

Chairman Will Hurd
Opening Statement
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittees on Information Technology and Government Operations
Joint Hearing
*“Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA)
Scorecard 5.0”*
Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Today's hearing is part of this Committee's continuing oversight of federal IT. This began with GAO's high-risk report and the designation of IT acquisition on that report back in February 2015, and it has been a priority of ours ever since.

Due to the importance we place on this issue, our Committee staff worked with GAO to develop a scorecard to assess agencies' FITARA implementation efforts. This bipartisan scorecard has been issued every six months, beginning two years ago, on November 4, 2015.

The scorecard has evolved each iteration in response to GAO recommendations and stakeholder feedback. Scorecard 5.0 adds a fifth graded category to assess agencies' management of software licenses. We previewed this category as part of Scorecard 4.0. For Scorecard 6.0, a measure of whether agencies have established working capital funds as authorized by the MGT Act, which I was pleased to see included in the final NDAA, will be made a part of the scorecard.

Ultimately, I'd like to see the scorecard evolve beyond FITARA implementation, to more of a digital hygiene score for agencies. Adding MEGABYTE implementation to the scorecard is a step in that direction. The inclusion of software licensing had a negative overall impact on the grades. Since the last scorecard, 3 agencies' grades increased, 15 agencies' grades stayed the same, and 6 decreased. If software licensing were not included, 8 agencies grades would have increased, 14 would have stayed the same, and 2 would have decreased.

So, progress is being made - just not as quick as it should be and needs to be - legacy IT is a continuing fiscal and cybersecurity risk to our nation. Though 17 agencies received an F on this new metric for the FITARA Scorecard 5.0, it is worth noting that each of these agencies has efforts underway to create and use an inventory of software licenses.

I hope to hear from each agency today how they plan to improve their score in this area. I also hope to hear from Mr. Powner his thoughts on where we will be government wide on this metric in six months for Scorecard 6.0.

Today's hearing features three panels, with officials from the Department of Energy, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Small Business Administration. Their grades are D+, A-, and C-.

As always, I'm honored to be exploring these issues, in a bipartisan fashion, with my friend and Ranking Member, The Honorable Robin Kelly from Illinois. I'm also pleased to be joined by Chairman Meadows and Ranking Member Connolly from the Government Operations Subcommittee. I could not have asked for better partners in the effort to modernize technology in the federal government. I thank my colleagues, the witnesses, and all who have joined us in person or for those folks who are watching online, for participating today.