

AGENDA
NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
Nebraska Public Media - Board Room
1800 N 33rd St
Lincoln, Nebraska
Friday, November 8, 2024
10:00 a.m. CT

- I. ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION
INTRODUCTION: STACEY DECKER, GENERAL MANAGER/CEO, NEBRASKA PUBLIC MEDIA
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT
- III. APPROVAL OF JULY 12, 2024, MEETING MINUTES *** (*Attachment III*)
- IV. REPORTS
 - A. EDUCATION COUNCIL (*Attachment IV-A*)
 - 1. Digital Education and Network Nebraska updates.
 - B. GIS COUNCIL (*Attachment IV-B*)
 - 1. Approval of membership nomination. ***
 - 2. GIS update.
 - C. COMMUNITY COUNCIL (*Attachment IV-C*)
 - D. TECHNICAL PANEL
 - 1. Technical standards and guidelines.
 - a. Proposal 32. Amend the application code standard. *** (*Attachment IV-D-1-a*)
 - b. Proposal 35. Amend access control provisions of the Information Security Policy. *** (*Attachment IV-D-1-b*)
 - c. Proposal 36. Amend system security provisions of the Information Security Policy. *** (*Attachment IV-D-1-c*)
 - d. Proposal 37. Adopt a new section relating to artificial intelligence. *** (*Attachment IV-D-1-d*)
 - 2. Enterprise projects.
 - a. Enterprise project status dashboard report. (*Attachment IV-D-2-a*)
 - b. Close the following enterprise projects: (1) SONAR - State of Nebraska Appropriation Request and (2) OPS Retirement Plan Management Transfer. *** (*Attachment IV-D-2-b*)
 - E. CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

- V. INITIAL DRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO CYBERSECURITY RECORDS (*Attachment V*)
- VI. APPROVAL OF THE REVISED STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN *** (*Attachment VI*)
- VII. APPROVAL OF THE PROGRESS REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE *** (*Attachment VII*)
- VIII. OTHER BUSINESS
- IX. ADJOURN
[2:00 p.m.]

Future meetings: March 14, 2025; July 11, 2025; November 14, 2025

*** Action item.

The Commission will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda but reserves the right to adjust the order and timing of items and may elect to take action on any of the items listed. If you need interpreter services or other reasonable accommodations, please contact the Commission at 402-471-3560 at least five days prior to the meeting to coordinate arrangements.

Meeting notice was posted to the [NITC website](#) and the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on October 4, 2024. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on November 1, 2024.

[Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#) | [Commission Meeting Documents](#)

Attachment III

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Nebraska Public Media - Board Room
1800 N 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
Friday, July 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m. CT

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Matthew McCarville, Chief Information Officer, Chair
Senator Wendy DeBoer, Nebraska Legislature
Phillip Doerr, Doerr Farms
Zach Mellender, Omaha Zoological Society
Dr. Leah Barrett, Northeast Community College
Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska
Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools
Katie Niemoller, Children's Hospital and Medical Center

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Ediger, Hamilton Telecommunications*
Nate Watson, Contemporary Analysis*
* Appeared by virtual conferencing in a non-voting capacity.

STAFF PRESENT:

Rick Becker, NITC Executive Administrator and Legal Counsel
Vanessa Castro, Community IT Manager
Casey DunnGossin, GIS Coordinator
Becca Kingery, Education IT Manager
Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II
Patrick Wright, State Information Security Officer

ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on June 7, 2024. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on July 5, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Langer moved to approve the November 9, 2023, minutes as presented. Commissioner Barrett seconded. Roll call vote: McCarville-Yes, Doerr-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Langer-Yes, and Niemoller-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

REPORTS

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Ms. Kingery provided the report.

Approval of membership nominations. The Education Council has approved two new membership nominations. Ms. Kingery provided brief biographies on the following nominees: Brandon Eckman, Enterprise Architect, Northeast Community College, representing Community Colleges sector; and Elizabeth Kumra, Ralston Board of Education, representing the Board of Education sector.

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the Education Council's two new membership recommendations. Commissioner Mellender seconded. Roll call vote: Niemoller-Yes, McCarville-Yes, Doerr-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Barrett-Yes, and Langer-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Digital Education and Network Nebraska updates. Network Nebraska is in the process of completing the E-Rate application cycle, including the circuit buildout of the sites resulting from 2023 RFP for contracting beginning July 1, 2024. An OCIO Project Manager is working closely with Network Nebraska and the University to track over 100 new-builds and upgrades to the network. Participation Fee Memos reporting the 2024-25 rates are expected to go out in the coming weeks. There will be a rate increase for the Participation fee, as well as an increase in the Interregional Transport Fee. All Network Nebraska backbone segments are expected to upgrade to 10Gbps for increased speed for our members. The commodity Internet cost are expected to remain stable for the next two fiscal years and should see a reduction in cost beginning in 2026.

Senator DeBoer arrived at the meeting.

GIS COUNCIL

Ms. DunnGossin provided the report.

The Council has met twice since the last NITC meeting. The Council voted to retire two actions items—statewide imagery and elevation programs. The USDA has flown NAIP (National Agriculture Imagery Program) collections in Nebraska every other year, and the state is able to buy the imagery for the cost of the download resources (hard drives or nominal download fee). NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) and USGS (US Geological Survey) have collected Lidar covering areas of Nebraska at QL2 (1 meter) and now QL1 (.5 meter) resolutions. These collections are then shared with Nebraska at no cost.

The Council did identify four action items it would like to continue to focus on for the 2024-2026 Statewide Technology Plan, these will be modified and updated for the plan in November. The remaining action items are: Formalize the definition of the Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) and Data Stewardship, Geodetic and Survey Control Inventory and Assessment, State Land Record Information System, NebraskaMAP: A Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services Network.

There were quite a few GIS related bills in the last legislative session. GIS Council members had reached out to their representatives related to the bills and discussed options for feedback on the bills for the legislature. According to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-569 and 86-572, the GIS Council should make recommendations to the Legislature related to GIS program initiatives and funding. LB102 granted authority to the Nebraska GIS Council to define the Nebraska State Plane Coordinate System, instead of requiring it to be in statute.

TECHNICAL PANEL

Commissioner Langer provided the report.

Technical standards and guidelines.

Proposal 33. Amend the waiver policy.

Commissioner Langer introduced the proposal. The Technical Panel recommends approval.

Discussion followed regarding the types of waivers an agency may want to request.

Commissioner Mellender moved to approve Proposal 33. Commissioner Niemoller seconded. Roll call vote: Blackman-Yes, Doerr-Yes, Barrett-Yes, McCarville-Yes, Niemoller-Yes, Mellender-Yes, and Langer-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Proposal 34. Adopt a new section relating to international travel.

Commissioner Langer introduced the proposal. The Technical Panel recommends approval.

Commissioners discussed the proposal, including the requirements of subsection (10) and the need to reset or wipe devices.

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve Proposal 34 with the following change: move subsection (10) to subsection (2) and renumber accordingly. Commissioner Mellender seconded. Roll call vote: McCarville-Yes, Doerr-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Langer-Yes, and Niemoller-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Enterprise project status dashboard report.

Commissioner Langer reviewed the status report and entertained questions.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Commissioner McCarville provided the report.

Revised strategic initiatives for the Statewide Technology Plan.

A revised list of strategic initiatives was included in the meeting documents. Once approved, staff will work with the councils to develop action items supporting each of the initiatives and revise the Statewide Technology Plan for approval by the commission.

Commissioner Mellender moved to approve the strategic initiatives as present. Commissioner Niemoller seconded. Roll call vote: McCarville-Yes, Doerr-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Langer-Yes, and Niemoller-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

BRIEFING ON SECURITY AND PROTECTION MEASURES UTILIZED BY THE NEBRASKA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Commissioner Langer move that the commission go into a closed session for the purpose of receiving a briefing on the security and protection measures utilized by the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer. The briefing—if conducted in an open public session—could threaten the security of the systems discussed. Commissioner Mellender seconded. Roll call vote: McCarville-Yes, Doerr-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Langer-Yes, and Niemoller-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

The Chair restated that the commission is going into closed session for the purpose of receiving a briefing on the security and protection measures utilized by the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer.

The commission went into closed session at 11:37 a.m.

Commissioner Blackman left the meeting.

The closed session ended at 12:32 p.m.

The Chair stated that the only matters discussed in the closed session were those set forth in the motion to go into closed session. No decisions were made, nor any formal actions taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Mellender moved that staff review the commission's meeting schedule to consider

an increase in meeting duration or frequency. Commissioner Niemoller seconded. Roll call vote: McCarville-Yes, Doerr-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Langer-Yes, and Niemoller-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Barrett moved to adjourn. Commissioner Mellender seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Ms. Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by staff.

Attachment IV-A



NITC Education Council Report

November 2024

TO: NITC Commissioners
FROM: Becca Kingery, Education I.T. Manager
DATE: 11/4/2024

Education Council update:

The Education Council has met once since the November NITC meeting and will be meeting virtually on December 18, 2024. Meeting focus has remained on providing Task Groups opportunity to create action plans to address action items and continue to identify education IT needs across the state.

Network Nebraska Update:

Network Nebraska has closed the door on the 2023-2024 E-Rate application cycle, including the completion of 100 new-builds and upgrades to our network as sites transitioned from one service provider to another. Included in this are upgrades and new providers for commodity Internet at our Omaha and Lincoln aggregation sites.

We are now looking forward to the 2024-2025 E-Rate application cycle with a new RFP to be released. While this RFP will be substantially smaller, it will include a new Master Service Agreement that will have minor adjustments to terms, including definitions, and clarifying statements. As of today, we expect approximately twenty sites to be up for bid, almost exclusively for sites that did not receive feasible bid responses on the most recent RFP.

Network Nebraska continues to work with the GIS team to update our existing GIS map. Our hope is to better track trends in pricing and availability in real time for our members for future planning. We expect the new map to be released in the coming months.

Digital Education Update:

Digital Education is an area of growth and opportunity, and we expect to see adjustments to action items for the upcoming NITC Technology Plan. Some aspects of Digital Education continue to thrive with growth, including products such as eduroam and Canvas. It has been noted by the NITC Education Council that other products or tools need an assessment of use and/or availability to develop a future action plan.

Attachment IV-B

November 4, 2024

To: NITC Commissioners
From: Casey DunnGossin, State GIS Coordinator
Jeff McReynolds, Vice-Chair, GIS Council
Subject: GIS Council Report

GIS Council Update

The GIS Council met in September (in-person, 12 present) and October (virtual, 19 present) with quorums at both meetings.

At the September meeting the GIS Council voted to approve establish the Nebraska State Plane description as standard [NITC 3-301](#) in accordance with LB102 and now Neb. Rev. Stat. § 76-2502.

The October GIS Council meeting focused on voting in a new Vice Chair. Jennifer Parmeley the NE GIS Council designee for the Department of Health and Human Services was the nominee to the council, and was voted in by consent. She will start her term January 1st as Vice Chair, with Jeff McReynolds as Chair. The GIS Council also voted to approve the updated language for the Statewide Technology Plan (2024).

Normalize the definition of the Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) and Data Stewardship

The Subcommittee has met monthly since July and has reviewed ~35% of the identified statutes (255 of 693). The group has identified 112 boundary/layers of interest.

Geodetic and Survey Control Inventory and Assessment

No updates.

Nebraska Statewide Elevation Program

Council voted to retire this action item/not include in Statewide technology Plan 2024 – March 2024.

Nebraska Statewide Imagery Program

Council voted to retire this action item/not include in Statewide technology Plan 2024 – March 2024.

Statewide Land Record Information System

No updates.

NebraskaMAP – A Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services Network

No updates.

State of Nebraska GIS Update

The State of Nebraska GIS Enterprise is working to amend its Enterprise License Agreement with Esri. The agreement will be for 3 years, and realigns licenses with anticipated use for state agencies. It also will reduce the cost over that time to agencies over the next biennium.

GIS Enterprise continues to work towards migrating GIS resources to the AWS Cloud environment.

Attachment IV-C

To: NITC Commissioners
From: Vanessa Castro
Date: November 4, 2024
Subject: Community Council Report

The Community Council will be paused for the foreseeable future as I focus on securing funding and partnerships for initiatives that promote community skill-building and tech awareness in rural areas, particularly in agriculture. Although I am still compiling a list of potential council members, meetings will not begin until stable funding and a few active initiatives are in place, ensuring that members have relevant topics to advise on. At our next commission meeting in the spring, I anticipate needing your approval on an updated charter and member list.

To support the aforementioned efforts, I have applied to three fellowships and submitted an application for the Digital Equity Competitive Grant, a \$12 million federal grant. For this project, titled **Digital Futures: Empowering Immigrants Through Technology**, I partnered with seven literacy-focused associations and community nonprofits, including Lincoln Literacy, El Centro de las Americas, HOPE Esperanza, and Grand Island Literacy, among others. This project would provide opportunities for advancement and contribute to the state's economic growth through digital skill courses. Below, I've included the Executive Summary from the application for your reference. Should the grant not be awarded, I plan to personally offer digital skills classes at two of our partner locations in spring 2025.

Additionally, I am preparing to apply for the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant in partnership with the Nebraska Library Association. This project will create a free digital skills portal for nonprofits and agencies across the state, enabling them to deliver digital training to the community members they serve. We expect to submit this application by early winter.

Regards,
Vanessa Castro
Community IT Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With 92% of U.S. jobs requiring digital skills, more than 140,000 immigrants and refugees in Nebraska need opportunities to learn these skills to improve their lives and their families'. Immigrants make up nearly 10% of Nebraska's workforce, which addresses Nebraska's labor shortage, but many are undercounted due to fear of census officials. Undocumented immigrants contribute an estimated \$43 million annually in state and local taxes, showing their significant economic role.

Beyond the benefits the state will gain from immigrants learning digital skills, the immigrant and refugee communities will obtain life-changing results. The National Skills Coalition found that workers with just one digital skill learned earn 23% more than those without, and those with three digital skills see a 45% increase in pay. A report from the National Institute of Health found that internet access has increased, yet the socioeconomic statuses of racial and ethnic disparities remained the same.

Immigrants in Nebraska are concentrated in key industries for Nebraska's economic output like manufacturing, meatpacking, and construction, with nearly half working in low-wage jobs, according to the Immigration Research Initiative (IRI). Nebraska ranks among the top 10 states for foreign-born workers earning less than two-thirds of the state's median wage. Research from the University of Nebraska shows immigrant labor participation is higher (73%) than that of U.S.-born workers (69%). We have failed a group when they have an overrepresentation in poverty, and at the same time, an overrepresentation in producing for our economy, making them a crucial population to Nebraska's economy.

The same IRI report found that Nebraska ranks number one in the nation for resettling the highest proportion of refugees relative to its overall population over the past decade. A 2017 study by the University of Nebraska Medical Center found that 47% of Omaha's refugees were unemployed, and more than 50% were living on an annual income of \$10,000 or less. Similarly, in Lincoln, 57% of refugees were employed, yet a large portion remained in low-paying jobs with little opportunity for advancement.

We are proposing Digital Futures: Empowering Immigrants Through Technology, a project that would offer free digital skills and workforce courses to help participants apply for higher-paying jobs.

Classes would run twice a week for eight weeks, focusing on themes like employment, health, finances, and civic engagement. The goal is to boost digital skills, confidence, and economic mobility, leading to greater self-sufficiency in online tasks.

Digital Futures promotes the priorities of the Digital Equity Competitive Grant program, including economic stability, healthcare access, and community access to benefits, through technology. The impact of these digital skills classes will extend beyond the participants, as their newfound knowledge and abilities will benefit their families and ripple through their communities. For instance, digitally literate parents can engage more in their children's education, improving their long-term academic outcomes and opportunities for higher education. By equipping individuals with digital competencies, the project helps close digital equity gaps and create pathways for economic growth.

This project will address barriers to broadband access by increasing awareness and demand. As participants learn the value of broadband, they will drive demand in underserved areas, such as rural areas where 55% of our potential students live, encouraging providers to expand coverage. Additionally, participants will become more aware of affordable broadband options through initiatives like those from the FCC.

Digital Futures will also enhance online access to public services by teaching participants how to use online portals for government benefits, DMV services, and more. Without this training, many would not engage with these resources, limiting their access to essential services. Additionally, we recognize the importance of addressing barriers related to transportation, accessibility, language, and childcare. Our classes and budget will be strategically designed to tackle each of these barriers to promote digital equity in our community.

Digital Futures is particularly impactful because it targets the population most in need in Nebraska—foreign-born individuals. By partnering with community-based organizations that already serve immigrants, we ensure our training meets participants where they are.

We estimate that over four years, the project will directly serve more than 30,000 individuals, 90% of whom live in covered households. Of those 30,000, 45% are aging individuals, 100% have language barriers, 25% have disabilities, 100% are from racial or ethnic minority groups, and 55% reside in rural areas. The total funding of nearly \$12 million will be allocated proportionally to meet the needs of these groups.

