



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN COLORADO STATE GOVERNMENT

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Report Highlights



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PURPOSE

To increase awareness of Colorado state government IT operations and strategy and to provide state officials, decision makers, and the public with information regarding future plans around government IT initiatives.

IT GOVERNANCE BACKGROUND

- A strong governance structure must exist to ensure that IT is aligned with the mission and objectives of state agencies and the leadership within the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches.
- Pursuant to Senate Bill 08-155, which took effect on July 1, 2008, IT operations for Colorado's 16 Executive Branch departments were centralized under the Governor's Office of Information Technology.
- OIT's operational domain is the State's IT infrastructure, including data centers, servers, mainframe operations, personal computers, data storage, operating systems, local and wide area networks, and communications.
- OIT's oversight does not include IT operations for the Departments of Law, State, or Treasury; institutions of higher education; or the Judicial or Legislative Branches, each of which handles its own IT operations.
- The Colorado Information Security Program, which is overseen by the State Chief Information Security Officer, establishes a statewide information security framework and governance model that forms the foundation of the State's information security control structure.
- Executive Governance Committees (EGCs), which include members designated by departmental executive directors, serve as advisory boards for making recommendations to OIT regarding changes to project funding, scheduling, release plans, staffing, and other issues that could impact a project.

KEY FACTS AND FINDINGS

- During Fiscal Year 2013, Colorado state agencies spent a total of \$353 million on IT operations and initiatives. This represents about a 0.19 percent decrease from Fiscal Year 2012 and is about 1 percent of all state expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013.
- OIT's Enterprise Portfolio Management Office reviews and rates IT projects on a monthly basis. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2013, 271 projects at 16 Executive Branch agencies were rated:
 - 82 percent had a rating of "green," indicating that, overall, the projects were on track to deliver the committed scope, on time and on budget.
 - 15 percent had a rating of "yellow," indicating that the projects were not on track to deliver the committed scope by the committed deadline with the available resources, but there was a plan in place to remediate the issues.
 - 3 percent had a rating of "red," indicating that the projects were not on track and will require a plan to get back on track.
- The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) employs a risk-based approach whereby IT audit resources are allocated to assess the State's highest IT risk areas. Between Fiscal Year 2008 through Fiscal Year 2013, the OSA made more than 630 IT-related audit recommendations to the 16 Executive Branch departments, the institutions of higher education, and the Judicial Branch.
- Specific IT risk areas identified by the OSA and addressed by the OSA's audit recommendations include:
 - user account monitoring and control;
 - secure configurations for hardware, software, and network devices;
 - IT governance;
 - continuous vulnerability assessment, remediation, and incident response management;
 - disaster recovery and data backup;
 - information security policy, training, and awareness;
 - maintenance and monitoring of audit logs;
 - control of administrative privileges; and
 - inventory of computing devices.