

United States General Accounting Office

GAO

Accounting and Information
Management Division

July 1995

**Information Resources
Management Policy and
Issues Issue Area**

Active Assignments



Foreword

This report was prepared primarily to inform Congressional members and key staff of ongoing assignments in the General Accounting Office's Information Resources Management Policy and Issues issue area. This report contains assignments that were ongoing as of July 6, 1995, and presents a brief background statement and a list of key questions to be answered on each assignment. The report will be issued quarterly.

This report was compiled from information available in GAO's internal management information systems. Because the information was downloaded from computerized data bases intended for internal use, some information may appear in abbreviated form.

If you have questions or would like additional information about assignments listed, please contact Christopher Hoenig, Director, Information Resources Management Policy and Issues, on (202) 512-6208.

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Information Resources Mgmt Policy & Issues

FEDERAL IRM POLICY/PROCESSES & GUIDANCE

TITLE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PROFILE AND PROCESSES (510981)

BACKGROUND : AIMD's recent work indicates that agencies should manage information technology (IT) expenditures as investments. While we knew that some agencies have IT investment controls established, we were uncertain of (1) the extent to which they were in place across the government, and (2) the effects of their absence or implementation.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) For selected federal agencies, what is the level and type of IT spending? (2) Do these agencies have IT investment controls in place? If so, to what extent? (3) What positive and negative effects can be associated with the presence or absence of investment controls?

METHODOLOGY - AGENCYWIDE INFO. MGMT.

TITLE: REVIEW OF INS' USE OF INVESTMENT CONTROLS IN MANAGING AUTOMATION INITIATIVES (511088)

BACKGROUND : INS has numerous information systems. However, improvements are needed to adequately support mission needs. In the next 5 years, INS will expend \$1.6 billion on automation initiatives. AIMD work indicates that agencies should manage IT expenditures as investments. Substantive work has not been performed at INS to determine its strategy for managing automation initiatives.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What are INS' planned automation initiatives? (2) Has INS implemented an IT investment strategy with related controls? (3) To what extent has INS used investment controls to manage automation initiatives?

OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK - GIFM

TITLE: GOVERNMENTWIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPENDING (510979)

BACKGROUND : Chairman Roth asked "...how much of the \$25 billion per year spent on major computer buys is being mismanaged and could be better utilized?" We subsequently agreed to broaden the question to encompass a summary of overall information technology (IT) spending.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) How much does the federal government spend annually on information technology? (2) What are trends in IT spending? (3) What do the government's IT spending estimates include and exclude? (4) What are major IT initiatives that various oversight organizations consider to be at risk?

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OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK - GIFM

TITLE: REENGINEERING GOVERNMENT-WIDE CIVILIAN TRAVEL (510982)

BACKGROUND : In March 1995, GAO reported that for every dollar the Department of Defense spends on travel, it spends about 30 cents on administrative costs. The average travel administration cost in the private sector was reportedly only 10 cents per dollar. Chairman Cohen has asked GAO to follow up with a job looking at administrative costs for civilian federal travel.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What is the unit administrative cost for travel in selected civilian federal agencies? (2) What is the process by which travel is planned and approved, and by which expenses are reimbursed and audited? (3) How much money might be saved if these agencies adopted industry best practices?