Digital Futures aligns with Nebraska's State Digital Equity Plan, which emphasizes improving technology skills in underserved communities. The project will expand digital skills training statewide, targeting at least four of the eight covered populations, including low-income individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, rural residents, and those with limited English proficiency. Collaboration is a key component of the state's plan, and Digital Futures partners with trusted community-based organizations to reach covered populations effectively.

This project addresses a critical gap in Nebraska's plan, which lacks coordinated efforts for digital skills training. Many existing programs are outdated or lack community engagement. By focusing on accessibility and leveraging the trust of our partners, we can meet the real needs of these populations.

The project's timeline spans four years, divided into planning, implementation, and evaluation phases. The planning phase will focus on staffing, equipment, and materials. Implementation will involve running the courses, while the final phase will include evaluation and reporting. Quarterly check-ins with each partner organization will ensure the project stays on track.

The project will encompass the entire state of Nebraska, including its two largest cities, Omaha and Lincoln, as well as nine underserved or unserved rural towns. Many may not realize that immigrants and refugees constitute a significant portion of the population in various towns across the state. For example, in Schuyler, Nebraska, immigrants and their children account for 70% of the population, as highlighted in a report from Dissent Volume 64. Our partners, as shown on the map, are strategically concentrated in the southeastern part of the state, where most meatpacking plants are located. This intentional selection of partners ensures that we are operating in high-volume immigrant and refugee areas, facilitating the effective execution of the digital literacy project for those who need it most.

This project will enhance internet access and broadband adoption by addressing key barriers such as transportation, language, and childcare. By removing these obstacles, we create an inclusive environment that fosters participation in digital skills programs. Additionally, participants will learn the benefits of broadband for daily tasks and higher education, increasing demand for internet access and driving broadband subscription rates across Nebraska.

Attachment IV-D-1-a

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposal 32. Amend the application code standard.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Proposal 32.

BACKGROUND: This proposal adds two new subsections to the application code standard requiring application code and certain related components be on a vendor-supported version.

RECOMMENDED BY: State Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer
Security Architecture Workgroup
Technical Panel

State of Nebraska
Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Technical Standards and Guidelines

Proposal 32
Final

A PROPOSAL relating to the application code standards; to amend section 8-602; and to repeal the original section.

1 Section 1. Section 8-602 is amended to read:

2 **8-602. Application code.**

3 (1) Access to source code libraries for both agency business applications and operating
4 systems must be tightly controlled to ensure that only authorized individuals have access to
5 these libraries and that access is logged to ensure all activity can be monitored.

6 (2) All application code must be on a vendor-supported version.

7 (3) All associated libraries, code, and software must be on a vendor-supported version.

8 (4) All application source code must be backed up and access restricted to authorized
9 personnel only.

10 (5) Application changes are required to go through a software development life cycle
11 process that ensures the confidentiality of information, and integrity and availability of source
12 and executable code. Application changes must follow the change management process as
13 defined in section 8-202.

14 Sec. 2. Original section 8-602 is repealed.

15 Sec. 3. This proposal takes effect when approved by the commission.

Attachment IV-D-1-b

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposal 35. Amend access control provisions of the Information Security Policy.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Proposal 35.

BACKGROUND: The proposal includes the following provisions:

Section 1 is a complete rewrite of the password standard. Subsection (1) provides the minimum password requirements for state government passwords. Subsection (2) provides the password requirements for restricted accounts and service accounts. Subsection (3) provides for system equipment/device passwords.

Section 2 amends the identification and authorization section to add a subsection providing that state credentials and email addresses may only be used for the conduct of state business, state government sponsored activities, and such other uses allowed by law.

RECOMMENDED BY: State Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer
Security Architecture Workgroup
Technical Panel

State of Nebraska
Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Technical Standards and Guidelines

Proposal 35
Final

A PROPOSAL to amend access control provisions of the Information Security Policy; to amend sections 8-302 and 8-303; and to repeal the original sections.

1 Section 1. Section 8-302 is amended to read:

2 **8-302. Passwords.**

3 (1) Minimum Password Requirements. The following are the minimum password
4 requirements for state government passwords:

5 (a) Must contain a minimum of 12 characters;

6 (b) Must contain at least three of the following: (i) at least one uppercase character; (ii) at
7 least one lowercase character; (iii) at least one numeric character; or (iv) at least one symbol
8 (!@#\$\$%^&);

9 (c) Must expire after 90 days;

10 (d) Must have a minimum password age of at least 15 days prior to changing;

11 (e) Must use multi-factor authentication;

12 (f) Must not repeat any of the passwords used during the previous 366 days;

13 (g) Accounts must automatically lock after three consecutive unsuccessful password
14 attempts;

15 (h) Authentication and credentials must be transmitted over secure protocols; and

16 (i) Default passwords must be changed before a system is put into production.

17 (2) Restricted Account and Service Account Passwords. Non-expiring passwords may be
18 used for restricted accounts ("RA") where the end user is not given the password and service

1 accounts (“SA”) that are used only for machine-to-machine communications. These accounts
2 are used for programmatic purposes only. For these use cases the following criteria apply:

- 3 (a) Must contain a minimum of 20 characters;
- 4 (b) Must only be used for a single purpose; and
- 5 (c) Must be approved by the state information security officer.

6 (3) System Equipment/Device Passwords. Agencies may use non-expiring passwords for
7 system equipment/devices. It is common for many devices (e.g., IP cameras, HVAC controls) in
8 today's IT environment to utilize login capabilities to protect the device from unauthorized
9 access. While many of these devices make use of a user ID and password in a manner like
10 those found while authenticating a user, the distinction to be made is that the user ID is used to
11 authenticate the device itself to the system and not a person in which case the following
12 requirements apply:

- 13 (a) Must contain a minimum of 20 characters; and
- 14 (b) Remote access and administration must use multi-factor authentication.

15 ~~(1) Minimum Password Requirements. The following are the minimum password~~
16 ~~requirements for state government passwords:~~

- 17 ~~(a) Must contain a minimum of eight characters;~~
- 18 ~~(b) Must contain at least three of the following four: at least one uppercase character; at~~
19 ~~least one lowercase character; at least one numeric character; or, at least one symbol~~
20 ~~(!@#\$\$%^&); and~~

21 ~~(c) Cannot repeat any of the passwords used during the previous 365 days.~~

22 ~~—In addition to the minimum password complexity outlined above, additional password~~
23 ~~requirements are necessary for differing levels of data classification when authenticating users~~
24 ~~to networks or applications. The highest data classification level that a user has access to~~
25 ~~during an authenticated session will determine the additional password requirements. All~~

1 employees and contractors of the state shall use a password that follows at least a confidential
2 level of authentication when logging into a state network or application.

3 ~~(2) Additional Access Requirements for HIGH IMPACT Information. Information that is~~
4 ~~classified as HIGH IMPACT requires the highest level of security. This includes root/admin-level~~
5 ~~system information accessed by privileged accounts. A password used to access HIGH~~
6 ~~IMPACT information must follow the password complexity rules outlined in subsection (1), and~~
7 ~~must contain the following additional requirements:~~

8 ~~(a) Multi-factor authentication;~~

9 ~~(b) Expire after 60 days;~~

10 ~~(c) Minimum password age set to 15 days; and~~

11 ~~(d) Accounts will automatically be disabled after three unsuccessful password attempts.~~

12 ~~(3) Additional Access Requirements for MODERATE IMPACT Information. Information that~~
13 ~~is classified as MODERATE IMPACT requires a high level of security. A password used to~~
14 ~~access MODERATE IMPACT information must follow the password complexity rules outlined in~~
15 ~~subsection (1), and must contain the following additional requirements:~~

16 ~~(a) Expire after 90 days; and~~

17 ~~(b) Accounts will automatically lock after three consecutive unsuccessful password~~
18 ~~attempts.~~

19 ~~(4) Password Requirements for LOW IMPACT Information. Information that is classified as~~
20 ~~LOW IMPACT requires minimal level of security and need not comply with subsection (1).~~

21 ~~Typically, this data would not include personal information but may carry special regulations~~
22 ~~related to its use or dissemination. LOW IMPACT data may also be data that is sold as a~~
23 ~~product or service to users that have subscribed to a service.~~

24 ~~(5) Password Requirements for Accessing NO IMPACT Information. Information that is~~
25 ~~classified as NO IMPACT requires no additional password security and need not comply with~~
26 ~~subsection (1).~~

1 ~~(6) Non-Expiring Passwords. Non-expiring passwords require a unique high level of~~
2 ~~security. Typically this information is confidential in nature and must follow the requirements in~~
3 ~~subsection (1). The additional requirements for access to HIGH IMPACT or MODERATE~~
4 ~~IMPACT data with a non-expiring password are:~~

5 ~~(a) Extended password length to 10 characters;~~

6 ~~(b) Independent remote identity proofing may be required;~~

7 ~~(c) Personal security question may be asked;~~

8 ~~(d) Multi-factor authentication; and~~

9 ~~(e) Any feature not included on this list may also be utilized upon approval of the state~~
10 ~~information security officer.~~

11 ~~(7) Automated System Accounts. Examples of automated system accounts include those~~
12 ~~that act as an intermediary between the public user and state systems, internal system to~~
13 ~~system interfaces, perform backups or run batch jobs. System account passwords shall expire~~
14 ~~after 365 days, unless mechanisms to restrict the use of those credentials to just the authorized~~
15 ~~service can be implemented and approval is granted by the state information security officer.~~

16 ~~(8) Multi-User Computers. Multi-user computers include those computers in kiosks or~~
17 ~~training labs, where users have limited or restricted access to state resources. Agencies may~~
18 ~~use non-expiring passwords on multi-user computers. In these cases, mechanisms to ensure~~
19 ~~the user account with non-expiring passwords is unable to access HIGH IMPACT or~~
20 ~~MODERATE IMPACT information.~~

21 ~~System Equipment/Devices. Agencies may use non-expiring passwords for system~~
22 ~~equipment/devices. It is common for many devices (e.g., IP cameras, HVAC controls) in today's~~
23 ~~IT environment to utilize login capabilities to protect the device from unauthorized access. While~~
24 ~~many of these devices make use of a user ID and password in a manner like those found while~~
25 ~~authenticating a user, the distinction to be made is that the user ID is used to authenticate the~~
26 ~~device itself to the system and not a person.~~

1 Sec. 2. Section 8-303 is amended to read:

2 **8-303. Identification and authorization.**

3 (1) All employees and other persons performing work on behalf of the state, authorized to
4 access any state information or IT resources, that have the potential to process, store, or
5 access non-public information, must be assigned a unique identifier which resides in a State of
6 Nebraska identity management system with the minimum necessary access required to perform
7 their duties to align with the least privilege methodology.

8 (2) Staff are required to secure their user IDs from unauthorized use.

9 (3) Sharing user IDs is prohibited.

10 (4) To reduce the risk of accidental or deliberate system misuse, separation of duties must
11 be implemented where practical. Whenever separation of duties is impractical, other
12 compensatory controls such as monitoring of activities, increased auditing and management
13 supervision must be implemented. At a minimum, the audit of security must remain independent
14 and segregated from the security function.

15 (5) State credentials and email addresses may only be used for the conduct of state
16 business, state government sponsored activities, and such other uses allowed by law.

17 Sec. 3. Original sections 8-302 and 8-303 are repealed.

18 Sec. 4. This proposal takes effect when approved by the commission.

Attachment IV-D-1-c

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposal 36. Amend system security provisions of the Information Security Policy.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Proposal 36.

BACKGROUND: The proposal includes the following provisions:

Section 1 amends the minimum workstation configuration standard.

Section 2 adopts a new section relating to kiosks and public access workstations.

RECOMMENDED BY: State Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer
Security Architecture Workgroup
Technical Panel

State of Nebraska
Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Technical Standards and Guidelines

Proposal 36
Final

A PROPOSAL to amend system security provisions of the Information Security Policy; to amend sections 8-504; to adopt a new section relating to kiosks and public access workstations; and to repeal the original section.

1 Section 1. Section 8-504 is amended to read:

2 **8-504. Minimum workstation configuration.**

3 Improperly configured workstations are at risk to be compromised. Without proper
4 adherence to these workstation security standards, the state is at increased risk to have data
5 lost, stolen, or destroyed. This standard is necessary to protect the state from unauthorized data
6 ~~or activity residing~~, or activity occurring, on state equipment. It is also necessary to reduce the
7 likelihood of malicious activity propagating throughout the state networks or launching other
8 attacks. All managed workstations that connect to the state's network are required to meet
9 these standards. The Office of the CIO is responsible for maintaining these standards and for
10 configuring and managing the hardware, software, and imaging processes for all managed
11 workstations. Workstation standards should be securely maintained and stored in a centralized
12 documentation library. The degree of protection of the workstation should be commensurate
13 with the data classification of the resources stored, accessed, or processed from this computer.
14 The following are minimum workstation configuration standards:

- 15 (1) OCIO-approved endpoint security (anti-virus) software, must be installed and enabled;
16 (2) The host-based firewall must be enabled;
17 (3) The operating system must be configured to receive automated updates;

1 (4) The system must be configured to enforce password complexity standards on accounts;

2 (5) Application software should only be installed if there is an expectation that it will be used
3 for state business purposes. Application software not in use should be uninstalled;

4 (6) All application software must have security updates applied as defined by patch
5 management standards and be of a vendor supported version;

6 (7) Web browsers settings should be selected or disabled as appropriate to increase
7 security and limit vulnerability to intrusion;

8 (8) CIS Level 1 Controls should be maintained on all state managed workstations, where
9 technically feasible;

10 (9) Shared login accounts are prohibited unless approved by the state information security
11 officer in advance and configured by IT. ~~Shared login accounts are only acceptable if approved~~
12 ~~through the policy exception process and alternate mechanisms or access layers exist to ensure~~
13 ~~the ability to individually identify personnel accessing non-public information;~~

14 ~~(10) Shared login accounts are forbidden on multi-user systems where the manipulation~~
15 ~~and storage of HIGH IMPACT or MODERATE IMPACT information takes place;~~

16 ~~(11)~~(10) Users need to lock their desktops when not in use. The system must
17 automatically lock a workstation after 5-10 minutes of inactivity;

18 ~~(12)~~(11) Users are required to store all HIGH IMPACT or MODERATE IMPACT
19 information on IT managed servers, and not the local hard drive of the computer. Local storage
20 may only be used for temporary purposes when the data stored is not sensitive, and where loss
21 of the information will not have any detrimental impact on the state;

22 ~~(13)~~(12) All workstations must be re-imaged with standard load images prior to
23 reassignment; and

24 ~~(14)~~(13) Equipment scheduled for disposal or recycling must be cleansed following
25 agency media disposal guidelines.

26 Sec. 2. The following new section is adopted:

1 **8-508. Kiosks and public access workstations.**

2 The purpose of this section is to provide standards and guidelines for kiosks and public
3 access workstations ("kiosks").

4 (1) Physical Security. (a) All publicly accessible kiosks must be physically secured to
5 prevent theft, tampering, or unauthorized access; (b) kiosks must be installed in well-lit, high-
6 traffic areas to minimize the risk of vandalism, unauthorized access, or tampering; and (c) where
7 feasible, kiosks should be monitored with security cameras.

8 (2) Access Control. (a) Access to the kiosks' administrative functions and settings must be
9 restricted to authorized personnel only and never granted to the public user; (b) all
10 administrative passwords and access credentials must be securely stored and regularly
11 updated; (c) users should only be granted access to features and functions necessary for their
12 intended use of the kiosk; (d) the kiosks must not be able to access HIGH IMPACT data; and (e)
13 kiosks must be segregated from other state resources by network segmentation or other means.

14 (3) Software Security. (a) Kiosks must meet the requirements of section 8-504; and (b)
15 access to external devices such as USB and other mass storage devices must be disabled to
16 prevent the introduction of malware or unauthorized software.

17 (4) Data Protection. (a) Any personally identifiable information ("PII") collected by kiosks
18 must be stored and transmitted using secure protocols; (b) encryption must be used to protect
19 sensitive data both in transit and at rest; and (c) data collected by kiosks must be limited to what
20 is necessary for the intended purpose and must not be retained longer than necessary.

21 (5) Monitoring and Compliance. (a) Regular audits and monitoring should be conducted to
22 ensure compliance with this policy; and (b) any security incidents or breaches involving kiosks
23 must be promptly reported to the Office of the CIO and investigated.

24 Sec. 3. Original section 8-504 is repealed.

25 Sec. 4. This proposal takes effect when approved by the commission.

Attachment IV-D-1-d

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposal 37. Adopt a new section relating to artificial intelligence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Proposal 37.

BACKGROUND: This proposal adds a new section to the Information Security Policy relating to the use of artificial intelligence. The policy contains the following subsections: (1) Security and Risk Management; (2) Ethics, Fairness, and Bias; (3) Privacy; (4) Validity and Reliability; (5) Transparency; and (6) Accountability.

