

Trends: FOSE 2008 Survey of Government IT

My agency will be ready for IPv6 by the June 2008 mandate.

- 33% of IT personnel feel that their agency will be ready by the June 2008 federal mandate; 6% said they're ready now.
- 33% feel that their agency will NOT be ready.
- **What does this mean?** From the results of the survey and in talking with government IT workers at the show, there seemed to be a general lack of understanding (except in the DOD) about just what the June 2008 mandate was – which is only that the backbone networks support IPv6. The real test will come when actual IPv6 applications must be supported on the networks.

A: Virtualization Management

- Over 85% of federal IT personnel feel that virtualization management is important to their daily operations.
- However, less than 15% actually have a solution installed. 42% of agency IT departments plan on having a solution implemented by next year.
- **What does this mean?** Virtualization is important, but the management tools and perhaps understanding about just what needs to be managed and how is immature, slowing adoption and causing federal IT workers to take a wait and see attitude.

B: Dashboards/Operational Business Intelligence

- Over 75% of federal agency IT personnel feel that dashboards and other forms of operational business intelligence are important to their operations.
- 54% of IT decision-makers say that their agency has a dashboard/BI already installed, on track for this year or planned for next year.
- **What does this mean?** Dashboards are useful tools that government IT is willing to spend their precious and shrinking budget on.

C: IPv6

- 65% of agency IT departments say that IPv6 is important to their work.
- However, only 6% have the necessary tools in place to support it. An additional 22% will be ready within the year.
- **What does this mean?** When even the Chair of the Federal CIO Council's IPv6 Working Group says that he doesn't like the term "mandate" and that the OMB's deadline is more of a recommendation than a mandate (http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/04/02/Feds-will-meet-June-IPv6-deadline_1.html), it's no wonder that IPv6 support is not a priority in most government IT deployments.

D: IT Asset Inventory

- Nearly 100% of respondents said that IT asset inventory is important to their federal IT operations.
- Additionally, almost 70% of agency IT operations teams have a solution implemented or will have one by next year.
- **What does this mean?** The federal government sees the importance of knowing what it has and has the tools to keep on top of it.

E: ITIL/CMDB

- 56% of agency IT departments feel that ITIL and CMDB are important to their operations.
- However, less than 40% have a solution in place or are planning for one.
- **What does this mean?** An ITIL/CMDB project is a huge endeavor – requiring major changes to policies, best practices and workflow of any organization. With FISMA/SIM, Virtualization Management and IPv6 on the table, it's surprising that even 10% of those responding had deployed ITIL/CMDB solutions.

F: Security Information Management/FISMA

- 91% of agency IT workers say that FISMA and IT security are important to their operations.
- Over 50% have a solution in place, with almost three-quarters of all agency IT planning on implementation by next year.
- **What does this mean?** High profile security breaches/data losses and highly publicized bad FISMA grades are making agency IT spend the time and resources to secure IT.

G: Green IT

- Nearly three-quarters of agency IT personnel feel that environmentally responsible and green IT are important to federal IT.
- Only 13% actually have any tools currently in place.
- **What does this mean?** Is it lip service to say that green IT is important when only 13% of those responding have any solutions in place at work? Perhaps again, it comes down to priorities.

H: Web 2.0 Tools

- Over 65% of federal agency IT workers say that Web 2.0 tools are important to their operations
- 52% of agency IT teams plan on having web 2.0 tools in place by next year, with over 20% currently having some form of solution installed
- **What does this mean?** Government IT, like their commercial counterparts, see wikis and RSS feeds as useful tools that help them communicate better and get their jobs done more efficiently.



Question 3 – The Biggest Challenge for My Agency’s IT Operations is...

- At 62% of those responding, the biggest challenge for government IT departments was “Budget Constraints”. “IT Security” came in 2nd at 46%, and “New Technology and Innovation” was 3rd at 39%.
- Interestingly, proving ROI/value was only a concern for just over 10% of the respondents.
- **What does this mean?** Respondents shared their frustrations of both a shrinking IT budget and reallocation of funds they were supposed to have.