

State Data Center (SDC) Update – April 2012

The SDC program has been subject to significant changes over the past few months. Fiscal circumstances and changing strategic priorities caused us to pause in December in order to assess impacts and make adjustments.

Consolidated Technology Services (CTS) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) have worked together to reevaluate SDC strategies, scope, deliverables, and acquisitions. Much of that analysis is complete and plans have been realigned to match with the [state's new technology strategy](#). This update will explain how SDC projects will proceed forward.

Previous Scope and Strategies

Until December 2011, CTS was planning a large, multi-phased "Migration Project" to implement the state's IT consolidation and transformation strategies. The consolidation approach called for moving out of and decommissioning the OB2 data center; preparing SDC data hall 1 to receive OB2 equipment; and preparing data hall 2 for consolidating all of the other Thurston county data centers. The project also intended to enhance security and storage services and establish a new cloud computing "utility" service to facilitate the state's existing IT transformation plan.

Revised Scope and Strategies

In light of reduced budgets and a new state technology plan introduced by the OCIO, the SDC program has revised the scope of activities.

IT consolidation and transformation are still state goals, but the strategies and timelines to achieve them have changed considerably:

- Consolidation will happen over a longer period of time as individual agencies determine there is a strong business case to move.
- The SDC data hall 2 is now out of scope; only data hall 1 will be used for state computing systems.
- Necessary infrastructure will be installed "just in time" to accommodate new tenants in the SDC.

CTS is working in concert with the OCIO to flesh out the details, and we expect to further refine scope and deliverables as strategies become more defined.

CTS will continue to operate OB2 as a functional data center into the foreseeable future. That being the case, there are infrastructure issues in OB2 that must be addressed.

Existing equipment is generating more heat than the facility's cooling system was designed to handle. The situation is not critical, but neither is it acceptable for the long-term as it could result in a serious outage if a key cooling component fails.

To address the situation, the SDC program has refocused on reducing heat generation in OB2 to a manageable level. This includes moving most of the CTS-managed equipment out of OB2 and into the SDC, among other measures. A la carte areas will remain in OB2.

Incremental Project Timeline

Rather than a one-time, full-scale migration, the SDC program has configured activities into several key projects that will achieve incremental benefits:

- **OB2 Heat Reduction:** This project will reduce the amount of heat being generated in the OB2 data center. This involves working with OB2 customers to (a) identify equipment that can be shutdown now

or in the near future; and (b) put in place a process to shutdown less critical systems and equipment in the event of a major cooling system malfunction.

- **SDC Preparation - Facilities:** This project will focus on remaining work on SDC facilities infrastructure, physical security, access controls, and operational procedures.
- **SDC Preparation - Network Core:** This project will extend the core network to both OB2 and the SDC. A “just in time” approach will be used to prepare the data hall 1 network to support equipment and services moving from OB2. Data hall 2 is now out of scope.
- **Secure the SDC:** This project will move forward to replace aged and over-capacity firewalls and deliver enhanced data security services to both OB2 and the SDC.
- **Storage Optimization:** This project will move forward with replacing aged systems and optimizing the environment to reduce rates.
- **OB2 Risk Mitigation (CTS Move Phase 1):** This project will focus on moving selected CTS equipment that best alleviates the heat issue in OB2. Strategies for migrating mainframes and servers are still being discussed with the OCIO.
- **Washington State Patrol (WSP):** The project team is working with WSP to explore the possibility of moving some of their systems to the SDC. Any migrations will use a phased approach.

Other projects still in research or planning phases:

- **Cloud computing “utility”:** CTS is participating in an OCIO project to develop a statewide strategy for both private and public cloud computing. Still in research phase. No decisions yet on how CTS or other agencies will implement cloud infrastructure services.
- **Virtual Tape Library (VTL):** This project will facilitate mainframe migration to the SDC. It will also result in cost savings by eliminating physical tape systems and will reduce time to recover the mainframes in a disaster. The project is planned but not yet approved.
- **OB2 Risk Mitigation (CTS Move Phase 2):** This project will continue the heat reduction progress of Phase 1 by moving additional CTS equipment to the SDC. Project is still in early planning stage.
- **OB2 Data Center Optimization:** This project will reconfigure remaining equipment in OB2 to optimize airflow and cooling. This is in early planning stage - likely 2014-2015.

Out-of-Scope Activities

A few activities previously combined with the SDC project have been decoupled from the project. These include projects involving: Telephony (PBX project), Configuration Management Database (CMDB), and full-scale OB2 decommissioning.

Next Steps

The SDC Program staff is now actively working with service owners and project managers to update risk assessments, investment plans, and project charters. Our goal continues to be to make the best use of the SDC to achieve the transformational agenda the Governor has set out for us. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about the way forward.

Thanks!

Dan Mercer

State Data Center Manager