RECOMMENDED BY: State Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer
Security Architecture Workgroup
Technical Panel

State of Nebraska
Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Technical Standards and Guidelines

Proposal 37
Final

A PROPOSAL to adopt a new section relating to artificial intelligence.

1 Section 1. The following new section is adopted:

2 **8-609. Artificial intelligence policy.**

3 Artificial intelligence (“AI”) is the development of information processing systems capable of
4 generating output that simulates functions commonly associated with human intelligence. AI is
5 available in a variety of types and categories, including standalone systems (e.g., OpenAI –
6 ChatGPT, and DALL-E), integrated as features within search engines (e.g., Microsoft Bing and
7 Google Gemini), and embedded in other software tools (e.g., Adobe AI Assistant and Microsoft
8 Copilot).

9 For AI systems owned, used, or managed by the State of Nebraska the following standards
10 and guidelines apply:

11 (1) Security and Risk Management. (a) Agencies utilizing AI shall consult with Office of the
12 CIO’s Security Risk Mitigation and Compliance team (“RMC”) regarding system development
13 and operations; (b) agencies must conduct privacy impact assessments, third-party and security
14 risk assessments regularly to ensure that security, safety, confidentiality, civil liberties, civil
15 rights, and privacy are protected while continuing to promote and empower the use of AI to
16 benefit the State of Nebraska and its residents; (c) agencies shall not utilize public AI with data
17 classified as HIGH IMPACT or MODERATE IMPACT, nor LOW IMPACT data that contains
18 personal data elements. LOW IMPACT or NO IMPACT data is permitted for use with public AI;
19 (d) the Office of the CIO shall establish appropriate controls and risk mitigations to identify and

1 mitigate risks and ensure the use of AI does not compromise the safety or integrity of agency
2 data and systems; (e) the Office of the CIO shall provide general AI training; (f) agencies shall
3 provide role-based training to team members for specific and unique AI used for their business
4 purposes in advance of production implementation; and (g) the following are approval
5 requirements for the use of AI: (i) the Office of the CIO must review and approve all AI for use
6 with HIGH IMPACT or MODERATE IMPACT data, or LOW IMPACT data that contains personal
7 data elements; (ii) agencies may request an evaluation of new AI by the Office of the CIO; and
8 (iii) AI used by agencies may only be trained or retrained on agency data in combination with
9 LOW IMPACT or NO IMPACT data;

10 (2) Ethics, Fairness, and Bias. (a) AI generated output must be ethical, fair, and unbiased to
11 support practices that neither discriminate nor negatively impact a specific group of people;

12 (3) Privacy. (a) Agencies use of AI must comply with applicable data protection and privacy
13 laws, regulations, and guidelines; (b) agency, constituent, and regulated data must be collected,
14 stored, used, and distributed securely and confidentially, with explicit consent obtained where
15 required; (c) in consultation with the Office of the CIO agencies shall design and implement data
16 privacy procedures for specific AI being used; and (d) agencies shall evaluate privacy
17 compliance of AI periodically where appropriate;

18 (4) Validity and Reliability. (a) AI must be verifiably reliable and valid; (b) predictive AI must
19 be identified as data supported projections; and (c) agencies shall verify the validity and
20 reliability of AI;

21 (5) Transparency. (a) Agencies shall be transparent about AI use and error rates, biases,
22 outputs, data set transformations and substitutions; (b) agencies shall disclose where
23 constituents are interacting with AI, the outcome and impact, if applicable, and the business
24 purposes where AI is used; and (c) agencies shall ensure all systems and processes employing
25 AI for decision-making or output generation are clearly marked to enhance transparency and
26 accountability; and

1 (6) Accountability. (a) Agencies must ensure AI used within systems is securely developed
2 in accordance with NITC standards and guidelines, assessed for risk and biases, as well as
3 reviewed periodically; (b) agencies must ensure AI is used responsibly, operating as intended,
4 and compliant with applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures, standards, guidelines, and
5 best practices.

6 Sec. 2. This proposal takes effect when approved by the commission.

Attachment IV-D-2-a

Projects Status Dashboard

October 2024

Enterprise Projects - Current

Project Name	Sponsoring Government Entity	Manager	NITC Designated	Total Estimated Costs	Actual Costs to Date	Estimate to Complete
Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN)	31 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)	Krogman, Sue	3/15/2010	\$ 12,500,000.00	\$ 10,405,204.00	\$ 2,094,796.00
iServe Nebraska	25 Department of Health and Human Services	Leonard, Anthony	11/12/2020	\$ 33,524,476.00	\$ 26,207,464.00	\$ 7,317,012.00
NDOT Financial System Modernization (WO 275056)	27 Department of Transportation	Lusero, Cody	7/8/2021	\$ 5,945,871.00	\$ 1,328,765.55	\$ 4,617,105.45
OPS Retirement Plan Management Transfer	85 Public Employees Retirement Systems	Deshpande, Jaydeep	11/4/2021	\$ 5,300,826.00	\$ 5,152,152.77	\$ 148,673.23
SONAR - State of Nebraska Appropriation Request	65 Department of Administrative Services	Bush, Gary	11/10/2022	\$ 1,209,574.00	\$ 546,228.04	\$ 663,345.96
Kronos Transition to UKG Dimensions	65 Office of the CIO	Beer, Joe	7/14/2023	\$ 1,340,000.00	\$ 1,054,129.25	\$ 285,870.75
Message Switching System (MSS) Modernization Project	64 State Patrol	Neukirch, Chris	7/14/2023	\$ 1,628,927.96	\$ 276,953.87	\$ 1,351,974.09
Computer Aided Dispatch Project	64 State Patrol	Neukirch, Chris	7/14/2023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Note: Status is self-reported by the agency

Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN)

Report Date
Oct 23, 2024

Project ID
PROJ-00011

Project Manager
Krogman, Sue

Milestone Timeline

Start Oct 1, 2010

Finish Aug 31, 2026

Overall Status

→ Needs Help

Schedule Status

→ Needs Help

Scope Status

→ On Track

Cost and Effort Status

→ On Track

Key Accomplishments

Finished the electricity in the southeast and south-central regions

Prepped the equipment for the Hubbard NPPD tower to the Thurston water tower

Status Report Update

UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 2024 - Work continues on the South Central area in and around Nuckolls County. The new tower for Nelson Dispatch has been ordered and should be delivered by the 1st of the year. Pre-work on the Dakota City to Tekamah path is complete and bids have gone out for tower crews. We are expecting as much of that build-out to be completed this year. The Governance Committee is considering hiring a second full-time person to work on all hardware equipment and be the POC for our vendors.

UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2024 - The southeast and south-central electricity has been installed. The tower crew has come back and did their path alignments. The south-central region is complete to the Superior NPPD site. - We will run off of the fiber that NPPD has installed there all the way to Pauline NPPD site. The northeast equipment is prepped and ready to go. The alternative path is from Hubbard NPPD to Thurston WT. We have made several trips and visited with everyone involved. Installation has not yet started, but equipment is ready to go.

Upcoming Activities

Once the installation crew is ready, will begin working on the installs for the Hubbard to Thurston path.

Milestone Timeline

Start **Apr 6, 2020**

Finish **Feb 28, 2027**

Overall Status

→ **On Track**

Schedule Status

→ **On Track**

Scope Status

→ **On Track**

Cost and Effort Status

→ **On Track**

Key Accomplishments

Program Increment 10 – Deployed October 10th, 2024.

- Client Preferences – Email validation function.
- Online Recovery of Account Activation PIN
- Application Data API – support future automated pend and tie feature for operations.
- Revised income levels for Explore Benefit feature to be inline with benefit program updated thresholds
- Revised OEA expedited SNAP application logic for integrated initial application and online EA recertifications

Production & Maintenance Support:

- Provided Ongoing Production Support (Explore Benefits, Integrated Initial application, Online EA Recertification, CBI Dashboard)
- Provided Ongoing Platform Maintenance and Support

Advanced Design Work Efforts:

- Multi-language for Login embedded Microsoft B2C function Design
- Change in Circumstance feature Designs
- Summer EBT issuance management system

Status Report Update

Overall Status: Green

Status Report Update:

Note -

1. Iterative development work continues for upcoming iServe Portal releases. Multiple releases have been incrementally deployed since Launch 1 (April 2022) delivered the foundation of the iServe Portal.

(Please Note The full history of the themes of "all the releases" has been emailed to Andy Weekly. Due to space limitations in this field I am only including historically the release themes from 2024 to current).

- a.) January 11, 2024, production deployment of the Benefits Applications to all Community Partners and Nebraskans, and the beginning of a standard cadence of releases for the delivery team.
- b.) April 29, 2024, production deployment – Secure Kisok Deployment; EA Re-certification; PIN Validation to support existing benefit recipient account access for new features; Text Vendor Updates to reference iServe URL; Social Media Links to reference iServe URL; PDF Updates from Operations; "Notification of Expiration" Correspondence to support online recertifications for EA.
- c.) July 11, 2024 production deployment of Client Benefit Inquiry Dashboard to support Medicaid, and EA program information for participants; Client Preferences updates to correspondence delivery preferences by participants; Economic Assistance Online EA Recertification application 'Save Draft' function; Recertification Support and Enhancements from prior feature rollout.
- d.) October 10th, 2024, production deployment Client Preferences email verification; Online Recovery of Account Activation PIN, Application Data API to facilitate automated Pend & Tie actions within Operations.

2.) Incremental delivery will continue with upcoming releases, approximately every 14 weeks, as teams continue to complete Program Increment (PI) planning of agency approved priorities, requirement refinement, development, and testing for the remainder of 2024 and into the first quarter of 2025.

Upcoming Activities

Actively Working Program Increment 11 – Target Jan 2025

- Planned Customer Features:
 - o HCBS Online Application
 - o Medicaid Online Renewals
 - o High Priority Enhancements
 - o Change in Circumstance (Note: This effort is proving to be complex. While development of this feature will advance during this PI, this feature has a potential to deploy later than PI 11)

NDOT Financial System Modernization (WO 275056)

Report Date
Aug 8, 2024

Project ID
PROJ-00826

Project Manager
Lusero, Cody

Milestone Timeline

Start **Mar 28, 2022**

Finish **Aug 1, 2026**

Overall Status

→ **On Track**

Schedule Status

Scope Status

Cost and Effort Status

Key Accomplishments

Status Report Update

NDOT has no updates. We are in a holding pattern waiting for meeting with Epiphany group.

Upcoming Activities

OPS Retirement Plan Management Transfer

Report Date
Oct 1, 2024

Project ID
PROJ-00912

Project Manager
Deshpande, Jaydeep

Milestone Timeline

Start Oct 1, 2021

Finish Sep 30, 2024

Overall Status

→ On Track

Schedule Status

→ On Track

Scope Status

→ On Track

Cost and Effort Status

→ On Track

Key Accomplishments

Key Accomplishments:-

1. Project Go live completed successfully.

Status Report Update

Accomplishments

1. Go live achieved successfully.
2. Started with Daily backup on 8/30 and once the backup finished around 8 we were able to get the Data conversion started.
3. With all tasks and deployment of code completed Sunday 9/1 Morning a little ahead of schedule.
4. UAT was conducted in the afternoon of Sunday 9/1 and the system was confirmed successfully deployed by the UAT team around 4 PM.

Sincere vote of thanks to the OCIO SQL team during this long weekend time to be available and helpful late night and throughout the entire weekend. their support was an immense help in bringing this project to conclusion.

Recommend closing for Enterprise Status Reporting

Upcoming Activities

Project Support

SONAR - State of Nebraska Appropriation Request

Report Date

Oct 22, 2024

Project ID

PROJ-01324

Project Manager

Bush, Gary

Milestone Timeline

Start **Feb 22, 2023**

Finish **Aug 31, 2024**

Overall Status

→ **Needs Help**

Schedule Status

↓ **At Risk**

Scope Status

→ **At Risk**

Cost and Effort Status

→ **On Track**

Key Accomplishments

None

Status Report Update

Final reports were provided by the deadline and were not acceptable. Decision has been made to terminate the project.

Upcoming Activities

Termination of the Project.

Kronos Transition to UKG Dimensions

Report Date
Oct 23, 2024

Project ID
PROJ-01242

Project Manager
Beer, Joe

Milestone Timeline

Start Aug 29, 2022

Finish May 30, 2025

Overall Status

→ Needs Help

Schedule Status

→ Needs Help

Scope Status

→ On Track

Cost and Effort Status

→ On Track

Key Accomplishments

Status Report Update

1. Updates:

Labor Distribution Kickoff Meeting held on 10/17.

2. Scheduling: We have encountered delays regarding the schedule and go-live dates over the past six months. One

item that has played a major factor in this delay is labor distribution calculations/reporting. This is a required and critical item for the Department of Agriculture, as well as the Department of Education, and thus is on the critical path. UKG was notified of this requirement on project inception, and again in late 2023, but is just now being addressed. Current estimation of 12 weeks by UKG for completion with a current planned date of completion on 2/7/25 (customer acceptance testing will follow).

3. Integration:

Continuing work on finalizing interface configurations as well as base testing. Payroll export will need to be revisited and tested once labor distribution solution is completed.

4. Telestaff:

Telestaff configuration for Non-production Environment for DCS/DHHS is nearly complete. Currently waiting for business structure and person imports from WFM to Telestaff from UKG solution consultant and telestaff consultants.

5. Testing:

Currently testing integration configurations and will move into payroll testing once Labor Distribution portion is complete.

Upcoming Activities

Labor Distribution Solution (10/17/25 to 2/7/25)

Message Switching System (MSS) Modernization Project

Report Date

Oct 31, 2024

Project ID

PROJ-01443

Project Manager

Neukirch, Chris

Milestone Timeline

Start **Jun 1, 2023**

Finish **Jul 31, 2025**

Overall Status

→ **On Track**

Schedule Status

→ **On Track**

Scope Status

→ **On Track**

Cost and Effort Status

→ **On Track**

Key Accomplishments

NSP has prepared their UAT testing procedures. Several agencies have agreed to assist with testing.

Status Report Update

System Testing

Datamaxx has completed FAT and NSP is reviewing the documentation.

Awaiting the final test plans for SAT and UAT.

UAT is scheduled to begin 10/28/2024. - This is a slight but acceptable delay.

Comcast Connection

Datamaxx is working with Comcast and OCIO on the line into the OCIO Data Center.

Install was worked on 9/27/2024.

Switch Connections

Test connections to external systems are in place for 1 of the 2 needed connections (NCIC - Yes, NLETS - No)

CLEIN Network

Reviewing standdown and equipment procedures.

Discussions continue on how AFIS will connect to the state network without the CLEIN Network available.

Upcoming Activities

Complete UAT test plan process.

UAT Testing of the three areas, user, admin and batch/interface processes.

Computer Aided Dispatch Project

Report Date
Oct 31, 2024

Project ID
PROJ-01444

Project Manager
Neukirch, Chris

Milestone Timeline

Start Jul 31, 2023

Finish Dec 20, 2026

Overall Status

→ On Track

Schedule Status

→ On Track

Scope Status

→ On Track

Cost and Effort Status

→ On Track

Key Accomplishments

Continued review of the proposals to select the best solution for NSP.

Status Report Update

The Evaluation Team is working through their final evaluations to determine the selection of the vendor.

Upcoming Activities

Reviewing scores and making a final decision on the selected vendor.

Attachment IV-D-2-b

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Enterprise projects.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Approval of a motion to close the following enterprise projects: (1) *SONAR - State of Nebraska Appropriation Request* and (2) *OPS Retirement Plan Management Transfer*.

BACKGROUND: The commission is responsible for designating certain information technology projects as “enterprise projects.” With that designation, the responsible agency is then required to coordinate with the Technical Panel to have periodic updates on the progress of the project. The commission has adopted a policy for the designation of enterprise projects (Section 1-206).

The Technical Panel makes recommendations to the commission on the designation and closure of enterprise projects.

At their meeting on October 28, 2024, the panel recommended closure of the following projects:

(1) *SONAR - State of Nebraska Appropriation Request*. The agency determined that the reports provided by the system were not acceptable. The decision was made to terminate the project.

(2) *OPS Retirement Plan Management Transfer*. The project was successfully completed.

LINKS: [Section 1-206](#). Enterprise projects.

RECOMMENDED BY: Technical Panel

Attachment V

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Initial draft rules and regulations relating to cybersecurity records

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action recommended at this time.

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05, as amended by 2024 Neb. Laws, L.B. 43, § 11, the commission is required to adopt rules and regulations to implement a new subdivision relating to cybersecurity records.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05 provides, in pertinent part:

“The following records, unless publicly disclosed in an open court, open administrative proceeding, or open meeting or disclosed by a public entity pursuant to its duties, may be withheld from the public by the lawful custodian of the records:

...

(26) Records relating to the nature, location, or function of cybersecurity by the State of Nebraska or any of its political subdivisions or any other public entity subject to sections 84-712 to 84-712.09, including, but not limited to, devices, programs, or systems designed to protect computer, information technology, or communications systems against terrorist or other attacks. The Nebraska Information Technology Commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to implement this subdivision;...”

