

Approved: 03/15/2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Burgess at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2012 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Rep. Ed Trimmer - Excused
Rep. Steven Johnson – Excused
Rep. John Grange – Excused
Rep. Charles Roth – Excused
Rep. Louis Ruiz - Excused

All Committee staff was present except:

Julian Efird, Legislative Research

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jim Miller, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer
Alan Wies, Director of Application Services
Terri Clark, Director of Technical Services
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Chair Burgess introduced Jim Miller, recently hired Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer. Mr. Miller gave some background indicating he has spent 25 years in the CIO roles for various Fortune 500 corporations, including Hallmark and Cerner. He noted that, historically, the Legislative Branch has had a Chief Information Technology Officer who was responsible for basic features, and a Director of Computer Services who was responsible for the day-to-day IT operations. Both have been combined into the Legislative CITO position.

Mr. Miller presented an update on KLISS noting that he is reviewing the vision for KLISS that was laid out four or five years ago to connect those to where we are operationally. The handout ([Attachment 1](#)) provided the Committee with the Legislative IT Environment Status and Initial Assessment. Mr. Miller explained this is an early version created to report on the current status of KLISS and the future of KLISS into a common reporting format so one can see its evolution. Reported are: status of KLISS in the current context, sections not yet completed, the overall assessment, and how to fill the gaps as we go forward. Page 6 reports on future items and

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recommendations. The handout is in three sections, with the first being organizational charts and gap analysis charts, the second is a “to do” list for the KLISS environment, and the third is a four-page technical “to do” list.

Mr. Miller spent some time going through the current state of KLISS. In terms of the current state, for those of you who were here last year, the good news is that KLISS is in a much better place than it was last year. A lot of work was done over the last year and since Mr. Miller’s employment in November, staff has basically been focusing on getting the KLISS workload organized and prioritized. The good news is if you look at the KLISS existing environment, the system is relatively stable, the change process that we have in place for fixes has been built in to get them ready for production, and this is working extremely well. The other part is last year, both the internal and external web site interfaces were relatively new out of the box, and a lot of functionality did not exist. Now, both of those environments are in good shape, but there is still a lot of work to do to replicate some of the functionality that existed in some of the prior web sites. Content is in relatively clean fashion.

Issues over the last month or so have involved formatting of data and statutes going through the legislative process. One of the biggest things worked on last year was taking the 2011 statutes and getting those print-ready to ship out to the printer, and a major gap in KLISS is printing capability. The vision for KLISS was to take the block that the State Printer did historically, and replicate that into the KLISS environment so what was sent to the printer was the final pdf so the printing could begin. What we missed in that vision was all the magic that the elves at the State Printing Facility did at 3:00 in the morning. There was a phenomenal amount of composition work between the time we sent copy to the print shop and the print shop actually printing. Composition work with OpenOffice is not exactly a publishing tool. Between now and next year, we will be working with the Revisor’s office to determine what the composition tools should be and get those implemented.

Mr. Miller continued noting staff is now working on the internal interface environment where we have point to point flow, updating interfaces with external systems like the international role call system, and eventually interfacing with the new SLIQ system for calendars.

In response to questions:

--Alan Wies added that the external site can be up to eight minutes behind the internal site (li.KLISS.loc), so he encourages legislators to use the internal site. Those sites have the same data, but the internal site is faster. The delay for the external site will be worked on in the future.

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--Since we have KLISS in place, we will be looking at extending it into mobile devices, iPhones, and tablets.

--We are working on the RSS (Really Simply Syndication—web feed to send user a notification when an event occurs, when a bill is introduced, etc.) icon so it is not grayed out and expanding it into other areas to make it more flexible to get notifications out on the system.

--Audiovideo streaming has been piloted in the Old Supreme Court Room. The Capitol, as it has been remodeled, is wired for this feature, so the next step will be for the Legislature to fund implementing a standardized version of this technology in additional conference rooms throughout the Capitol building.

--As agendas, minutes, testimony, and other related documents are received, they are being added online.

