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Federal CIOs: Days of Siloed C-Suite Mentalities are Gone as Reliance on IT Increases

(ALEXANDRIA, VA – JANUARY 19, 2016) — As information continues to become less an administrative support activity and more a core function of every government entity, federal chief information officers (CIOs) have found an increased importance in collaborating with their C-suite counterparts, according to the report, [*Executive Collaboration for Strategic IT*](#), released Tuesday by AGA and Accenture Federal Services. The Federal Information Technology Reform Act (FITARA) is seen as a valuable tool to assist agencies in promoting this collaboration, as it aims to create a partnership among the C-suite, and positions CIOs to have significant involvement in technology-related budget, procurement, and workforce decision-making. Among the key findings:

- Agencies continue to invest in data centralization and commodity services; however, focus has started to shift to digital solutions and cybersecurity to increase the availability and reliability of information.
- Agencies may choose existing technologies over new technologies to maintain data integrity. As a result, finding a balance between new and old technologies — especially given financial constraints, skill set gaps and resistance to change — remains challenging.
- When deciding to implement new technology, most executives believe procurement and change-management challenges are more significant considerations than budget.
- It is challenging for a CIO to communicate the return on successful IT investments, as efficiencies gained may not be quantifiable in dollars.

“One of the biggest takeaways from the survey is that the increased collaboration among the C-suite has heightened visibility into operations, and driven goal alignment among executives,” said Amy Hopkins, Accenture consultant and report contributor. “Survey participants noted communicating as often as weekly to biannually. Unfortunately, there’s no one-size-fits-all collaboration solution.”

“The CIO of the past is gone,” said Michael Lumb, Managing Director with Accenture. “The results of this year’s survey show CIOs are no longer functioning as back-office support but evolving into strategic partners essential to achieve their agency’s mission.”

“The coordination and cooperation needed to develop and execute agency priorities requires teamwork across the functional community leaders — IT, finance and acquisition — like never before,” said AGA CEO Ann Ebberts. “Where in the past this type of cooperative effort may have been aspirational, with FITARA, it is essential.”

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