Staff have prepared an initial draft rule. A public hearing for the rule will be scheduled to coincide with the commission’s March 14, 2025, meeting.

LINK: [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05](#)

For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(26), records relating to the nature, location, or function of cybersecurity include but are not limited to the following items, provided that a reasonable person, knowledgeable of cybersecurity best practices, would conclude that public disclosure of such items would create a substantial likelihood of endangering the security of the public entity's information technology infrastructure:

(1) Personnel. (a) The identity of personnel responsible for configuring or maintaining cybersecurity systems and assets; and (b) the identity of personnel in leadership roles who have direct responsibility or oversight of cybersecurity system and assets.

(2) Risk Management. (a) Risk assessment reports; (b) vulnerability assessments; and (c) penetration testing reports.

(3) Compliance and Legal Documentation. (a) Contract language that describes or defines cybersecurity related services and capabilities; (b) regulatory compliance documentation; and (c) technology audit reports.

(4) Technical Controls and Configurations. (a) Firewall configurations; (b) network segmentation plans; (b) access control policies; (c) encryption and key management policies; and (d) endpoint security settings and controls.

(5) Monitoring and Logging. (a) Log management plans; (b) SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) reports or data; (c) intrusion detection/prevention system (IDS/IPS) logs; (d) vulnerability scanning logs; (e) endpoint defense logs; and (f) firewall logs.

(6) Incident Response and Forensics. (a) Incident handling documentation; (b) incident response plans; (c) forensics analysis reports; and (d) evidence collection procedures.

(7) Employee Awareness and Training. (a) Security awareness training materials; (b) phishing simulation reports; and (c) training attendance records.

(8) Software and Patch Management. (a) Software inventory; (b) patch management records; and (c) configuration management documentation.

(9) Access Control and Authentication. (a) Identity and access management policies; (b) password policies; and (c) multi-factor authentication (MFA) policies.

(10) Data Protection Documentation. (a) Backup and recovery plans (BC/DR Plans); (b) data loss prevention (DLP) policies; (b) data loss prevention configurations and documentation; and (c) secure data storage and disposal documentation.

(11) Third-Party and Vendor Management. (a) Third-party security assessments; and (b) vendor risk management documentation.

Attachment VI

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Approval of the revised Statewide Technology Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the revised plan.

BACKGROUND: The commission is responsible for developing and updating a statewide technology plan.

At the July 12th meeting, the commission adopted six strategic initiatives to provide the basic structure for the revised plan. The six initiatives are: State Government IT Strategy, Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (renamed as “Geospatial Nebraska”), Network Nebraska, Digital Education, IT Security, and Community Digital Skills.

Staff and the advisory councils have developed action items to support each of these initiatives. Staff then prepared a draft revised plan for the commission’s approval.

RECOMMENDED BY: Advisory Groups
Staff

NOVEMBER
2024

NEBRASKA'S

STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN



Driving Transformation
in Government,
Education, Healthcare,
and Communities for
the Future

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LETTER FROM THE CIO



**Dr. Matthew
McCarville**

Chief Information Officer
Chair, NITC

Since 1998, The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) has consistently driven transformation across education, government, and communities through strategic technology initiatives. Over the years, NITC has played a pivotal role in helping Nebraska adapt to an ever-evolving technological landscape, leveraging the power of information technology to make services across sectors more efficient and impactful.

This year's Statewide Technology Plan emphasizes six strategic initiatives designed to enhance the use of technology within state operations and throughout the broader community. Three of these initiatives—State Government IT Strategy, IT Security, and Geospatial Nebraska—are crucial in addressing Nebraska's top IT priorities: security, availability, and consolidation. By embracing an enterprise-wide approach to IT, Nebraska is building a resilient infrastructure that strengthens service delivery and protects the state's digital environment.

The Plan also highlights technology's transformative role in education and economic development, where reliable broadband and digital access are increasingly essential. Network Nebraska, Digital Education, and Community Digital Skills are key initiatives focused on empowering students, businesses, and communities with the technology they need to thrive. These efforts not only foster effective technology use but actively work to bridge the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to digital resources.

This Plan would not be possible without the invaluable contributions of the NITC Commissioners, advisory group members, and staff. Your dedication is shaping a more connected, innovative, and forward-thinking Nebraska.

NITC's mission

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission's mission is to ensure that the state's IT infrastructure is accessible and responsive to the needs of all citizens, regardless of location. By streamlining investments in government, education, healthcare, and other services, the Commission seeks to improve efficiency and deliver cost-effective solutions across Nebraska.

**DR. MATTHEW MCCARVILLE
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
CHAIR, NITC**

NITC Commissioners & Staff

Commissioners

- Dr. Matthew McCarville, Chair, CIO, State of Nebraska**
- Zachary J. Mellender, Business Systems & Analytics Manager, Omaha Zoological Society**
- Nathan Watson, CEO, Contemporary Analysis**
- Kirk Langer, Chief Technology Officer, Lincoln Public Schools**
- Bret R. Blackman, Vice President for IT and CIO, University of Nebraska**
- James Ediger, General Counsel, Hamilton Telecommunications**
- Katie Niemoller, Registered Nurse, Children’s Hospital and Medical Center**
- Leah Barrett, President, Northeast Community College**
- Phillip Doerr, Owner and Manager, Doerr Farms**
- Senator Wendy DeBoer, Nebraska Legislature, Ex-officio member**

Staff

- DR. MCCARVILLE, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**
- RICK BECKER, NITC EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR**
- BECCA KINGERY, EDUCATION IT MANAGER**
- CASEY DUNNGOSSIN, STATE GIS COORDINATOR**
- VANESSA CASTRO, COMMUNITY IT MANGER**
- LORI LOPEZ URDIALES, OFFICE SERVICES MANAGER II**





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC), established by the Legislature in 1998, serves as a key advisory body, offering strategic direction and ensuring accountability for the state's information technology investments. Led by Dr. Matthew McCarville, the State's Chief Information Officer, the NITC is composed of commissioners appointed by the Governor, who represent various sectors including elementary and secondary education, higher education, communities, state government, agriculture, and the general public. The commission's work is largely carried out through its advisory groups: the Technical Panel, Community Council, Education Council, and GIS Council.

In accordance with the Legislature's mandate (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-516) to "annually update a statewide technology plan," the NITC, with input from its advisory groups and key stakeholders, has identified six strategic focus areas. These initiatives are vital to the state, requiring a coordinated, enterprise-level approach, NITC involvement, and collaboration across multiple entities to ensure success. The strategic initiatives, along with their supporting action items, form the foundation of the statewide technology plan. The current NITC strategic initiatives include:

- State Government IT Strategy
 - Geospatial Nebraska
 - Network Nebraska
 - Digital Education
 - IT Security
 - Community Digital Skills
- 

NITC OVERVIEW

VISION

The vision of the NITC is to improve the quality of life of all Nebraskans by promoting the use of information technology in education, health care, economic development and all levels of government. In order to achieve this vision, the NITC has identified five goals:

- Support the development of a robust statewide telecommunications infrastructure that is scalable, reliable, and efficient;
- Support the use of information technology to enhance community and economic development;
- Promote the use of information technology to improve the efficiency and delivery of governmental and educational services, including homeland security;
- Ensure the security of the State's data and network resources and the continuity of business operations.
- Promote effective planning, management and accountability regarding the state's investments in information technology.

MISSION

The mission of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission is to make the State of Nebraska's information technology infrastructure more accessible and responsive to the needs of its citizens, regardless of location, while making investments in government, education, health care and other services more efficient and cost effective.

CORE VALUES

- We strive to know our customers and stakeholders and understand their needs.
- We inspire cost-effective solutions.
- We encourage collaboration for the sharing of resources.
- We encourage public participation in the technology development process.

ADVISORY GROUPS



Technical
Panel



Community
Council



Education
Council



GIS
Council

TECHNICAL PANEL

The Technical Panel provides analysis and recommendations to the NITC on technical issues.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council is composed of representatives from economic development, work force development, non-profits, agriculture, public libraries, and local government. It was formed to identify, prioritize, and coordinate user needs with respect to community information technology.

EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Education Council is a 16-member advisory committee composed of representatives from K-12 and postsecondary education. It identifies, prioritizes, and coordinates user needs with respect to educational information technology.

GIS COUNCIL

The GIS Council is a 28-member council, composed of representatives from federal, state, local government, education and private individuals and associations. They coordinate statewide GIS initiatives.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

To advance its vision and goals, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission, with input from its advisory groups and other stakeholders, has identified six key initiatives aimed at promoting the effective use of technology across the state, particularly in education, economic development, and local government. By focusing on these strategic initiatives, the NITC seeks to secure funding and foster collaboration among state agencies to drive these efforts forward.

The first three initiatives—State Government IT Strategy, IT Security, and Geospatial Nebraska—emphasize the importance of an enterprise-wide approach to IT. These initiatives prioritize the state's IT goals of security, availability, and consolidation.

The remaining three initiatives focus on enhancing technology's role in education and economic development, recognizing that access to technology and broadband is becoming increasingly essential for students and businesses. Network Nebraska, Digital Education, and Community Digital Skills initiatives promote effective technology use while also addressing the growing digital divide between those with access to technology and the skills to use it, and those without.



STATE GOVERNMENT IT STRATEGY

- * The objective of this initiative is to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the use of information technology by Nebraska state government. The Office of the CIO is developing a roadmap for planning and tracking progress on projects and action items prioritized to improve state government efficiency. As the CIO Roadmap is updated, the action items for this initiative will also be updated.

IT SECURITY

- * The objective of this initiative is to enhance the state's cybersecurity posture by protecting digital infrastructure, improving incident response capabilities, and fostering collaboration across government, industry, and international partners. The plan prioritizes building a skilled cybersecurity workforce, safeguarding citizens' data and privacy, and promoting technological innovation to stay ahead of evolving cyber threats. These objectives aim to ensure national security, economic stability, and public trust in the digital age.

9 GEOSPATIAL NEBRASKA

NETWORK NEBRASKA

* The primary objective of this initiative is to establish and maintain guidelines and policies for statewide geospatial operations and management. Geospatial Nebraska works to optimize use of technology, data, and services to address a variety of spatial challenges in the state. To help grow investment in Nebraska and its communities, the GIS Council will continue to identify and make available authoritative and interoperable data and applications that support policy and decision making.

* Since its conception in 2006, Network Nebraska has continued to provide a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes the quality of service to every public entity in Nebraska. The Office of the CIO and the University of Nebraska engaged in a collaborative partnership that used existing and new resources to aggregate disparate networks into a multipurpose core backbone extending from Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Scottsbluff, and Norfolk.

Benefits of Network Nebraska membership include lower network costs, greater efficiency, interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing, increased collaboration among educational entities, new educational opportunities, more affordable Internet access, and better use of public investments. Network Nebraska serves 99.6% of public school districts (243), 100% of Educational Service Units (17), and 100% of public higher education entities (13). Private educational entities are also eligible for membership with approximately 20% of private K-12 schools (43), and 45% of private colleges or universities (6). Members benefit from one of the lowest commodity Internet rates in the entire country, possible through the aggregation of demand and statewide bidding. Network Nebraska's new action item focuses on identifying cybersecurity practices for educational entities, and the comprehensive development for the future of Network Nebraska.

DIGITAL EDUCATION

* The primary objective of the Digital Education Initiative is to promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis. This initiative will involve the coordination and promotion of several major systems and applications that have either been developed mostly at the local level or have not been replicated statewide. Action items will focus on the technical challenges for students transitioning from secondary to post-secondary education while addressing the need for equitable broadband access for students and their families to access digital education resources.

COMMUNITY DIGITAL SKILLS

* The goal of this initiative is to empower individuals from covered populations with essential digital skills to thrive in a technology-driven world. By providing accessible training in areas like basic computer use, internet navigation, cybersecurity awareness, and job-related digital tools, this initiative aims to bridge the digital divide and strengthen community resilience in addressing common challenges. Through partnerships with local organizations, libraries, and educational institutions, the initiative fosters economic growth, improves digital literacy, and ensures everyone has the opportunity to participate fully and confidently in the digital economy.



STATE GOVERNMENT IT STRATEGY



OBJECTIVE:

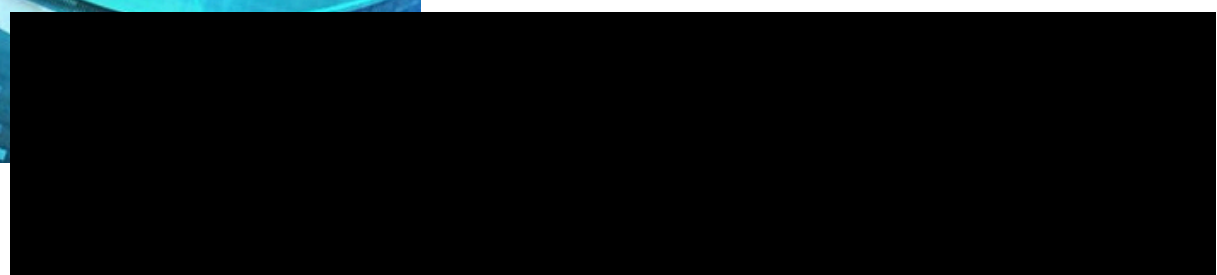
To develop and implement a strategy for the use of information technology by Nebraska state government.

DESCRIPTION:

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for use of information technology by Nebraska state government. The Office of the CIO is developing a roadmap for planning and tracking progress on projects and action items prioritized to improve state government efficiency. As the CIO Roadmap is updated, the action items for this initiative will also be updated.

COLLABORATORS:

OCIO, Technical Panel, and State Agencies



ACTION ITEMS

Consolidate on STN Domain

- Lead: OCIO
- Participating Entities: OCIO and remaining cabinet agencies (DHHS and Nebraska State Historical Society)
- Timeframe: See target and deliverables for completion dates
- Funding: OCIO Overhead
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 1.1 DHHS Applications and Servers – 10/31/2025
 - 1.2 DHHS Users – 06/27/2025
 - 1.3 Nebraska Historical Society – TBD

Intune Deployment for all Mobile Devices and Workstations

- Lead: OCIO
- Participating Entities: OCIO and State Agencies
- Timeframe: TBD
- Funding: TBD
- Targets/Deliverables: TBD

Mainframe Modernization Analysis

- Lead: OCIO
- Participating Entities: OCIO, DHHS, Revenue, NDOT, DCS, NDOL
- Timeframe: TBD
- Funding: TBD
- Targets/Deliverables: TBD



Softphone Migration

- Lead: OCIO
- Participating Entities: OCIO and State Agencies
- Timeframe: TBD
- Funding: TBD
- Targets/Deliverables: TBD

Data Fabric

- Lead: OCIO
- Participating Entities: OCIO and State Agencies
- Timeframe: TBD
- Funding: TBD
- Targets/Deliverables: TBD

IT SECURITY

OBJECTIVE:

Enhance cybersecurity by protecting infrastructure, improving response, fostering collaboration, building workforce skills, and safeguarding data to ensure security, stability, and public trust.

DESCRIPTION:

As part of the Statewide technology plan, cybersecurity is a top priority to protect our digital infrastructure, public services, and constituent data from ever-evolving cyber threats. Our strategy emphasizes a proactive, resilient, and adaptive approach to ensuring the security of government networks, systems, data, and partnerships among other branches of government, political subdivisions, and strategic private sector entities.

COLLABORATORS:

State, County, and Local Governments and political subdivisions that choose to participate will collaborate on this plan.



ACTION ITEMS

Cyber Security Expansion

- Lead: Patrick Wright, Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer
- Timeframe: October 2024 - October 2026
- Funding: State & Local funding, the Federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), and other applicable State and federal grant sources.
- Measurables: Number of Political Subdivisions Covered; Number and Types of products deployed; Number of logs ingested; Number of Alerts Triaged; Number of Incidents Responded to;

Cybersecurity Cost-Reduction

- Lead: Patrick Wright, Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer
- Timeframe: October 2024 - October 2026
- Funding: State & Local funding, the Federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), and other applicable State and federal grant sources.
- Measurables: Number and Types of products deployed; Percentage saved over list price per entity on a given product;

Identity and Access Management Modernization

- Lead: Patrick Wright, Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer
- Timeframe: October 2024 - October 2026
- Funding: State & Local funding, the Federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), and other applicable State and federal grant sources.
- Measurables: The plan aims to streamline AD structure, expand MFA, provide secure single-sign-on access, automate privileged account controls, and implement self-service tools to enhance security and simplify access.

NETWORK NEBRASKA



OBJECTIVE:

To develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes the quality of service to every public entity in the State of Nebraska.

DESCRIPTION:

Network Nebraska interconnects several hundred education entities to a multipurpose core backbone extending between Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff that provides aggregated Internet and commercial peering services extending out to the furthest corners of the state.

