

# Emerging Issues

June 24, 2014

## 1. Common E-mail for Legislators – Darrin McLean

This concept would enable legislators to utilize an enterprise-based e-mail system with a standard e-mail address. Currently, legislators use personal e-mail accounts to conduct legislative business. This can present many risks and issues, including the mixing of personal and official information and communications, the lack of a standard archiving solution, and difficulty in control and support. The Branch's IT department has the ability to provide a common e-mail solution with a standard e-mail address, which would be fully supportable. It would also enable legislators to utilize an archiving option for official e-mail and would separate personal business from work-related business.

## 2. Web Development Tools and Site Redesign – Steve Eller

The Branch's website foundational programming language has not been updated since 2000. It is showing its age and does not have many of the "normal" features and services found in a modern website – including modern government websites. The core technology used currently (classic ASP) has long been moved towards end of life by the vendor and is a dying technology in the industry. Recently the Branch's Web Content Coordinator, Andrew Franks-Ongoy, made a technology request for a redesign. A Business Case Analysis (BCA) will be developed to define the scope and scale of the project and will be presented to the Branch directors for review and approval.

## 3. Web Content Manager – Steve Eller

The Branch's website has grown significantly over the last 15 years. Currently there are approximately 75 database-driven pages, 3,250 managed pages, and 430,150 documents and static pages on the site. To date the Branch has used a simple, home-grown Content Management System (CMS). We have outgrown that and need an enterprise-based solution. One goal is to get the CMS in place so content contributors do not have to use our current software (Dreamweaver) to edit content. Right now our process poses a risk of a content contributor making a mistake that could affect other areas on the site than the contributor is responsible for. An enterprise CMS will give us the ability to deliver more uniformity for pages and links (navigation). In addition to this the CMS could help create and maintain responsive designed web pages to help make our website mobile friendly.

#### 4. Data Center Relocation – Mike Allen

The Legislative Branch's production network environment has been housed in the server room of the Capitol building since its inception and our disaster recovery servers have resided in the bunker next to the Capitol Building. We are currently working to relocate both environments. The production environment is slated to be moved to the Montana Data Center (MDC) and the disaster recovery servers are moving to the Miles City Data Center (MCDC). We are working closely with SITSD to complete contracts and identify support requirements and data connectivity configurations to accomplish these moves. The first move, which has already taken place, is the move of our disaster recovery servers to the MDC. This allowed us to move out of the bunker and provide a stable environment to update our equipment. The next step will be to move our production network environment to the MDC, which is scheduled to start on July 18 and should be completed by Aug 22. When this move is complete and stable, the disaster recovery servers will move to their permanent location at the MCDC in October. At that point, the only networked equipment left in the Capitol will be the video streaming and testing servers and the vote system.