



# County of Sacramento Technology Review Group

**Tuesday, November 16, 2010**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Call to Order**                      The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**Members/Designees Present**

- Jim Wheeler, Chair, Public Defender
- Geoff Marsh, Vice-Chair, EMD
- Steve Baird, Airports
- Dave Calleance, Finance
- Neil Davidson, DGS
- Shawn Echols, Assessor
- Chris Heikkila, SRCSD
- Roberta Kanelos, Voter Registration
- Jeff Leveroni, MSA
- Debbie Nadolna, OCIT
- Scott Porter, Probation
- Ray Reis, DHHS
- David Villanueva, CIO
- Catherine Wild, SASD
- Anthony Wong, BOS
- Mark Wong, Sheriff

**Other Attendees**

Richard Crosser, OCIT	Chas Lesley, OCIT
Georgina Clemo (OCIT)	Chuck Parker, OCIT
Alan Douma, OCIT	Jim Reiner, OCIT
Felix Flores, OCIT	Rami Zakaria, OCIT
Bruce Hendrickson, OCIT	Rich Powers, MSA
Wes Logan, BOS	Mike Hooper, SITA

**Next TRG Meeting**                      **Tuesday, January 18, 2011**  
1:30 – 3:30 pm  
799 G Street, 2nd Floor, Room 221

## 1. Approval of October 2010 Minutes

On a motion from Jeff Leveroni and a second by Steve Baird, the TRG October 2010 meeting minutes were approved.

## 2. CIO Update

### **Summary:**

OCIT is planning on updating all remaining County telephones to VoIP within the next two (2) years.

### **Discussion:**

Analysis indicates that eliminating the dual phone systems (one analog, one VoIP) will save some significant money in the coming years. OCIT is looking to purchase the necessary equipment (hard phones and network equipment) in several big batches to minimize cost.

The conversion will be paid for by the 1.0 to 1.5 million dollar savings achieved by eliminating support for the two systems. Departments will need to purchase their own phones and any network equipment themselves, but can either pay for the purchase up front or tap into the Capital Improvement fund to spread the cost over several years.

This conversion is at an early stage. Still to come are department assessments by OCIT to verify network condition and see if upgrades (routers, switches and/or wiring) are needed. To start the ball rolling and schedule an assessment for your department please **submit a TSR for VoIP Conversion to OCIT.**

## 3. IT Classifications & Civil Service

### **Summary:**

Steve Baird (Airports) suggested moving County IT positions out of Civil Service to become "at will" employees to alleviate the current situation where seniority alone is considered when staff layoffs are necessary. The move from Civil Service to "at will" status would be accompanied by a raise in salary to compensate, and also serve as an incentive for retention.

### **Discussion:**

Ray Reis (DHHS) commented that moving tenured Civil Servants out of long-term IT positions isn't going to go over well. Ray suggested an alternative, where a parallel career track be established that isn't Civil Service, with an appropriate salary bump. This would allow the County to tap into well-trained analysts who aren't concerned about longevity. This could be an alternative to the past use of contractors.

Ray also speculated that current County IT employees could volunteer to move to this new "at will" class, or opt to continue with Civil Service.

Jeff Leveroni (MSA) pointed out that keeping the Civil Service track wouldn't solve the problem as stated, and that the hybrid solution suggested by Ray Reis may have some

benefit if the Civil Service track were capped, with new employees required to be on the “at will” track.

Rami Zakaria (OCIT) suggested as solution to the layoff problem that the IT classifications be split into more specific definitions, avoiding the current problem where a new staff member with a critical skill gets laid off because there is a surplus within another area of the same classification, but with higher seniority.

Jeff Leveroni stated that splitting the general IT classifications into more specific classifications would solve the immediate problem of layoffs affecting services that are not intended to be affected, but wouldn't solve the longer-term problem described by Steve Baird.

Scott Porter (Probation) pointed out that splitting the positions (one classification with multiple options) into multiple classifications is a good thing when downsizing, but becomes an obstacle when hiring as candidates can be fragmented between multiple lists.

Several group members pointed out that being exempt from Civil Service would allow “cherry picking” where the County can chose the people it needs to keep, not just the longest term employees.

Steve Baird reminded the group that IT has the seemingly unique problem that everything changes regularly and often. Keeping current on new skill sets is a constant challenge.

At this point, Jim Wheeler (Public Defender) summarized the options being discussed as follows:

- Exempt all IT positions from Civil Service
- Establish 2 separate tracks: one Civil Service, the other “at will”
- Break out the general IT classifications with multiple options into multiple classifications
- Maybe some other “out of box” solutions?

A concern was voiced that this meeting did not provide much time to think about such a potentially radical and volatile issue, and that it might be better to table any further discussion until the next TRG meeting in January.

Instead, the suggestion was made to offer this proposal as one ‘focus area’ for the IT Services Efficiencies subcommittee. The subcommittee can analyze this in context with other alternatives and provide some framework to the suggestion.

After this initial analysis, the IT Services subgroup can bring it back to the TRG for review, along with other labor/staffing recommendations. Since this is potentially a far-reaching proposal, the TRG may then decide to establish a separate subcommittee dedicated solely to labor/staffing issues, of which this is one.

This scenario received general TRG approval, although it did not receive a specific motion to enact.

## 4. LCD Litigation & PC Contracts

### **Summary – LCD Litigation:**

Sacramento County has been invited to participate in a class action suit for LCD purchases, 1996 – 2006. Two requests are being made:

1. Preserve all documents related to LCD purchases, 1996-2006
2. Submit metrics on the volume and type of equipment purchased by the County during this period.