Mr. Miller then reported on future projects, Page 6, of the handout. Composition requires hundreds and hundreds of work hours to get documents print ready, so coming up with ways to automate is the first item on our critical gap list. At this point, a good job is being done capturing data, and once data bases are organized, we will need to determine what is the best way to get KLISS information---search, query, or reports.

The legislative interface seems to be well suited for the users of the system outside the two chambers. It does the job of providing information, updates, access, but does not serve as a workbench for the legislators themselves, such as having a calendar built into the system, so legislators can keep track of their own information keeping it simple and secure from the rest of the world. Mr. Miller added he would be seeking input from legislators on this issue.

The next item is constituent services using KLISS as a platform for the individual legislator to keep track of interactions with constituents. If the office assistant receives a phone call from a constituent, that call is logged into a system for broadcasting information out to the person through direct communication, electronic newsletters, etc., thus integrating the Outlook environment with legislative web sites.

Geo-coding is a relatively exciting piece of technology that we can leverage as we go forward. Mr. Miller cautioned that a solid foundation is needed for geo-coding to make it effective, that is, a good data model around a map that we want to use for Kansas so there are not 50 maps for use from one geo-coding to the next. The rest of that work is to build productive spreadsheets that will link information to the map. An example was displayed providing school district funding information.

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Regarding video services, we have had a pilot so we know it can be done. We have done a bit of work on captioning, and this is not so easily done.

Electronic messaging board is a way to communicate information about what is going on in the building whether placing the meeting agenda outside meeting rooms or video as the meeting is actually taking place.

Certainly, the idea has been to outfit the legislators with standard Dell laptops, which are good devices, although there is a hard wall between use of it as a legislator and personal use of it and how effective it can be on an ongoing basis. We are coming up with alternatives on how we leverage technology and enable your work processes as you go forward, option like putting all your systems on the Dell computer regardless of where you log on so you have access to your system. The prior CITO suggested legislators be given iPads. The whole idea of having a tablet as opposed to a PC to be more interactive is to have the KLISS fit onto your tablet from the current 12 or 14 inch screen. These are the kinds of things we will be looking at for the future specific to each legislator.

The Chair suggested maybe the next numbered item could be API (Application Program Interface, which is the connection between two different systems; in KLISS we have an open API that can be used by anyone outside the legislative environment). Mr. Wies stated that part of the implementation of KLISS is to set up an external API so state agencies or other organizations can get the same public data that is available on the external legislative site to get into a machine readable format. The Chair asked about the ability to auto refresh, click a bill and get information immediately on action on a bill and what bill is next, should a legislator need to step away for a minute, and to set up preferences for each legislator under KLISS. These are the types of things on the to do list.

In response to a question about SLIQ, Terri Clark explained that SLIQ is a format for agendas and minutes and for videoconferencing, and it was explained that staff is in the process of having an interface built between SLIQ and KLISS, but this is a future action item.

Mr. Miller answered questions about security. One of the things they will be doing is changing to self-selection or self-service passwords rather than the archaic dictated password system. He noted there are firewalls in place, but the biggest risk is that we work in a public environment where people walk through offices, and it is important to lock computers when away from the desk. He added that a large number of systems across government are almost unhackable because they are so old.

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Next, J. G. Scott gave a demonstration of the Geographic Information System (GIS) by displaying school finance data across the Kansas map by school district. This is spreadsheet information laid over the State of Kansas map presenting the material in a visual outlay. Part of the reason he was able to put a presentation together was because the information was already available. Mr. Scott thanked Andrew Waller, Systems Developer with Propylon, Inc., and Ken Nelson, Manager, Data Access and Support Center, for help in putting the map together for the demo. The map shows individual school districts that have zero impact from Governor's school finance plan and those districts with impact. The shade of color reflects the smaller and larger impact. The map also includes layers, school finance 2012, and could be overlaid with House districts so legislators could locate their school district boundaries. County boundaries could also be overlaid. Mr. Conroy added the goal is to integrate this information into the web site so if it relates to a bill, it could be linked to show impact of passing a bill. If the spreadsheet information changed, if a school district consolidated, or if there are several different school finance plans, the turnaround time to revise the information can be fairly quickly. The Chair thanked the presenters for their time and presentations.

The Chair asked if there were any bills to be introduced. There were none.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.