



F E D E R A L  
S T U D E N T A I D

*We Help Put America Through School*

## **Business-Technology Alignment Monthly Progress Report**

**March 1, 2002  
through  
March 31, 2002**



## Support and Efforts

- The FSA Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) initiative provides for the following efforts:
  - Identify and researching disruptive technologies, FSA enterprise project topics, and projects that have non-standard technical needs for the AWG agenda and review
  - Updates to the Technical Infrastructure Blueprint and the Technical Policy, Standards and Products document
  - Interval gap analysis between the Technical Infrastructure Blueprint and the Technical Policies, Standards and Products document
  - Coordinating and preparing for the AWG meeting and developing AWG meeting minutes



## Between March 1, 2002 and March 31, 2002 the Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) activities were operational.

### Activities: March 1, 2002 – March 31, 2002

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#### Architecture Working Group (AWG) Activities

- Continued BTA/ Architecture Working Group (AWG) process definition
- Facilitation and support of Architecture Working Group (AWG) sessions held March 21
- Identified additional topics and issues, including E-mail Encryption: need for data security standards and potential tools for the eServicing project; and Single Sign-on: need for business agreement for an enterprise solution
- Continue to investigate potential 'disturbing technology' components for AWG review.

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#### FSA Policy, Standards & Products Guide

- Added "Application Development" services section which include Application Design, Programming Tools, Application Testing, and Code Management
- Added the Data Encryption guidelines from the AWG meeting
- Updated many of the product version numbers to reflect currently installed products

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#### FSA Gap Analysis

- Overall, there are:
  - 9 products in the Technical Infrastructure Blueprint that are not FSA standards
  - 4 instances of nonstandard product versions in use
  - 1 de facto product in use
  - Of the 22 systems currently included in the Technical Infrastructure Blueprint, only 4 are ASP systems and not subject to FSA standards.
  - 9 FSA systems are completely in compliance with the FSA Standards, Policies, and Products Guide.



## Between March 1, 2002 and March 31, 2002 the Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) activities were operational.

### Activities: March 1, 2002 – March 31, 2002 (continued)

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#### **BTA Process & Procedures**

- These activities will occur in parallel to support tool functionality requirements development, and the build vs. buy options evaluation

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#### **Enterprise Architecture Tool Selection**

- An investigation effort was conducted to identify a suitable tool to house and maintain the FSA Enterprise Technical Architecture
- The tools were gauged in terms of function fit, technical suitability, system requirements, vendor suitability, and cost
- The narrowed list included Ptech Enterprise Framework 6.0; Popkin System Architect 2001; and Rational Rose Enterprise 2002
- FSA CIO IT Management team members selected Ptech Enterprise Framework as the strongest EA tool they examined
- Selected CIO members attended a demonstration of the Ptech tool hosted by the USPS
- Ptech provided a 45 day trial copy of their Enterprise Framework software

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#### **CIO Communication Task Force**

- A CIO Communication Task Force was created to investigate potential CIO web site improvements to help serve the FSA community
- The task force used information from the 2002 Spring Conference and project feedback as the reference points
- There are several recommended improvements to the CIO web site



**Between March 1, 2002 and March 31, 2002 the Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) activities were operational.**

**Activities: March 1, 2002 – March 31, 2002 (continued)**

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**Consistent Data Awareness**

- An awareness and marketing effort was conducted to promote enterprise project involvement of the Consistent Data reengineering.
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**Task Order Status**

- The task order was resubmitted reflecting the requested modifications resulting from the recent budget impacts
- The revised project plan includes the timeline of the new deliverables



## Issues and Risks.

**March 1, 2002 – March 31, 2002**

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### **Department of ED offer to use Ptech for FSA**

- Dept. of ED has offered the use of their Ptech enterprise architecture support tool
- We need to continue evaluating the advantages and implications of this offer carefully before responding



## Planned activities: next month

April 1, 2002 – April 30, 2002

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### AWG Support

- Coordinate and conduct the next meetings
- Topics planned to be addressed during subsequent meetings:
  - Email Encryption
  - Single Sign-on
  - Changes in CTI and web servers
- Additional topics of enterprise interest include Consistent Data overview and an overview of a selected disruptive technology

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### ASG Activities Support

- Ongoing coordination and supporting activities when needed

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### Technical Infrastructure Blueprint Updates

- Identify and add new production projects
- Confirm the technical architecture and function of the existing projects
- Collect more detailed technical information about each application in the document

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### BTA Procedures

- Identify process areas of improvement by soliciting feedback from the AWG members.



## Planned activities: next month

April 1, 2002 – April 31, 2002 (Continued)

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### **BTA Awareness**

- Develop an awareness campaign to promote the use of the BTA and AWG by using banners/posters to entice interest and usage.



# Appendices

## Appendix I:

- **AWG meeting minutes and handouts from March 21, 2002**
- **Updated FSA Policy, Standards & Products Guide**
- **FSA Gap Analysis Report**
- **BTA Process Guide**
- **CIO Communications Task Force Plan**
- **Consistent Data Awareness Banner**
- **Updated Project Plan**