

**Chief Information Technology Officer – Executive Branch  
Project Report – Enterprise Email System Update**

Joint Committee on Information Technology  
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Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration/Interim CITO

Thank you, committee, for allowing me to brief you on where we stand with the cloud email system.

As you are, I'm sure, already aware, the plan is to get the entire state – all agencies – using Office 365 for Government. This is a government-based cloud collaboration system hosted by Microsoft. We'll no longer have Outlook linked to a local server. We'll be taking part in a larger, government-only email solution.

The benefits to doing this are that:

- 1) It will reduce some of the responsibility on staff in areas that don't provide value. Staff within the agencies would no longer have to manage email servers and administer email accounts to the degree they do now. Thus it will free up our state resources to focus on other problems.
- 2) It will allow us to more easily standardize our email with capability for easier and more enhanced collaboration between agencies. Right now, interagency communication is inhibited by the current multiple, segregated systems.

There was, for a time, the idea of not including all agencies in this solution, due to large, up-front costs to bring a few up to current standards. But that was never a consideration in my mind. I feel it is essential that every agency be allowed to communicate and collaborate within the community of state agencies. I've been in several meetings where that same spirit was shared and we've found resolutions to those funding obstacles. All the agencies will move forward together, and benefit together, on this.

We are working to finalize the contracts for the purchase and installation of equipment and migrating all data and users to Office 365. The current estimate is three months for the installation, and 9-14 months to migrate all agencies. Some agencies will require training as they do not currently use MS Outlook. After full implementation, there will be a reduction in cost to the enterprise as a whole.