



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

February 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS

FROM: James M. Cole 
Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT: Restrictions on Information Technology (IT) Spending

On October 5, 2011, I announced continued restrictions on non-essential spending and noted that my office would be looking at additional areas in which the Department can achieve savings, particularly through more effective delivery of enterprise/commodity IT services. The Department's budget continues to face significant pressures and such budget demands require us to work together to look for ways to cut redundancy in our IT spending. In fact, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has expressly directed departments and agencies to focus on eliminating duplication in their commodity IT services. *See OMB Memorandum M-11-29 "Chief Information Officer Authorities" dated August 8, 2011.* Technology is a key area where the Department is likely to be able to reduce expenditures without reducing functionality. We must take a fresh look at how we are spending our IT dollars and the most efficient and effective ways to utilize these funds Department-wide.

In the coming weeks, we will welcome a new Chief Information Officer (CIO), Luke McCormack, to the Department. The new CIO will be tasked with reviewing the overall way the Department manages IT projects and identifying ways to eliminate redundancies in our IT services. The new CIO will develop recommendations for improvement that will be presented to Department leadership. As we await the new CIO's arrival, components should continue to seek to identify ways to reduce IT spending, improve efficiency of existing IT projects and assess current IT investments. The new CIO will engage with the components on these issues in developing a plan for the Department.

In order to preserve the ability for the new CIO to do his job effectively, components should refrain from embarking on any new component development and/or replacement of standalone IT projects for commodity or enterprise applications, including issuing new contracts, new task orders, and new requests for proposals, until the new CIO has completed his review. This includes, but is not limited to, IT applications such as e-mail, case tracking, Human Resources systems and property systems. If there is an urgent component need, waivers may be applied for, but our goal is to begin a process of coordinating the Department's IT function enterprise-wide.

I appreciate your cooperation in this endeavor and believe that these steps will help us move forward in improving the Department's overall IT performance.