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News Release

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State completes consolidation of Data Center and IT networks to save money, reduce carbon emissions State Data center improves service and productivity

Salem, Oregon—State Data Center administrator Mark Reyer announced today that state government, working with Cisco and other leading vendors, has successfully completed a multi-year network consolidation of 11 separate agency data centers into a single data center to save time, money, and energy as well as reduce carbon emissions.

“We have successfully reached a major milestone in an aggressive plan which will improve service, eliminate wasteful duplication, and make our State Data Center a national leader,” Reyer said. “I’m grateful to all our dedicated IT professionals who have worked so hard to make this vision a reality, and to our private-sector vendors for supplying the critical technology and expertise. Those who rely on the State Data Center can look forward to continued improvement in service, which benefits taxpayers and all Oregonians by saving money and reducing greenhouse gases.”

“State managers designed the network consolidation to deliver state services from many agencies to communities more efficiently and cost-effectively,” Reyer added.

The State Data Center (SDC) provides IT infrastructure services to the agencies, boards and commissions who serve more than 45,000 employees. Soon, state managers expect the consolidation effort to reduce power consumption by 30 percent, with an additional 25-percent reduction upon server consolidation completion. This will also reduce the state’s carbon footprint, and provide greater ease in measuring power costs to allow improvement over time. The new SDC provides a “shared-information technology infrastructure” that serves thousands of state and local government programs and businesses, and therefore millions of citizens.

When asked about benefits, Representative Chuck Riley, Chair of the Government Accountability and Information Technology in the Oregon House of Representatives, said, “We’re seeing major benefits. First, cost containment, which is critical when you’re dealing with other people’s money—the taxpayers. Second, security, which has become more and more important, especially as it relates to citizen privacy. And third, operational efficiencies. This project not only saves money, but makes more forward-looking projects possible.”

Reyer explained that before the consolidation occurred, state government's IT culture could claim no standardized architecture and no standards. "We had a very expensive hodgepodge of isolated systems, redundant functions, and architecture customized to serve hundreds of different applications," Reyner said. "Thanks to this statewide initiative, we now have an integrated and consolidated IT culture that makes efficient use of its resources. The SDC endeavor will play a critical role in the future of our agencies' operations. Cisco's expertise enabled us to implement our SDC initiative, and our collaboration with Cisco and other vendors will help us accomplish our business goals."

"Oregon is truly a leader in green IT initiatives in state governments," said Frank Ruge, Cisco's global government solutions manager. "The consolidation is a great example of how the network can serve as the platform for transforming the way government organizations collaborate and communicate while achieving benefits never previously realized."

The first data centers to be converted under the program belonged to 11 state agencies, including Administrative Services, Consumer and Business Services, Corrections, Employment, Forestry, Housing and Community Services, Human Services, Oregon State Police, Revenue, Transportation and Veterans' Affairs.

"The consolidation represents a strategic evolution for the state in how it takes advantage of IT to generate greater operational efficiency, cost containment, and environmental conservation," Reyner said. "Along the way, the state's various IT departments realized they were no longer backroom functions for one agency, but a major part of the support for a very large organization that was keeping the government up and running. The ability to work with IT colleagues and to drive toward a common goal eventually affected morale in a positive way. The IT workers found a new sense of technical vitality in working closely and collaborating together."

The SDC's data center consolidation initiative is part of the state's six-year plan to remodel IT services and follows the federal government's 1993 consolidation standards, which have been embraced by several states.

Next steps include transitioning agency IT functions over the next two years and rolling out collaborative communications and security enhancements like voice over IP (VoIP) and end-to-end encryption.

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