COLLABORATORS:

Collaborative Aggregation Partnership: Office of the CIO, University of Nebraska, Nebraska Public Media, Public Service Commission, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Information Technology Commission, Network Nebraska Advisory Group.

Network Nebraska Advisory Group: 8 K-12 members; 8 higher education members.

Educational Service Unit (ESU) Coordinating Council, ESU-Network Operations Committee, ESU-Distance Education Advisory Committee, higher education chief technology officers.

STRENGTHS/ASSETS:

- Nearly every K-12 public school district, educational service unit, and public college and university participate in Network Nebraska and share in its annual costs.
- Network Nebraska is a completely voluntary, self-funded project, which contributes to its resilience, sustainability and focus on customer service.
- Shared personnel support within the Office of the CIO, Administrative Services, and the University of Nebraska contribute to its ultra-low operational costs and affordability.
- With the collaborative management style utilized by Network Nebraska, there is a sense of ownership and pride in its continued development and growth.

CHALLENGES/ISSUES:

- The absence of full-time network employees reduces the capacity for such services as marketing, communications, research & development, and customer follow-up.
- The Network Nebraska cost recovery rates, although small in comparison to other state networks, are still above what small rural public libraries and private K-12 schools are accustomed to paying for Internet service provision alone. And prices continue to rise as the need for technological solutions in the learning space expand in both complexity and scope.

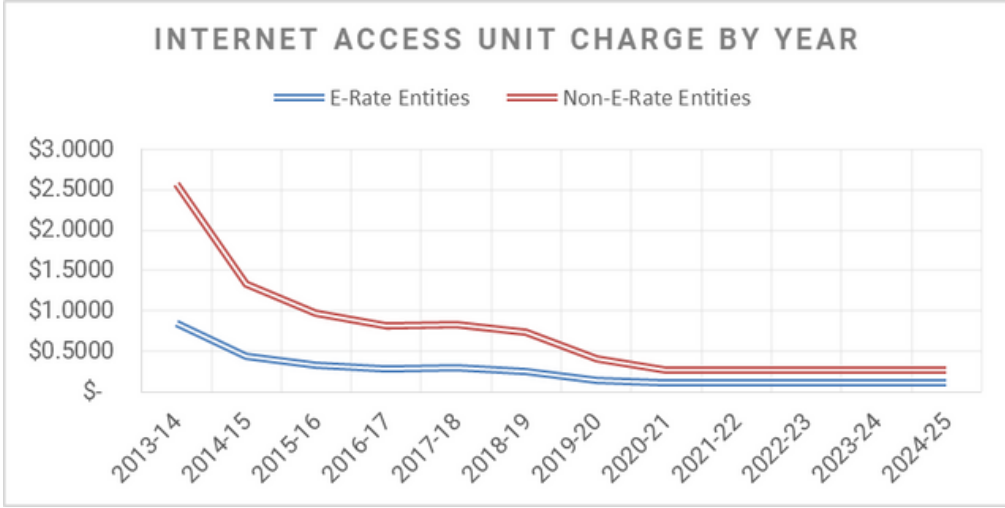
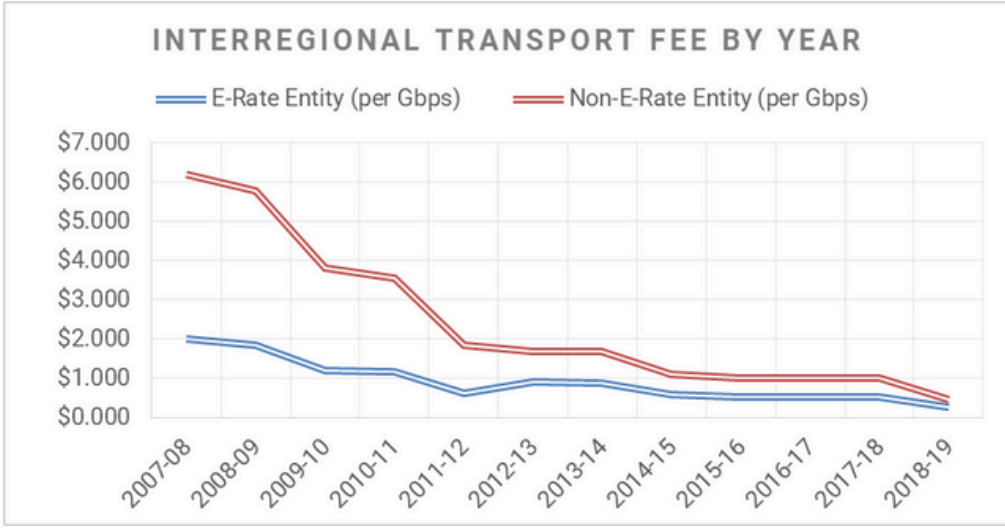
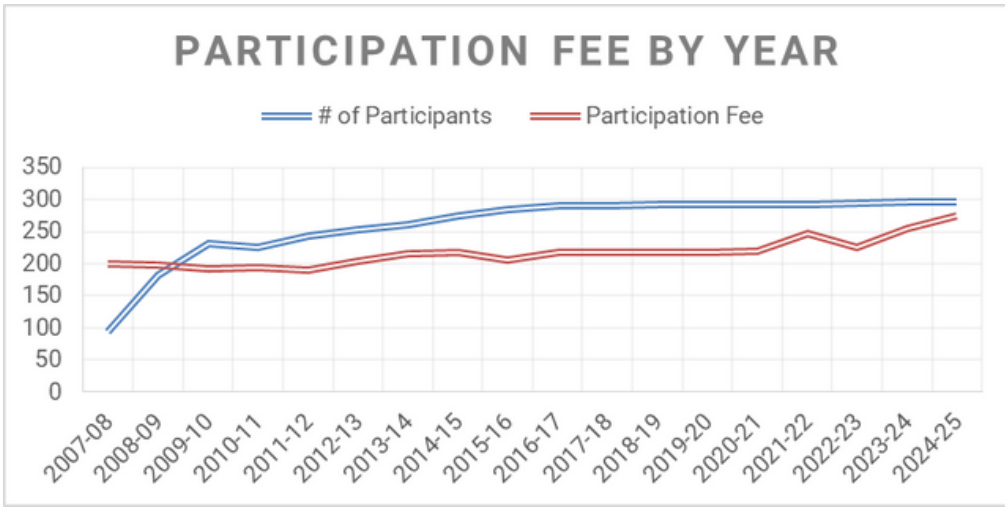
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Maintained public school district participation at 99.6%.
- Achieved 100% membership among public and tribal colleges, and universities.
- Network Nebraska became one of the first research and education networks in the country to expand the use of eduoam® in the elementary and secondary educational settings. It has been widely accepted by members with over 70% of public K-12 school utilizing the service within the state.
- Achieved one of the lowest commodity Internet rates in the entire country, made possible through aggregation of demand and statewide bidding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue this initiative.
- Position Network Nebraska to continue to expand its offered services, and implement strategies to offset the rising cost associated with network management, thus providing additional stability to the consortium.

METRICS



ACTION ITEMS

Develop a scalable, secure plan for Network Nebraska to meet statewide needs of agencies, local governments, and schools per section 79-1201.01.

- Lead: Education Council
- Participating Entities: Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP); Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG), OCIO/NITC staff
- Timeframe: 2024-2026
- Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, which is a participant-funded budget.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 1.1 Liaison with, NNAG, CAP, to provide insight and guide decision-making regarding services, identified initiatives and associated business models.
 - 1.1.1 Measurables: A) NNAG co-chairs will attend monthly CAP meetings and share information. B) CAP liaisons will attend bi-monthly NNAG meetings and share information.
 - 1.2 Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the current Network Nebraska fee structures and address changes related to the associated business models as related to core functions and additional services.
 - 1.2.1 Measurable: A) NNAG will convene a retreat and present suggested modifications to the Education Council's Network Nebraska task group and to the Chief Information Officer

The Education Council, OCIO/NITC staff, and Network Nebraska support staff will sufficiently and appropriately communicate to, and in support of, current and potential Network Nebraska Participants

- Lead: Education Council; OCIONITC Staff, Network Nebraska support staff
- Participating Entities: Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP); Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG)
- Timeframe: 2024-2026
- Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, which is a participant-funded budget.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 2.1 Develop and implement a communications strategy.
 - 2.1.1 Measurables: A) Specific data and reports in an online newsletter or other form of communication to members outside of the annual fee memo. B) Designated representatives send timely notifications of changes in procedures affecting member relations with the Network Nebraska Support Team.
 - 2.2 Conduct a periodic survey of Participants to guide direction and service development.
 - 2.2.1 Measurable: A) Survey is conducted, and data from the survey is compiled for sharing with NNAG, CAP, and the NITC Education Council.
 - 2.3 Develop, publish, and maintain a catalog of Network Nebraska services comprised of services offered directly by Network.
 - 2.3.1 Measurable: Catalog of services is published and updated annually
 - 2.4 Enhance communications regarding change control events affecting Network Nebraska membership.
 - 2.4.1 Measurable: The Network Nebraska Support Team use AlertSense and NN_INFO listserv to communicate change control events to Network Nebraska members.

ACTION ITEMS

Enhance Network Nebraska to meet member needs with advanced security, cloud computing, and educational infrastructure, prioritizing innovation and efficiency.

- Lead: Education Council; CAP; NNAG; UNS IT Staff
- Participating Entities: ESU-NOC; Higher Education CIOs
- Timeframe: 2024-2026
- Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, or from consumption-based billing.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 3.1 Develop strategies for advanced service delivery, integrate them into Network Nebraska's business model, and implement value-added services to enhance offerings, membership growth, and membership satisfaction.
 - 3.1.1 Measurable: A) liaison with NNAG and CAP to formulate a Strategy document complete with target dates while tracking progress. B) Additional services added to Network Nebraska services list.

Identify, define, and promote the statewide cybersecurity practices for Nebraska K-20 education.

- Lead: Education Council; CAP; NNAG; UNS IT Staff
- Participating Entities: ESU-NOC; Higher Education CIOs
- Timeframe: 2024-2026
- Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, or from consumption-based billing.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 4.1 A) Establish recommendations for cybersecurity best practices within K-20 community.
 - 4.1.1 Measurable: A) The creation of best practices based on input from educational stakeholders throughout the state. B) Regular communication as the cybersecurity climate continues to adapt.

ACTION ITEMS

Encourage K-20 participation in cyber-related industry events.

- Lead: Education Council; CAP; NNAG; UNS IT Staff
- Participating Entities: ESU-NOC; Higher Education CIOs
- Timeframe: 2024-2026
- Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, or from consumption-based billing.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 5.1 A) Leverage available resources and communicate recommendations to reach as many stakeholders as possible.
 - 5.1.1 Measurable: A) The creation of a listserv, or utilization of the existing Network Nebraska website to communicate upcoming events with other relevant information.

Other Recommended Measurables:

- Network Nebraska backbone uptime
- Network Nebraska Internet access uptime
- Network Nebraska backbone bandwidth utilization (actual)
- Network Nebraska membership growth
- Network Nebraska Internet growth (purchased and actual)
- Network Nebraska unit cost of Internet
- Number of public, non-public, and non-education entities connected to Network Nebraska

DIGITAL EDUCATION

OBJECTIVE:

To promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis.

DESCRIPTION:

The Digital Education initiative will involve the coordination and promotion of several major systems and applications that heretofore have either been developed mostly at the local level or have not been replicated statewide.

Initiative progress will be dependent upon adequate Internet connectivity and transport bandwidth for learners, instructors, administrators, and for educational attendance sites. A minimum acceptable level of classroom technology will have to be established for the initiative to be successful.

COLLABORATORS:

- Educational Service Unit (ESU) Coordinating Council and advisory groups
- Public and private K-12 schools
- Nebraska Department of Education
- University of Nebraska
- Nebraska State College System
- Nebraska Community College System
- Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges Foundation



STRENGTHS/ASSETS:

- The enhancement of Digital Education is the combined focus of public and private K-12 entities and public and private higher education entities working together through Network Nebraska.
- The recent developments in learning management software, content management software, and longitudinal data tracking and depiction make it a particularly important time to improve on the statewide deployment of these systems.
- The high bandwidth transport and Internet capacity of Network Nebraska makes it possible to implement private cloud and public cloud applications to every education entity on Network Nebraska.

CHALLENGES/ISSUES:

While collaboration among entities is strong, the initiative lacks a “champion”, and any additional implementation funding is a scarce commodity.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the State Office of the CIO, has assisted the Nebraska Public Service Commission with utilization of the Nebraska Special Construction Matching Fund grant program to incentivize new fiber construction for schools and libraries.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue and refocus this initiative.
- Encourage and/or incentivize collaborators and stakeholders to be more results-oriented using project management techniques.
- Build on the excellent foundation and success of Network Nebraska to deliver high quality digital educational opportunities that provide a framework for student success.

ACTION ITEMS

Help ensure the success of Nebraska digital education.

- Lead: Education Council;
- Participating Entities: K-12 and Higher Education professional and advisory groups , Nebraska Department of Education, and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.
- Timeframe: 2024-2026
- Funding: Additional funding may be required for this action item
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 1.1 Establish a common definition and understand the current state of Nebraska Digital education.
 - 1.1.1 Measurable: Collaborate with existing take holders to formulate a cohesive definition for digital education, and take an inventory of existing digital education practices within Nebraska.
 - 1.2 Promote effective practices, determine factors relevant to measuring the success of digital education.
 - 1.2.1 Measurable: Utilize reliable communication methods to convey advancements in digital education.
 - 1.3 Connect constituencies to promote improvement.
 - 1.3.1 Measurable: Organize conferences for stakeholders to collaborate on effective solutions.

Identify, define, and promote the statewide cybersecurity practices for Nebraska K-20 education.

- Lead: Education Council; CAP; NNAG; UNS IT Staff
- Participating Entities: ESU-NOC; Higher Education CIOs
- Timeframe: 2024-2026
- Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, or from consumption-based billing.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 4.1 A) Establish recommendations for cybersecurity best practices within K-20 community.
 - 4.1.1 Measurable: A) The creation of best practices based on input from educational stakeholders throughout the state. B) Regular communication as the cybersecurity climate continues to adapt.

ACTION ITEMS

Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education.

- Lead: Education Council;
- Participating Entities: NITC Community Council, K-12 and Higher Education professional and advisory groups
- Timeframe: 2024-2026
- Funding: Additional funding may be required for this action item
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 2.1 Address professional development for teachers broadly and collaboratively.
 - 2.1.1 Measurable: Coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Education to identify professional development opportunities throughout the state, or available digitally.
 - 2.2 Focus on affordability initiatives.
 - 2.2.1 Measurables: Research digital equity funding opportunities; coordinate with the NITC Community Council to develop a collaborative solution.

Other Recommended Measurables:

- Number of K-12 students who have gained home Internet access through Digital Inclusion initiatives
- Number of public libraries that have gained faster Internet access by reaching Network Nebraska, either directly or indirectly

COMMUNITY DIGITAL SKILLS



OBJECTIVE:

This initiative aims to equip covered populations with essential digital skills—such as computer use, internet navigation, and cybersecurity awareness—through accessible training and partnerships, bridging the digital divide to foster economic growth and community resilience in a technology-driven world.

DESCRIPTION:

This initiative aims to equip individuals from underserved communities with essential digital skills, helping them thrive in a technology-driven world. The program offers accessible training sessions covering fundamental computer use, internet navigation, cybersecurity awareness, and digital tools relevant to the workplace. Training is delivered through partnerships with local organizations, libraries, and educational institutions, ensuring participants can attend workshops or access resources within their communities. Additionally, online modules and hands-on practice sessions are incorporated to accommodate various learning styles and schedules. By fostering digital literacy, enhancing job readiness, and closing the digital divide, this initiative supports economic growth and empowers individuals to fully participate in the digital economy with confidence.

COLLABORATORS:

- Nebraska Library Commission
- El Centro Hispano de las Americas
- Lincoln Literacy

ACTION ITEMS

Digital Skills Classes

- Lead: Community IT Manager
- Timeframe: March 2025 - TBD
- Funding: TBD
- Measurables: TBD

Nebraska Digital Skills Portal

- Lead: Nebraska Library Commission and Community IT Manager
- Timeframe: October 2024 - TBD
- Funding: TBD
- Measurables: TBD

GEOSPATIAL NEBRASKA

OBJECTIVE:

- To establish and maintain guidelines and policies for statewide geospatial operations and management. Geospatial Nebraska works to optimize use of technology, data, and services to address a variety of spatial challenges in the state. To help grow investment in Nebraska and its communities, the GIS Council will continue to identify and make available authoritative and interoperable data and applications that support policy and decision making.
- Facilitate the creation, maintenance, analysis, and publishing of quality and authoritative data and applications.
- Formalize data stewardship and encourage data sharing providing access to data, services, and applications through NebraskaMap.gov.
- Facilitate technical assistance and education outreach opportunities for furthering the adoption of the NESDI and geospatial applications.
- Achieve sustainable and efficient allocation of resources to support the implementation and wise governance of GIS services and geospatial data.



