

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery by Chair Maggie Hassan
Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight Subcommittee Hearing:
Existing Resources and Innovations Needed to Replace Legacy IT and Save Taxpayer
Dollars
September 28, 2021**

Good afternoon, and welcome to our distinguished panel of witnesses – thank you for appearing today to discuss the resources and services available to agencies seeking to modernize their outdated and obsolete legacy IT systems.

There's lots to discuss today - how Congress can supplement these resources in order to accelerate modernization, hold agencies accountable to their modernization plans, and reduce the federal government's reliance on aging technology. Also critical here is, of course, ensuring that in all these efforts we are staying focused on saving taxpayer dollars.

This is critically important because we know that outdated technology fails to serve the American people and is insecure against sophisticated cyberattacks. It also wastes billions in taxpayer dollars every year due to poor procurement actions, improper payments, and expensive contractors needed to operate and maintain aging systems.

I would also like to thank Ranking Member Paul and his staff for working with me on this hearing and more broadly on our ongoing efforts to curb wasteful spending. Just last week, we introduced the 2021 edition of Acting on the Annual Duplication Report Act, which would implement recommendations made to Congress by the Government Accountability Office to eliminate wasteful duplication, fragmentation, and overlap across the federal government. I look forward to working with Ranking Member Paul and all of my colleagues to move that bill forward.

Today's hearing builds on a hearing this subcommittee held in April that focused on the issues holding agencies back from realizing significant cost savings, increased security, and greater service delivery by modernizing their systems. Today, we are asking, "How are agencies using existing tools and resources to transform their aging technology, and what can Congress do to fill the gaps that remain?"

At our previous hearing, former federal agency chief information officers and a Government Accountability Office expert on federal IT management discussed the costs and challenges that legacy IT systems present. We learned how detailed IT modernization plans are critical to an agency's long-term success in updating IT and budgeting for capital projects. We learned that funding mechanisms, such as the Technology Modernization Fund and agency working capital funds, need to be improved to accommodate multi-year modernization efforts. And most importantly, we learned about the impact that the federal government's aging IT infrastructure has on the American people.

Despite some challenges, agencies have a tremendous opportunity to modernize these outdated systems and, in turn, make government more effective and efficient. Over the course of the pandemic, we saw chief information officers across the government quickly equip their agencies

to work remotely. Congress and the Executive Branch have made more financial resources available to agencies to upgrade their IT systems than ever before. And there are programs and policies in place to assist agencies in taking their aspirations and turning them into achievements.

Lending their expertise and insights on what more we can do to address the challenges we face is our panel of accomplished witnesses, consisting of the Federal Chief Information Officer, the Administrator of the U.S. Digital Service, and the Director of Technology Transformation Services.

I look forward to hearing from all of you today about your work to assist agencies in reducing their reliance on costly, outdated, and obsolete technology.