

Chairman Will Hurd
Opening Statement

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittees on Information Technology and
Government Operations
Joint Hearing
“State of Play: Federal IT in 2018”

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

We've had momentum over the last couple of years. I think this year, or this Congress with federal IT modernization effort through the passage of the MGT Act, the Modernizing Government Technology Act, we've gained strength and force. This now law is bipartisan legislation that will for the first time reward and incentivize federal agencies and CIOs to cut costs and invest in cutting edge technology.

The effort also of modernization has gained momentum from Trump Administration initiatives like establishing the Office of American Innovation, releasing an IT modernization report, and retaining good ideas from the previous Administration, including the U.S. Digital Service. I am concerned however that in some areas we have lost momentum.

We went too long without a federal CIO. I'm glad Ms. Kent is now in position, and look forward to having her up here before the Committee within the next few months. I am also pleased that Ms. Weichert is in place as the Deputy Director for Management at OMB. I've spoken to my former colleague Director Mulvaney about our efforts here in the Subcommittee and how we can work together to modernize government. He's an enthusiastic supporter of using emerging technologies to make government more efficient and accountable.

We need to rethink how we structure the federal workforce to ensure the federal government has access to smart, well-trained IT and cybersecurity professionals. I will be working in a bipartisan fashion as always in introducing a bill in the coming months to establish a U.S. Cyber-Reserves public-private sector rotational workforce. I look forward to the witness' thoughts on how best to organize and structure this kind of workforce.

I also continue to have concerns about longstanding GAO recommendations that remain unaddressed, often times year, after year, after year. These open, lingering vulnerabilities put us at incredible risk, as we saw with the devastating data breaches at OPM, which is crazy to think that was almost three years ago. I want to hear from GAO the most critical open recommendations, and from the rest of the witnesses' concrete plans to close them.

Let's use this hearing to ensure IT modernization across the federal government continues even with more force and strength in 2018. Let's not lose the momentum. And as always, it's an honor

to be exploring these very important issues, in a bipartisan fashion, with my friend, the Ranking Member, the one and only, The Honorable Robin Kelly from Illinois.