COLLABORATORS:

- State of Nebraska Agencies
- Local and County Government
- League of Municipalities
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska GIS LIS Association
- Natural Resources Districts
- Public Power Districts
- Federal Agencies
- Private Industries
- K-12, College, and University of Nebraska

STRENGTHS/ASSETS:

- The GIS Council, established by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-572(2), provides an existing governance structure, representing a broad range of stakeholder interests.
- Standards which are foundational to supporting the Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) are in place and reviewed as needed.
- Existing State GIS Coordinator and GIS staff members in CIO GIS Team.
- Several strong state agency and local county-based GIS programs.
- Nebraska Enterprise Geographic Information Systems (NEGIS) Infrastructure, an enterprise platform for state agencies. NebraskaMap, the state geospatial clearinghouse.

CHALLENGES/ISSUES:

- Prioritization and communication of priorities need strong support from Legislative and Executive collaborators.
- Original Strategic Plan is 12 years old, and the revisit is approximately 5 years old.
- Resources are inadequate to develop and maintain all framework layers.
- Funding to make NEGIS sustainable.
- Getting agencies to utilize GIS or utilize it more effectively.
- Outreach and training needs of GIS and geospatial data use and applications are broad given the level of different users.
- Lack of understanding of standards and no authoritative enforcement to data stewards not following standards. Local counties do not see NITC standards as a requirement but a guideline.
- Future Datum change and its implications and educating the effects of the datum change on GIS users.
- Limited participation by GIS Council organizations in working groups.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- NebraskaMap is serving up local authoritative data to help make it a true spatial data clearinghouse for Nebraska.
- Use of Hub Premium Community engagement for two agency programs related to NG911 and ice jam/flood reporting.
- Updated State of Nebraska Enterprise License Agreement, and reduced cost over three years.
- Created and approved NITC 3-301. Nebraska State Plane Coordinate System Standard per LB102.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue this initiative. Current GIS Council goals are in line with strategic initiative and objectives.

ACTION ITEMS

Formalize the definition of the Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) and data stewardship

This action item aims to define NESDI framework datasets and identify the necessary relationships among the various NESDI layers. The document will provide an illustration of the “big picture” of Nebraska’s framework including:

- A common understanding of framework
- A context for prioritizing the components of the framework
- A context and justification for future funding requests
- A basis for identification of potential stewards and stewardship roles and responsibilities

The context of the framework themes will be explored at the local, state, regional and national levels. Ideally the NESDI will feed directly into the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) framework. This will benefit the overall coordination, development, revision and promulgation of the relationships among various GIS framework data standards. It will aid in development, implementation and revision of stewardship guidance and procedures for the various GIS framework themes. In addition, it will provide additional direction on NESDI governance, management practices, policy development, and outreach with the statewide community.

- Lead: State GIS Coordinator, GIS Council Representatives
- Participating Entities: GIS Council, NESDI Data Stewards
- Timeframe: 2025-2027
- Funding: Initially the cost for this action item will be personnel time to meet, develop and communicate plans.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 1. Establish a working group.
 - 2. Develop a document that defines the NESDI and the role of data stewardship to support the NESDI.

ACTION ITEMS

Geodetic and Survey Control Inventory and Assessment

Spatial data deployed in an enterprise environment generally has higher requirements for accuracy and quality than does a single-purpose dataset. Geodetic and survey control is essential for the development of spatial data that can be analyzed in combination with other layers.

A careful examination of our current survey and geodetic control data across the state based will be conducted on various criteria for its use in the development of NESDI framework layers. This action item will identify methods and linkages through NebraskaMap to communicate and provide access to relevant data to users and stakeholders.

A new datum model to represent the shape of the earth maybe available by 2025. The GIS Council has been briefed by the Nebraska State Surveyor on the implications of the new datum. This endeavor was pushed out to 2025 at the federal level.

- Lead: State Surveyor and NDOT
- Participating Entities: Nebraska Department of Transportation, State Surveyors Office, NOAA – National Geodetic Survey
- Timeframe: 2025-2027
- Funding: Funding may be needed for personnel time to meet, develop, communicate plans, and process all state data into the new datum.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 1. Prepare and Educate agencies and partners about the datum changes and its implications.
 - 2. Work with Professional Surveyors Group for training on implementing new datum.
 - 3. Develop an educational reference page on NebraskaMap to help with sharing information and resources about this action item with Nebraskans and Nebraska based organizations.
 - 4. Update NITC Standard 3-301 when changes are published by the National Geodetic Survey

ACTION ITEMS

Statewide Land Record Information Dataset & Cadastral Dataset

This action item is intended to track and facilitate two working groups related to land records in Nebraska. First, establish a working group to revise the current NITC Land Record Information and Mapping Standard. Second, establish a working group to develop a schema and process for statewide parcel dataset management.

- Develop guidelines for a common data model that can provide public data for use in a multitude of state government applications and make statewide data interoperable.
- Implement a geodata model to maintain the statewide parcel dataset.
- Work with local governments, state agencies, and the private sector to develop a collaborative plan, and standards/guidelines to empower and educate local governments to maintain their programs to maintain their programs for their communities.
- Improve data workflows with local county assessors to obtain parcel (spatial and attribute) data for use in various state government applications.
- Revise the current NITC Land Record Information and Mapping Standards for completeness and ensure they keep up with modern technology.
 - Lead: State GIS Coordinator, GIS Council Land Record/Parcel Working Groups
 - Participating Entities: GIS Council, State Surveyors Office, Department of Revenue, County Assessors, and various licensed Land Surveyors
 - Timeframe: 2025-2027
 - Funding: Funding may be needed to facilitate data creation, modernization, and maintenance at the local and state levels.
 - Targets/Deliverables:
 - 1. Review the current NITC 3-202 Land Record and Information Mapping Standards for standard land record product(s) that will meet the majority of stakeholder requirements and expectations in a cost-effective manner.
 - 2. Continue to work with Department of Revenue to create yearly Statewide Parcel Geodatabase feature class for internal state use.
 - 3. Make a dataset publicly accessible via NebraskaMap for use and download.

ACTION ITEMS

NEGIS and NebraskaMap – Facilitating Spatial Understanding

The goal of this action item is to improve upon the current versions of NEGIS, the Nebraska GIS Enterprise and NebraskaMap, the state geospatial clearinghouse. NEGIS is the current GIS portal and infrastructure used by state agencies to access, develop, and share spatial data, applications, and tools. NebraskaMap is an open data portal that allows applications and datasets created by government partners to be displayed and accessed in one location. The current version of NebraskaMap shares data and applications from state agencies that participate in the NEGIS. Local and regional governments are also able to share data on NebraskaMap if referenced or shared via collaboration.

- Lead: State GIS Coordinator
- Participating Entities: GIS Council, State Agencies, Local GIS Teams
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Funding: Funding may be needed to offset the cost of licensing for state agencies to facilitate this program long term.
- Targets/Deliverables:
 - 1. Continue to build current NebraskaMap into a more robust statewide data clearinghouse enterprise platform.

EDUCATION COUCIL

POST SECONDARY

- Brandon Eckmann, Northeast Community College
- Dr. Derek Bierman, Doane University
- Nick Muir, Wayne State College
- Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan
- Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska–Omaha
- Tom Peters, Central Community College
- Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska
- Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System

K-12

- Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Community Schools
- Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Secondary School
- Dr. Ted DeTurk, Educational Service Unit 2
- Stephen Hamersky, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School
- Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools
- Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
- Elizabeth Kumru, Ralston Public Schools
- Gary Needham, Co-Chair, Educational Service Unit 9

NON-VOTING LIAISONS

- Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
- Vacant, Nebraska Department of Education
- Dr. Matthew McCarville, Office of the CIO, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services
- Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

GIS COUCIL

- Spencer Trowbridge, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Tim Erickson, Clerk of the Nebraska Legislature
- Charlie Lucas, Nebraska State Patrol
- Vacant, Representative of an Official Tribal Organization
- Ryan Werner, Department of Natural Resources
- Claire Inbody, Department of Transportation
- Jennifer Parmeley, Department of Health and Human Services
- Lesli Rawlings, Nebraska Geospatial Professional Association
- John Beran, State Surveyor
- Vacant, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Vacant, Nebraska Public Service Commission
- Dave Hattan, Office of the Chief Information Officer
- Doug Hallum, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Eric Herbert, Omaha Metro Area -Sarpy County GIS
- Vacant, Federal Agencies, Liaison for NE
- Jeff McReynolds, Member At Large, SSP Innovations
- Adam Miller, Lincoln Metro Area, City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska
- Vacant, Member at Large
- Nancy Salmon, Nebraska Association of County Officials - Hamilton County Commissioner
- Sean Kennedy, Nebraska Association of County Officials - Cass County GIS Coordinator
- Michael Schonlau, League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Matt Tinkham, Member at large - Professional Surveyors, Lamp Rynearson & Associates
- Chuck Wingert, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
- Don Linquist, Member at large Precision Agriculture Industry, Mitchell Implements
- Brandon Beethe, Department of Environment and Energy
- Timothy Cielocha, Public Power Districts, Nebraska Public Power District
- Barb Oswald, Property Tax Administrator, Department of Revenue

TECHNICAL PANEL

- Rick Haugerud, University of Nebraska Computing Services Network
- Kirk Langer, Chair, Lincoln Public Schools
- Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
- Remy Sydik, Assistive Technology, University of Nebraska
- Dr. Matthew McCarville, Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer

CONTACT US

**Phone/**

402-471-3560

Email/

OCIO.FrontDesk@nebraska.gov

Website/

nitc.nebraska.gov

Address/

501 S. 14th Street
P.O. Box 95045
Lincoln, NE 68509

Attachment VII

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Approval of the Progress Report to the Governor and Legislature

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the draft report.

BACKGROUND: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-518 provides, in pertinent part: “By November 15 of each even-numbered year, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission shall submit a progress report to the Governor and Legislature.”

Staff have prepared a draft report for the commission’s approval.

RECOMMENDED BY: Staff



PROGRESS REPORT

TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE

2024

State of Nebraska
NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION



nitc.nebraska.gov



(402) 471-3560



OCIOFrontDesk@nebraska.gov



501 S. 14th St Lincoln, NE
68509-5045
P.O. Box 95045

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NITC COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Matthew McCarville, Chair, CIO, State of Nebraska

Senator Wendy DeBoer, Nebraska Legislature, Ex-officio member

Dr. Leah Barrett, President, Northeast Community College

Bret R. Blackman, Vice President for IT and CIO, University of Nebraska

James Ediger, General Counsel, Hamilton Telecommunications

Nathan Watson, CEO, Contemporary Analysis

Kirk Langer, Chief Technology Officer, Lincoln Public Schools

Zachary J. Mellender, Business Systems & Analytics Manager, Omaha Zoological Society

Phillip Doerr, Owner and Manager, Doerr Farms

Katie Niemoller, Registered Nurse, Children's Hospital and Medical Center

STAFF

Dr. McCarville, Chief Information Officer

Becca Kingery, Education IT Manager

Rick Becker, NITC executive administrator

Casey DunnGossin, State GIS Coordinator

Vanessa Castro, Community IT Manger

Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This progress report highlights many of the accomplishments of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission and fulfills the requirement of Section 86-518 to submit a progress report to the Governor and Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year.

Significant progress has been made on the following priority areas designated as strategic initiatives by the NITC.

State Government IT Strategy. The objective of this initiative is to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the use of information technology by Nebraska state government. The strategy has utilized a hybrid centralization model combining elements of both the centralized and decentralized IT management models. Enterprise technologies are centralized with agency-specific activities remaining with the agencies.

Geospatial Nebraska. The primary objective of this initiative is to establish and maintain guidelines and polices for statewide geospatial operations and management. Geospatial Nebraska works to optimize use of technology, data, and services to address a variety of spatial challenges in the state. To help grow investment in Nebraska and its communities, the GIS Council will continue to identify and make available authoritative and interoperable data and applications that support policy and decision making.

Digital Education. The primary objective of the Digital Education Initiative is to promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis. NITC staff assisted the Nebraska Department of Education as it developed the Hierarchy of Digital Learning Needs and CARES Act guidance for Nebraska school districts and private schools in an attempt to address the Homework Gap. NITC staff partnered with the Nebraska Library Commission and Public Service Commission as the NUSF-117 Nebraska Special Construction Matching Fund program was created to incentivize new fiber construction for public libraries in rural areas.

Network Nebraska. Network Nebraska has succeeded in lowering the unit cost of Internet service to participating entities through aggregated purchasing power. By combining Network Nebraska's K-20 Internet purchases and peering into five state contracts of over 100Gbps, the K-12 E-rate-eligible price has gone from \$.18/Mbps/month on July 1, 2020, down to \$.08/Mbps/month on July 1, 2022, a 55% decrease in unit cost. This will benefit all current and future Network Nebraska schools, ESUs and colleges that purchase their Internet service from the statewide master contract. Benefits of Network Nebraska also include flexible bandwidth utilization, Intranet routing, lower network costs, greater efficiency, interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing, increased collaboration among educational entities, new student learning opportunities, enterprise network management software, and better use of public investments.

Rural Broadband and Community IT Development. The NITC Community Council and staff have supported rural broadband and community IT development in several ways. NITC staff has provided staff support to the state's Rural Broadband Task Force. NITC staff provided assistance in developing grant applications for federal broadband funding programs. Staff of the NITC/Office of the CIO are also participating in the Connect Nebraska Working Group, the interagency working group responsible for coordinating federal broadband funding. NITC/Office of the CIO staff will be administering the State Digital Equity Planning Grant which is expected to be awarded in October or November 2022.

eHealth. Nebraska continues to be a leader in health information exchange with near universal participation in the statewide health information exchange, CyncHealth. LB 411 which was signed by Governor Ricketts on May 24, 2021, mandated participation in the state health information exchange by ambulatory surgical centers, critical access hospitals, intermediate care facilities, long-term care hospitals, mental health substance use treatment centers, PACE centers, pharmacies, psychiatric or mental hospitals, public health clinics, and rehabilitation hospitals.

Other Progress Priorities

- The NITC's vision is being realized and short-term and long-term strategies have been articulated and employed. The NITC has developed a vision statement, goals, and strategic initiatives to articulate its vision and to highlight technology projects which have strategic importance to the State of Nebraska.
- The Statewide Technology Plan has been an effective vehicle for identifying key projects, building stakeholder support, coordinating efforts, and communicating with policy makers.
- The NITC website serves as an information technology clearinghouse. Additional resources on broadband are currently available on the Rural Broadband Task Force website (<https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>).
- In order to encourage interoperability and standardization, the NITC has adopted over 100 technical standards and guidelines.
- Recommendations made by the commission to the Governor and Legislature have assisted policy and funding decisions. The review process and prioritization of new IT projects provides policy makers with information about the objectives, justification, technical impact, costs, and risks of proposed systems. Additionally, the NITC has provided staff assistance to the Rural Broadband Task Force.
- The NITC encourages and facilitates input and involvement of all interested parties by engaging in collaborative processes, involving four advisory councils, the Technical Panel, and numerous workgroups and subcommittees. Information is publicly distributed and public input is encouraged.
- The NITC is addressing long-term infrastructure innovation, improvement, and coordination through Network Nebraska, by supporting the Rural Broadband Task Force, and by participating in the interagency working group responsible for coordinating federal broadband programs.

INTRODUCTION

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) was established by the Legislature in 1998 to provide advice, strategic direction, and accountability on information technology investments in the state. Chief Information Officer Dr. Matthew McCarville currently serves as the governor-designated chair of the NITC. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, approved by the Legislature, and represent elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education, communities, agriculture, the Governor, and the general public.

The NITC conducts most of its work through four advisory groups: the Community Council, Education Council, Geographic Information Systems Council, and Technical Panel. Each council establishes ad hoc work groups to prepare recommendations on specific topics. The Office of the Chief Information Officer provides support for the NITC, its councils, the Technical Panel, and ad hoc groups.

Section 86-518 directs the NITC to submit a progress report to the Governor and Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. This report fulfills this requirement. Over the past two years, the NITC has realized many significant achievements in each of the seven criteria established by the Legislature in Section 86-524(2). This report details those achievements.

REALIZATION OF VISION AND EMPLOYMENT OF STRATEGIES

The NITC has developed a vision statement, goals, and strategic initiatives to articulate its vision and to highlight technology projects which have strategic importance to the State of Nebraska. The NITC continues to make progress toward the realization of its vision. However, because technology constantly presents new challenges and opportunities, the NITC's vision will continually evolve.

Vision. The NITC vision statement is to “promote the use of information technology in education, health care, economic development, and all levels of government services to improve the quality of life of all Nebraskans.”

Goals. The NITC has established four goals:

- Support the development of a robust statewide telecommunications infrastructure that is scalable, reliable, and efficient;
- Support the use of information technology to enhance community and economic development;
- Promote the use of information technology to improve the efficiency and delivery of governmental and educational services, including homeland security;
- Promote effective planning, management and accountability regarding the state's investments in information technology.