### **Discussion:**

Departments should be aware of the first request to preserve purchasing documents; Alan Douma has taken care of the second request, providing purchase volume and type information.

Settlement or further action may be months or years away, so no further action items for the time being, and no document or information submittals to OCIT required for now.

### **Summary – PC Contracts:**

Alan Douma (OCIT) reported that he has submitted a contract requisition for PCs and laptops to supplement the existing contracts.

### **Discussion:**

Alan stated – and Anthony Wong (BOS) concurred – that the current contracts don't always provide the cheapest price, or are limited in the models they offer. The current contracts include the WSCA contract for PCs and Laptops. The CSSI contract for desktop PCs, and the new clone contract for desktop PCs.

Alan explained that the contracts either have a limited selection (CSSI) or don't offer a competitive price if the models purchases need to be customized (WSCA). This contract will restore the option of going outside the existing WSCA/CSSI/clone contracts, particularly for laptops where it is perceived that there is a hole in the contract coverage.

This was a little bit of a surprise given that the IT Purchasing subgroup had just formulated recommendations that stated that the existing contracts (WSCA, CSSI & Clone) were adequate for purchasing what the County needs. These deficiencies in the current available contracts just came to light since the development of those procurement recommendations. Either the existing contracts don't offer current technology, or if they do, like the WSCA contract, it is not at the best price.

Alan mentioned that it will take up to six months to get the contract in place; after a brief group discussion the recommendation was for the **contract requisition to proceed for laptops**, as will give departments an additional option.

## 5. IT Acceptable Use Policy

### **Summary:**

Presentation of this updated policy was postponed to the next TRG meeting (January 18, 2011.)

### **Discussion:**

Labor Relations asked for a second review of the draft policy, specifically looking at the use of e-mail. This item will be added to the January 2011 meeting agenda.

## 6. Mainframe Strategy Document

### **Summary:**

Document prepared by the Mainframe Strategy Team (a TRG subgroup) assesses current status and where applications now running on the mainframe are likely to be in the future.

### **Discussion:**

Debbie Nadolna (OCIT) explained that a subgroup was formed to assess the status of the mainframe programs. Some of the users who were thought to be dropping the mainframe in the near future turn out not to be doing so. One example given was the Courts, which had earlier forecast that they would be leaving the mainframe environment in 2012, but now are predicting 2019 at the earliest.

So, dropping the mainframe entirely is further in the future that was thought even earlier this year. In addition, plans to migrate the major applications off the mainframe are at a standstill due to funding constraints.

Debbie explained that the mainframe platform is now 10 years old, and since we do not see migrating from the mainframe within the next 5 years, time has come for an operating system upgrade and additional hardware investment to keep it running efficiently.

### **Action:**

Debbie would like the TRG to review and comment on this document prior to submitting it to the CIO. The [Mainframe Strategy Document](#) is available on the TRG intranet site with the materials for the November 16, 2010 meeting. Debbie would like any **comments sent to her by December 15, 2010.**

## 7. Vulnerability Scanning Product Alternatives

### **Summary:**

In an effort to save money, Debbie Nadolna had asked staff to identify alternatives to the current vulnerability scanning solution, Qualys. The analysis revealed that competing products either don't meet the stated requirements or are in the same price range as Qualys.

***Discussion:***

The County's current annual investment in Qualys is \$132,000 for the subscription and additional \$20,000 maintenance on the hardware appliances. In evaluating alternatives, the requirement to include the ability for distributed administration eliminated many of the competitors. Another issue for changing to another solution is **market longevity**: all competing products that existed in 2004 when the original Qualys purchase was made have since disappeared.

Debbie proposed to the group that the Patch Management Committee (PCM) review the original 2004 vulnerability scanning requirements to see if they can be relaxed to find other alternatives that would save money. Debbie pointed out that the County is playing a lot of money for a product that is not being used to its full potential. Qualys is capable of meeting the requirements as written, but we are not using it that way.

Meanwhile, Qualys is funded in the budget for the next fiscal year (FY 11-12) pending the outcome of this issue.

***Approval:***

On a recommendation from Jim Wheeler, seconded by Debbie Nadolna, the recommendation, that the Patch Management Committee (PCM) be tasked with a review of the Vulnerability Scanning requirements from 2004, either recommending a path to full compliance or recommending requirements to be modified or dropped to allow for a lower level (and cheaper) solution, was **approved**.

**8. Efficiency Projects for TRG subcommittees: Procurement & Services**

***Summary:***

- Procurement Recommendations are going to be presented to the ITPB at the next meeting on December 2, 2010.
- IT Services Efficiency sub-committee is meeting again this week (November 18, 2010.)

**9. Proposed Countywide IT Plan**

***Summary:***

Jim Reiner (OCIT) presented a summary of the 2011 Countywide IT plan to the TRG.

***Discussion:***

Jim Reiner presented the TRG with a one-page (double-sided) summary of proposed "Goals and Objectives" for the 2011 IT plan. These goals and objectives were developed with the assistance of 15 volunteers, and represent a "final draft" of the material.

***Approval:***

On a motion from Neil Davidson (DGS) and a second from Debbie Nadolna (OCIT), the TRG **approved** the wording in this final draft of the 2011 goals and objectives.

This approved final draft will now go back to the subgroup for final edits before being presented to the ITPB.

## **10. Cancelling December 2010 TRG Meeting**

### ***Summary:***

Jim Wheeler proposed cancelling the December 2010 TRG meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

### ***Discussion:***

None.

### ***Approval:***

On a motion from Shawn Echols (Assessor) and a second from Jeff Leveroni (MSA) OCIT), the TRG **approved** cancellation of the December 2010 meeting.

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