energy	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
HHS	Acting	Partial		-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
DHS	Permanent	Partial				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HUD	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
DOI	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
DOJ	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOL	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOT	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Treas.	Permanent	Partial				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
EPA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
GSA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
NASA	Acting	Yes	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
NSF	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
NRC	Permanent	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OPM	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SBA	Permanent	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
SSA	Acting	Yes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
USAID	Permanent	Partial				-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Not graded

### Data source:

Organization charts on agencies’ websites, [www.cio.gov](http://www.cio.gov), leadership directories, and GAO’s tracking of agencies efforts to address [GAO-18-93](#).

**Resulting grades:** Twenty agencies’ overall grades received a “+” or “-” mark. Specifically, 16 agencies received “+” marks and 4 agencies received “-” marks. The remaining 4 agencies (HHS, DHS, Treasury, and NRC) received no mark.

**GAO reports:** In August 2018, GAO reported ([GAO-18-93](#)) that the policies of the 24 agencies did not fully address the role of their CIOs consistent with laws and guidance. GAO attributed these shortcomings to weaknesses in OMB’s guidance, and made recommendations to OMB and each of the 24 agencies to improve the effectiveness of federal CIOs.