Strategic Initiatives. In 2004 the NITC began identifying priority areas as strategic initiatives. Each strategic initiative includes measurable action items. The development of the action items has been a collaborative effort involving many individuals and entities. These efforts have been successful in gaining cooperation of many stakeholders. The strategic initiatives form the core of the NITC's Statewide Technology Plan (https://nitc.nebraska.gov/documents/statewide_technology_plan.pdf).

The 2022 Statewide Technology Plan included the following initiatives:

- State Government IT Strategy
- Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Network Nebraska
- Digital Education
- Rural Broadband and Community IT Development
- eHealth

STATE GOVERNMENT IT STRATEGY

This initiative focused on the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the use of information technology by Nebraska state government. The strategy has utilized a hybrid centralization model combining elements of both the centralized and decentralized IT management models. Enterprise technologies were centralized with agency-specific activities remaining with the agencies.

Top priorities include:

- Security
- Consolidation
- Availability

Action items supporting this initiative include:

- Implement same sign-on for certain enterprise applications;
- IT cost efficiency projects;
- Consolidate on STN domain;
- Application process maturation (DevOps); and
- SharePoint/Teams (cloud migration).

Recent accomplishments include:

- JDEdwards 9.2 Upgrade
- Mainframe Virtual Tape Refresh
- Active Directory Clean-up
- 501 Data Center Move
- Chromebook Kiosks
- Clarity Move to the Cloud and Application Upgrade
- Migrate Judicial Branch to M365 Tenant
- Service Portal Enhancements
- SharePoint Online Migrations
- AD Admin Rights Auditing
- eDirectory Same Sign-On

NEBRASKA SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

The Nebraska Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Council made strides to further the Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) initiative since 2022. Spatial data and mapping are integral components which support the economy, safety, environment, and overall quality of life for Nebraskans. Coordination and management of these activities are essential to reduce duplication of efforts and provide cost savings to our taxpayers.

This initiative promotes coordination, guides policy, provides guidance on NESDI data accuracy requirements, and strengthens data sharing through partnerships to ensure access to quality geospatial datasets for governmental business needs and the public.

GIS Council Mission:

- To encourage the appropriate utilization of GIS technology and to assist organizations to make public investments in GIS technology and geospatial data in an effective, efficient, and coordinated manner. Nebraska Revised Statute - §86-569 through §86-573

Action items supporting NESDI:

- Formalize the Definition of NESDI and Data Stewardship
- Geodetic and Survey Control Inventory and Assessment
- Nebraska Statewide Elevation Program (Retired 2024)
- Nebraska Statewide Imagery Program (Retired 2024)
- Street Centerline-Address Database (Retired 2023)
- Statewide Land Record Information System
- NebraskaMAP – A Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services Network

Retirements. Since 2022, the GIS Council has retired three of the seven action items that worked to support the NESDI initiative, because the council had reached a steady state and achieved the goals of the action items.

The Street Centerline-Address Database has been implemented by the Public Service Commission in support of the NextGen 911 system. The Nebraska statewide address dataset was added to the National Address Database in 2023, and will be updated as needed.

The goal of this working group is to identify all boundaries in Nebraska, the data owner, and a digital dataset. The workgroup will also make recommendations to the GIS Council, NITC, and other appropriate groups related to the statutes either for standardization, clarification, or modernization of the statutes. The Parcel Data Working group has met several times and is working towards defining a common schema standard and spatial standard for parcel data in Nebraska.

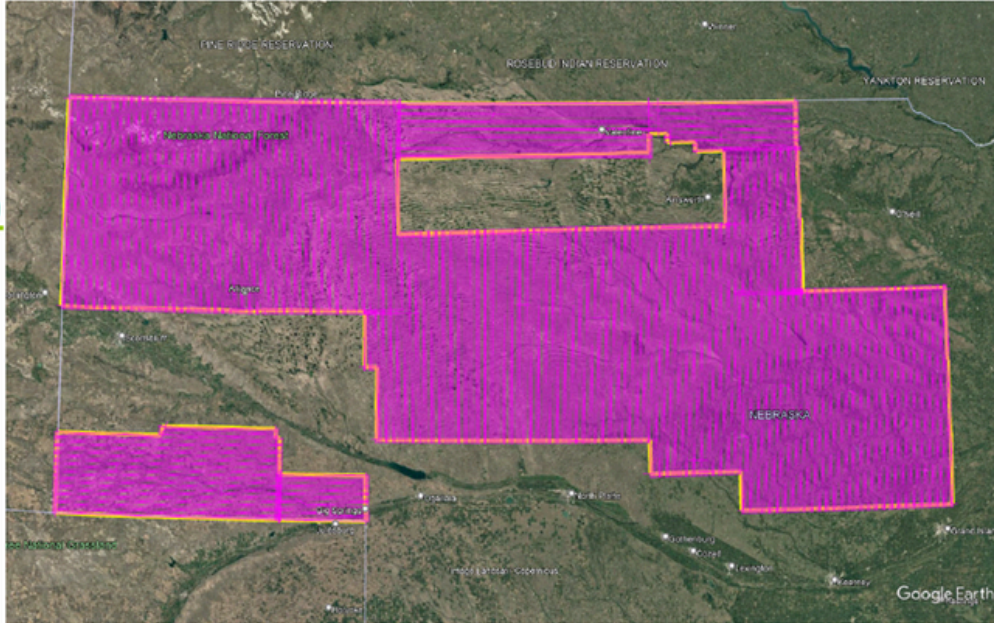


Figure 2: Source USGS, D23_Statewide Project

Finally, below is the biannual report card that is provided by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) to Nebraska. This report card looks at the maturity of the different state GIS programs in the United States.

GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT 2023

Nebraska Report Card

Overall Grade: B+

COORDINATION	GRADE: B
STATE-LED THEMES	
Address	A
Cadastre	B-
Elevation	B+
Orthoimagery Leaf-Off	D+
Transportation	A
NG9-1-1	A
FEDERAL-LED THEMES	
Geodetic Control	B-
Government Units	A
Orthoimagery Leaf-On	B-

METRICS:

A - Superior

C - Average

F - Failure

B - Above average

D - Below average

N/A - Not Applicable

The National States Geographic Information Council Geospatial Maturity Assessment provides NSGIC members and other partners with a summary of geospatial initiatives, capabilities, and issues within and across state governments. The NSGIC GMA now produce report cards for each state on central data themes and coordination topics. The assessment is performed every two years.

NETWORK NEBRASKA

Participants in Network Nebraska are reducing costs and stimulating investment in Nebraska's telecommunications infrastructure. Network Nebraska is represented as a compilation of three major sub-networks: The University of Nebraska network, State and County Government network, and the K-20 Education network. Each network has its own management staff, but takes advantage of co-location facilities, Internet and telecommunications contracts, and shared infrastructure wherever possible.

To develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes quality of service to public entities, the State of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska began aggregating their backbone network services into a core network backbone in 2003. In 2006, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 1208 which named the statewide network as Network Nebraska and tasked the Chief Information Officer (assisted by the University of Nebraska) with "providing access to all education entities as soon as feasible, but no later than July 1, 2012." Network Nebraska is also expected to "meet the demand of state agencies and local governments...Such network shall provide access to a reliable and affordable infrastructure capable of carrying a spectrum of services and applications, including distance education, across the state."

Network Nebraska has succeeded in lowering the unit cost of Internet service to participating entities through aggregated purchasing power. By combining Network Nebraska's K-20 Internet purchases and peering into five state contracts of over 320 Gbps, the K-12 E-rate-eligible price has remained steady for this biennium at prices effective as of July 1, 2024, \$0.08/Mbps/month. Prices are expected to fall in the next biennium. This continues to benefit all current and future Network Nebraska schools, ESUs and colleges that purchase their Internet service from the statewide master contract.

Benefits of Network Nebraska also include flexible bandwidth utilization, Intranet routing, lower network costs, greater efficiency, interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing, increased collaboration among educational entities, new student learning opportunities, enterprise network management software, and better use of public investments.

Network Nebraska has also stimulated investments and competition in telecommunications infrastructure. As the State bid connectivity to large regional areas of schools and colleges, the telecommunications companies responded with fiber Ethernet service pricing that greatly reduced the costs to educational entities.

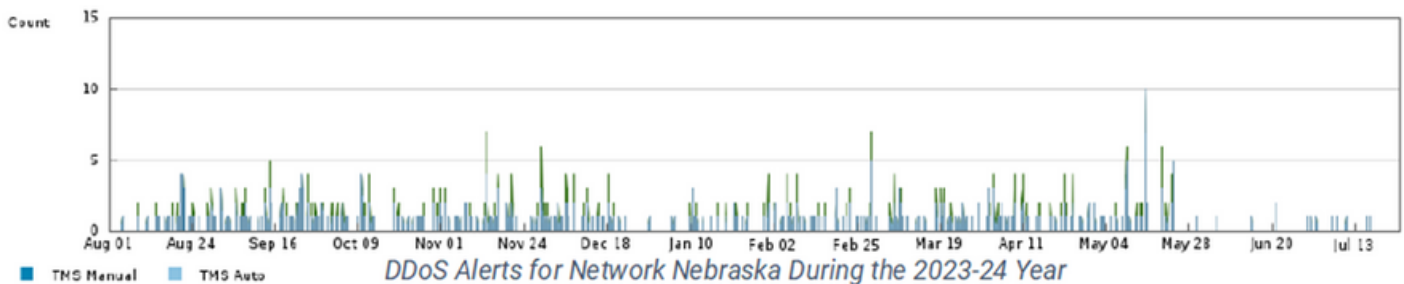


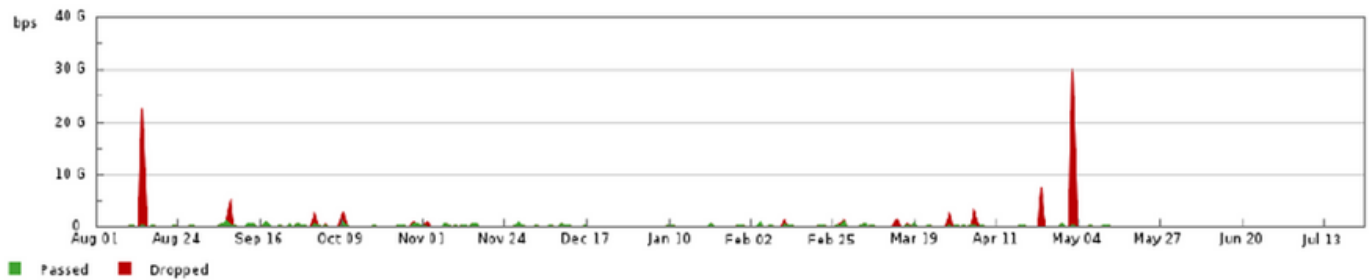
The development of the K-20 education network has increased the number of distance education courses available to Nebraska students. Through Zoom interactive videoconferencing, Nebraska high schools and community colleges exchange approximately 250 courses per year (2024-2025) with an additional 177 virtual field trips available to educational entities across the state. Highest concentration of courses are in English, Foreign Language, and Mathematics, however, offerings also include Agriculture, Technology, and Industrial Technology.

Due to the continued expansion of the Network Nebraska backbone, we are now able to reach every education entity in the State through seven core aggregation points: Grand Island, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, and two locations in Omaha.

The development of the K-20 Education network has increased the number of customers served by Network Nebraska. Data and Internet customers currently include the three state colleges, all six community colleges, two tribal colleges, the University of Nebraska system, 40% of private colleges and universities, and nearly 100% of public school districts under 17 different educational service units. Likewise, non-public school district participation has continued to expand. The Nebraska K-20 Education network is completely funded by Participation and Interregional Transport Fees from its 296 members.

Cybersecurity continues to be a priority area of the Education Council with a refocus of action items in the most recent update to the Statewide Technology Plan. The Education Council and Network Nebraska Advisory Group continue to promote and provide cybersecurity training experiences for Network Nebraska members.



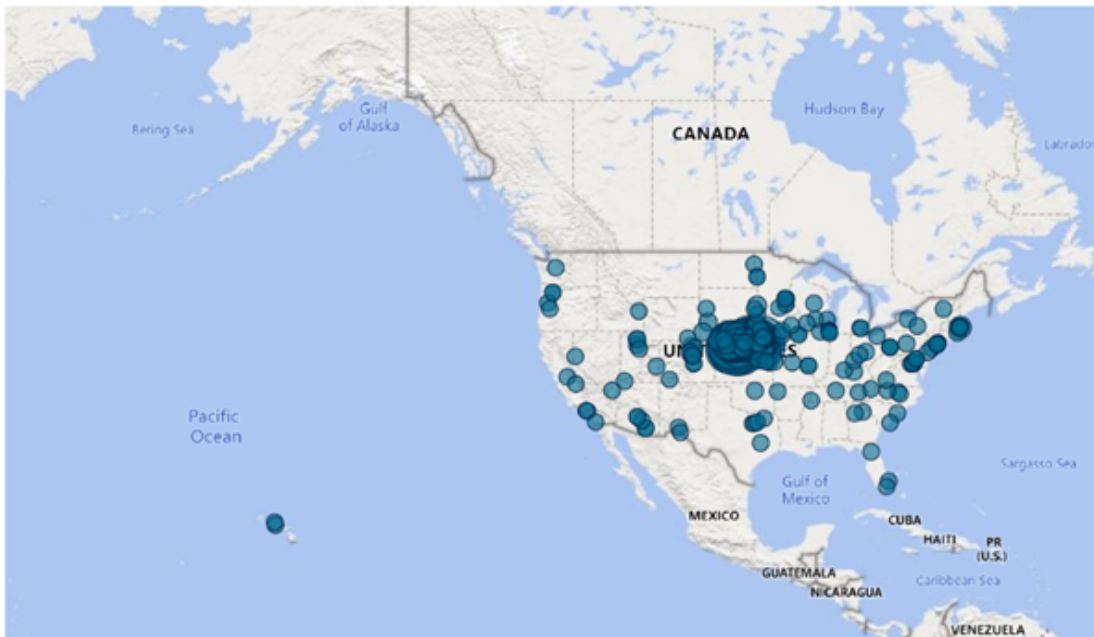


DDoS Dropped Traffic for Network Nebraska During the 2023-24 Year

Establishing a robust digital education environment is critical to Nebraska’s future. So much of what teachers, students, and administrators do today is dependent upon Internet-based information and communication. To assist with facilitation of digital education, and in efforts to combat the ‘homework gap,’ in 2021 Nebraska was selected as one of only three initial states to pilot a K-12 global Wi-Fi program called eduroam®.

eduroam® is a service that allows students, researchers, teachers, and staff from participating universities, colleges, K-12 schools, libraries, and museums to obtain secure Internet connectivity when visiting participating schools and partners by simply opening their computing device. ConnectEd Nebraska was created through a collaborative effort between Network Nebraska, the Nebraska Department of Education, the University of Nebraska, and ESU leaders. The objective of ConnectEd Nebraska is to enable participating teachers, staff, and students in Nebraska to have anywhere, anytime wireless access at all educational sites in the state and in other eduroam-participating sites throughout the U.S. and other countries. eduroam is available to all Network Nebraska participants, and saw a steady increase in school utilization of public school districts enrolled in the eduroam program to 70% of Network Nebraska members.





Snapshot of Network Nebraska eduRoam Users throughout the United States January – June 2024

Student equity of access to the internet continues to be a high priority action item; the Office of the CIO partnered with the Nebraska Library Commission and Public Service Commission continue to promote the Nebraska Special Construction Matching E-Rate fund for schools and libraries. The matching funds from the FCC’s E-Rate program and the Nebraska Universal Service Fund will increase the discount for special construction of fiber by as much as 20%, which could dramatically reduce costs and increase transport speeds for the participants.

Network Nebraska has been made possible through a cooperative effort of the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP). CAP is composed of several operational entities: Office of the CIO, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications with policy assistance from the Nebraska Department of Education, Public Service Commission, and the NITC.

In 2009, the NITC Education Council chartered the Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG). These 16 members, representing all the major K-12 and higher education communities, have been instrumental in helping guide Office of the CIO decisions concerning network infrastructure, services, and fees.

Network Nebraska is not a state-owned network. Facilities and circuits are leased from private telecommunications providers in the state, allowing the State of Nebraska and members of Network Nebraska to act as anchor tenants.

DIGITAL EDUCATION

The primary objective of the Digital Education Initiative is to promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis.

The initiative is dependent upon adequate Internet connectivity and transport bandwidth for learners, instructors, administrators, and for educational attendance sites. A minimum acceptable level of classroom technology will have to be established for the initiative to be successful.

