

Sent: 12 December 2005 00:07
To: IT Strategy Project Team
Subject: Shared Services Agenda

Socitm consulting

On behalf of the many clients of Socitm *consulting*, I would like to ensure we are included in any future implementation required to support this Agenda.

The Council for Science & Technology issued a paper about Better use of Personal Information last month – did your team read it? Is there any chance of some co-ordination at central government prior to public launch of documentation? It does a disservice to us all to continue to apply self fulfilling prophetic approaches to maintaining myths of madness and difficulty when it comes to all things "information" related.

At least the Shared Services Agenda proposition seeks to strip away the complexities and make it easier for everyone.

The CST paper states that there is an ..."Absence of vocal advocates for data-sharing to balance the minority of vocal objectors" – I'd like to put myself forward. Certainly Socitm itself have been doing their best to assist their membership in delivering e-government, now mutating into t-government – and this has an implicit requirement to manage information sharing through all the various departmental drives.

But I would urge that there be acknowledgement of the need to go back to basics when it comes to actually *creating* information in the first place – ownership, accountability, authorship etc. – the whole information lifecycle piece really needs to be grasped firmly, without yet more implementation of technology seeking to try and solve what are fundamentally inefficiency processes.

Presumably the Home Office advertising for a Chief Information Officer this summer, bodes well for the CIO Council at central government but as mentioned before, there really is a need to get a grip of initiatives at central government and be considerably more co-ordinated. The wider public sector is continually having to pick over the bones of all the various requirements to report on different elements with little or no cohesion....

Regards
Andrea

Andrea Simmons, CISM, CISSP, MBCS, CITP, BA, M.INSTIS
Principal Consultant
Socitm consulting