

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: September 4, 1998

Governor Announces a Revitalized Office of Information Technology

Seeking to make New Jersey government more responsive, efficient and productive, Gov. Christie Whitman today signed an Executive Order creating an Office of Information Technology (OIT) "in-but-not-of" the Department of Treasury. This organization will assume all of the responsibilities of the current Office of Telecommunications and Information Systems (OTIS) organization.

"Smaller, smarter, more efficient government has been a top priority in this administration since day one. The New Jersey Office of Information Technology will enhance our ability to use technology to eliminate waste, reduce costs, and improve the level of government services to the residents of New Jersey," said Gov. Whitman. "This new organizational structure is part of a broader change that will make it easier for us to use information technology in ways that improve services and reduce costs."

The proposed restructuring builds on recommendations that resulted from a comprehensive study performed by a public/private steering committee and the Deloitte and Touche Consulting Group. The study recommended elevating the management of information technology to an in, but not of, agency, with a governing board comprised of public and private members, having direct access to the Governor's office. In February, a Chief Information Officer (CIO) was appointed in the Governor's Office to develop a statewide vision and plan for the use of information technology. With the formation of the Office of Information Technology (OIT), the state will be in a better position to realize the goals established by the CIO. Oversight by a public/private board, will ensure that the best practices from both sectors will be brought to the organization. With the creation of the OIT, we are also committing the state to a comprehensive staff training program that better enables the OIT to attract and retain information technology professionals with the skills needed to implement tomorrow's solutions.

All of these changes - the creation of the CIO position, the implementation of a statewide strategic planning process, and the formation of the OIT will enable New Jersey to be a national leader in using information technology to improve the quality of citizen services and reduce costs.

The OIT will focus on its core mission of using technology to make government services more affordable, accessible and responsive. The new organization will assume all of the responsibilities of the current organization including, Internet and Intranet planning and development, networks, and client/server application development. The new organization will also address issues related to technology research, business process analysis, desktop support, and statewide project coordination. Efforts to address the Year 2000 issue will continue be the number one priority and will continue uninterrupted during the reorganization.

"Improvements in information technology enable us to serve our customers - the taxpayers - faster, smarter, and better than ever before," said CIO Wendy Rayner. "To satisfy citizen expectations and to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, New Jersey must become more flexible and responsive in its use of information technology."

Savings resulting from the reorganization are expected to be directed toward improving and expanding New Jersey's technological infrastructure and developing applications for multi-agency use.

"Technology provides a powerful tool that can transform the way citizens and businesses access government information and services and improve the breadth and quality of those services. Our goal is to make New Jersey the `on-line State."