The primary components of the Digital Education Initiative include:

- A statewide telecommunications network with ample bandwidth capable of transporting voice, video, and data between and among all education entities (See Network Nebraska.);
- Distance insensitive Internet pricing for all Nebraska education entities;
- Development of a statewide eLearning environment so that every teacher and every learner has access to a web-based, digital curriculum;
- Development of a statewide digital resource library so that any teacher or learner will be able to retrieve digital media for use in instructional and student projects;
- Synchronous videoconferencing interconnections between all schools and colleges;
- The means to coordinate and facilitate essential education opportunities for all students through a statewide student information system; and
- Regional Pre-K-20 education cooperatives that vertically articulate educational programs and opportunities.

RURAL BROADBAND AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The NITC Community Council and staff have addressed rural broadband and community IT development in several ways:

State Broadband Programs

- Nebraska's Rural Broadband Task Force, created by LB 994 in 2018, brought together stakeholders to learn more about rural broadband and to make recommendations. Those recommendations are providing a framework in which to address the challenges of improving rural broadband. More information on the task force and the 2021 report are available at <https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>.
- Remote Access Rural Broadband Grant Program. Nebraska's first broadband grant program, the Remote Access Rural Broadband Grant Program, demonstrated the impact of state broadband grant programs on broadband deployment. The program, which was funded by the CARES Act and administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, provided \$29.5 million in funding for 60 projects which brought broadband to 17,600 households.
- Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant Program. With the support of Governor Ricketts, the Nebraska Legislature established the Nebraska Broadband Bridge grant program by enacting LB 388 in 2021 and appropriated \$20 million a year for two years for the program. The Nebraska Public Service Commission awarded \$19.2 million in funding to 60 projects to connect 12,660 locations in January and February 2022.
 - A second round of funding was awarded in 2022. LB 1144 which was passed by the Legislature on April 13, 2022 and signed by Governor Ricketts on April 19, 2022, made several modifications to the grant program, including reducing the match requirement to 25% in high cost areas.
- NUSF. The Nebraska Universal Service Program administered by the Nebraska Public Service Commission was an essential funding source for supporting broadband service and investments in new broadband infrastructure in rural areas. Broadband projects funded through the Nebraska Universal Service Fund have connected 19,583 households since 2019. The Public Service Commission is taking steps to initiate a reverse auction of \$13 million in NUSF support in 2022. Additionally, the Nebraska Public Service Commission established the E-Rate Special Construction Matching Program in 2020, providing matching funding for 6 public libraries and one public school in the first year of the program.

- The Nebraska Public Service Commission had taken steps to modernize the fund and to improve accountability. Remittances to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund increased from \$32.8 million in 2018 to \$46.8 million in 2020 due to reforms to the residential contribution method. LB 338 improved the accountability of the Nebraska Universal Service Fund by specifying build out requirements of 100 Mbps down and 100 Mbps up and by requiring recipients to conduct and submit speed tests.
- CARES ACT Funding for Student Connectivity and Devices. Governor Ricketts, the Nebraska Department of Education, Educational Service Units, and local school districts coordinated federal funding to purchase computing devices, hot spots, and internet enabled devices as well as implement connectivity projects through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund as part of the CARES Act.

Federal Broadband Funding Opportunities

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects. Nebraska had been allocated \$128,740,178 in funding for capital projects which directly enable work, education, and health monitoring and address critical needs, including broadband infrastructure projects, digital connectivity projects, and multi-purpose community facility projects. LB 1024 which was passed by the Legislature on April 12, 2022 and signed by Governor Ricketts on April 18, 2022 allocated funding by Congressional District. No more than \$35 million was allocated for multi-purpose community facilities projects in Congressional District 2 which includes Omaha. No less than \$40 million was allocated for projects in Congressional Districts 1 and 3. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development will administer the program, but intends to contract with the Nebraska Public Service Commission to distribute broadband deployment funding through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program.
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program. Nebraska had been allocated at least \$100 million in funding for broadband infrastructure projects. States submitted a 5-year action plan in order to receive implementation funding. The amount of funding allocated to each state was determined using data from the second iteration of the FCC’s new broadband map which was made available in the spring of 2023. States submitted a 5-year action plan in order to receive implementation funding. Nebraska received over \$405 million through the BEAD program.
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Programs. Nebraska had been allocated nearly \$600,000 in funding to develop a state digital equity plan. The development of a state digital equity plan was a requirement to receive funding to implement a state digital equity grant program with funding from the IIJA State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. Nebraska was allocated \$6 million over 5 years. The NITC/Office of the CIO administered the planning grant process and it was approved by the NTIA. The Nebraska Broadband office will carry out the Digital Equity plan.

Recent Community Council Accomplishments Related to Broadband and Digital Equity:

- NITC staff together with staff from the Nebraska Public Service Commission provided support to the Rural Broadband Task Force.
- The NITC Community IT Manager Anne Byers completed the Digital Equity Planning Plan, which is now available at <https://broadband.nebraska.gov/media/ur1aa3kg/nebraska-de-plan-approved.pdf>
- NITC Community IT Manager Vanessa Castro collaborated with seven organizations statewide to lead a \$12 million application for the Digital Equity Competitive Grant.

IMPROVED COORDINATION AND ASSISTANCE TO POLICYMAKERS

Statewide Technology Plan. The statewide technology plan has been an effective vehicle for identifying key projects, building stakeholder support, coordinating efforts, and communicating with policy makers.

The plan focused on six strategic initiatives:

- State Government IT Strategy
- Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Network Nebraska
- Digital Education
- Rural Broadband and Community IT Development
- eHealth

These initiatives were identified by the NITC and its advisory groups. These groups include representatives of a wide array of entities, including health care providers, education, local government, the private sector, and state agencies. This process has proven to be effective in building stakeholder support. These initiatives are collaborative projects involving many entities both inside and outside of state government. The statewide technology plan provides a method of communicating the importance of these initiatives, progress made, and plans for further implementation. The primary role of the NITC in these initiatives has been facilitation and coordination. The success of these initiatives testifies to the NITC's effectiveness at facilitation, coordination, and communication with policymakers.

The Chief Information Officer and the advisory groups of the NITC are occasionally called upon to provide analysis or review of technology initiatives, explanation of state-specific information technology data, and other requests as needed by the Governor and Legislature.

Rural Broadband Task Force. By providing staff support for Nebraska's Rural Broadband Task Force, the NITC has assisted policymakers by studying issues related to rural broadband availability and by making recommendations. The Rural Broadband Task Force was created by LB 994 in 2018 to "review issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska." LB 994 was introduced by Senator Curt Friesen, Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. The 14-member task force is chaired by Dr. Matthew McCarville, CIO for the State of Nebraska and Chair of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. The task force's second report was submitted to the Legislature in October 2022.

The report included findings and recommendations on:

- Broadband availability;
- Broadband data and mapping;
- Alternative technologies and providers;
- Nebraska Universal Service Fund and reverse auction;
- Public-private partnerships and broadband planning;
- Digital inclusion, homework gap and leveraging E-Rate funding; and
- Broadband needs of farmers and ranchers

The report and supporting appendices is available at: <https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>.

Members of the task force include:

Dr. Matthew McCarville, Task Force Chair, Chief Information Officer, State of Nebraska and Chair, Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Senator Mike Moser, Chair, Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, Nebraska Legislature

Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature (selected by the Executive Board)

Dan Watermeier, Commissioner, Nebraska Public Service Commission

Dave Dearmont, Research Division Administrator, NE Department of Economic Development

Sherry Vinton, Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Zachary Hunnicutt, Farmer, Hunnicutt Farms, Representing Agribusiness Community

Vacant, Representing Nebraska Business Community

Tom Shoemaker, President, Pinpoint Communications, Representing Regulated Wireline Telecommunications Industry

Daniel Spray, Owner, Precision Technology, Inc., Representing Wireless Telecommunications Industry

Gwen A. Kautz, CEO/General Manager, Dawson Public Power District, Representing Public Power Industry

Andrew Whitney, Director of Virtual Platforms, Bryan Health & Teledyne, Representing Health Care Providers

Andrew Buker, Executive Director of Infrastructure Services, University of Nebraska, Representing Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions

Ron Cone, Director of Network Information Services, ESU 10, Representing Rural Schools Offering Kindergarten through Grade Twelve

Policy and Funding Recommendations

Recommendations made by the commission to the Governor and Legislature have assisted policy and funding decisions.

Section 86-516 (8) directs the NITC to “make recommendations on technology investments to the Governor and the Legislature, including a prioritized list of projects, reviewed by the technical panel,” as part of the biennial budget process. Technical reviews of information technology projects are conducted by a team of reviewers. Projects are then reviewed by the Technical Panel. Using information from the review process, the NITC makes recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The review process and prioritization of new IT projects provides policy makers with information about the objectives, justification, technical impact, costs, and risks of proposed projects.

Policies, Standards, Guidelines, and Architectures

Policies, standards, guidelines, and architectures have been developed and observed.

In order to encourage interoperability and standardization, over 100 standards and guidelines have been adopted by the commission. The development of standards and guidelines has helped the State of Nebraska achieve greater interoperability and efficiency. The process encourages public input from all involved constituents. Most standards are developed by a work group consisting of stakeholders from state government agencies and other interested entities. The Technical Panel recommends standards and guidelines to be considered for adoption by the NITC.

A full listing of the NITC Standards and Guidelines are listed at this website:
<https://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/index.html>

Information Technology Clearinghouse

An information technology clearinghouse has been established, maintained, and utilized of Nebraska's information technology infrastructure and of activities taking place in the state involving information technology, and the information flow between and among individuals and organizations has been facilitated as a result of the information technology clearinghouse.

The NITC's website (nitc.nebraska.gov) serves as an information technology clearinghouse, providing access to information including resources for communities, health care providers, and educational entities, the GIS community, and state government. The NITC website is the official repository for agenda, minutes, and documents for the NITC, its councils and their workgroups. The section on "Standards and Guidelines" provides access to all technical standards and guidelines adopted by the NITC or under development. The Community Council and its partners have developed resources to help Nebraska communities and regions improve their broadband service. Links to these resources are available from the websites of the NITC and the Rural Broadband Task Force (ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov). Network Nebraska has its own project website, with information designed for current and prospective participants (<http://www.networknebraska.net>). The NITC website also includes a link to NebraskaMAP (<http://www.NebraskaMAP.gov>) which provides public access to geospatial data in Nebraska. Additionally, NITC staff members handle requests for information on technology projects and development and facilitate the exchange of information.

Input and Involvement of Interested Parties

Input and involvement of all interested parties has been encouraged and facilitated.

The NITC engages in collaborative processes, involving four advisory councils, the Technical Panel, and numerous workgroups and subcommittees. Additionally, information is publicly distributed and public input is encouraged through the NITC's website and through e-mail distribution. NITC staff also present information on NITC initiatives at conferences, workshops, and meetings across the state. The list of NITC Commissioners, council members, and Technical Panel members is included in this document.

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Active work groups and subcommittees over the past two years include:

- State Government Council—Security Architecture Work Group
- Technical Panel—Accessibility Work Group
- Technical Panel—Intergovernmental Data Communications Work Group
- GIS Council—Boundary Work Group
- GIS Council – Parcel Data Work Group
- Education Council—Network Nebraska Work Group
- Education Council—Digital Education Work Group
- Education Council—Network Nebraska Advisory Group

Additionally, the Rural Broadband Task Force has encouraged the input and involvement of interested parties through its subcommittees and by providing opportunities for public comment.

Infrastructure Innovation, Improvement and Coordination

Long-term infrastructure innovation, improvement, and coordination has been planned for, facilitated, and achieved with minimal barriers and impediments.

The NITC is addressing long-term infrastructure innovation, improvement, and coordination through Network Nebraska, by supporting the Rural Broadband Task Force, and by participating in the State of Nebraska's interagency working group which is coordinating federal broadband funding.

Network Nebraska. Network Nebraska has aggregated statewide telecommunications to a common infrastructure, generated considerable cost savings to public entities, and decreased the unit cost of Internet service by leveraging the consolidated demand of all participating entities. Since September 2003, Network Nebraska has grown to serve the data and Internet service needs of all state agencies with outstate circuits, the University of Nebraska's four campuses, all six of the state's community colleges, all three state colleges, and all but one of the 244 school districts under 17 different educational service units. The number of customers is expected to continue growing due to the favorable Internet rates and the high quality of service offered by Network Nebraska. The Network Nebraska K-20 network is one possible alternative for them to interconnect with each other and purchase less expensive Internet.

Network Nebraska has been made possible through a cooperative effort of the State of Nebraska Office of the CIO, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, with policy assistance from the Nebraska Department of Education, Public Service Commission, and the NITC. This partnership is known as the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP).

The first phase of the State multipurpose backbone became operational in September 2003, serving Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island with the second phase following in February 2004, extending service to Norfolk, Kearney, North Platte, and the Panhandle. In July 2008, the Network Nebraska K-20 backbone interconnected Grand Island, Lincoln, and Omaha, and Scottsbluff was added in 2012. The University of Nebraska has multiple statewide Internet contracts for Network Nebraska that have dramatically reduced the unit cost of Internet access to Network Nebraska participants. By leveraging Internet2 and InterExchange Carrier peering relationships, an additional 40 Gbps of Internet egress has been made available at substantially lower costs than commodity Internet.

Network Nebraska is not a state-owned network. Facilities are leased from private telecommunications providers in the state. In this way, the state hopes to stimulate private investment into Nebraska's telecommunications infrastructure.

Rural Broadband Task Force. LB 994, which was introduced by Senator Curt Friesen, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Ricketts on April 17, 2018, created the Rural Broadband Task Force. LB 994 charges the task force with reviewing “issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska.” Ed Toner, Chair of the NITC, serves as the chair of the Rural Broadband Task Force. The NITC is providing support to the Rural Broadband Task Force.

The Task Force submitted its second report to the Legislature and Governor Ricketts in October 2021. Since the first task force report was submitted in 2019, the State of Nebraska has implemented many of the task forces recommendations and has improved broadband availability and increased the accountability of telecommunications providers receiving state support. LB 388 which was enacted in 2021 established the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant Program. \$20 million a year for two years was appropriated for the program. The first round of grants were awarded in January and February 2022. Sixty-one grants were awarded totaling \$19.2 million to connect 12,640 locations. Awards for the second round will be announced in December 2022.

The establishment of a state broadband program has helped the State of Nebraska build the capacity to administer federal broadband funding made available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Awards and Recognition



Nebraska received a grade of “B” on the 2024 Digital States Survey.



The State of Nebraska received a \$600,000 State Digital Equity Planning Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The NITC/OCIO administered the grant in partnership with the Connect Nebraska Working Group.

EDUCATION COUICIL

POST SECONDARY

- Brandon Eckmann, Northeast Community College
- Dr. Derek Bierman, Doane University
- Nick Muir, Wayne State College
- Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan
- Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska–Omaha
- Tom Peters, Central Community College
- Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska
- Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System

K-12

- Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Community Schools
- Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Secondary School
- Dr. Ted DeTurk, Educational Service Unit 2
- Stephen Hamersky, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School
- Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools
- Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
- Elizabeth Kumru, Ralston Public Schools
- Gary Needham, Co-Chair, Educational Service Unit 9

NON-VOTING LIAISONS

- Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
- Vacant, Nebraska Department of Education
- Dr. Matthew McCarville, Office of the CIO, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services
- Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

GIS COUCIL

- Spencer Trowbridge, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Tim Erickson, Clerk of the Nebraska Legislature
- Charlie Lucas, Nebraska State Patrol
- Vacant, Representative of an Official Tribal Organization
- Ryan Werner, Department of Natural Resources
- Claire Inbody, Department of Transportation
- Jennifer Parmeley, Department of Health and Human Services
- Lesli Rawlings, Nebraska Geospatial Professional Association
- John Beran, State Surveyor
- Vacant, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Vacant, Nebraska Public Service Commission
- Dave Hattan, Office of the Chief Information Officer
- Doug Hallum, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Eric Herbert, Omaha Metro Area -Sarpy County GIS
- Vacant, Federal Agencies, Liaison for NE
- Jeff McReynolds, Member At Large, SSP Innovations
- Adam Miller, Lincoln Metro Area, City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska
- Vacant, Member at Large
- Nancy Salmon, Nebraska Association of County Officials - Hamilton County Commissioner
- Sean Kennedy, Nebraska Association of County Officials - Cass County GIS Coordinator
- Michael Schonlau, League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Matt Tinkham, Member at large - Professional Surveyors, Lamp Rynearson & Associates
- Chuck Wingert, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
- Don Linquist, Member at large Precision Agriculture Industry, Mitchell Implements
- Brandon Beethe, Department of Environment and Energy
- Timothy Cielocha, Public Power Districts, Nebraska Public Power District
- Barb Oswald, Property Tax Administrator, Department of Revenue

TECHNICAL PANEL

- Rick Haugerud, University of Nebraska Computing Services Network
- Kirk Langer, Chair, Lincoln Public Schools
- Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
- Remy Sydik, Assistive Technology, University of Nebraska
- Dr. Matthew McCarville, Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer