



Department of Administrative Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Matt Damschroder, Director

February 24, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Fraizer, Vice Chair Hall, Ranking Member Lightbody, and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee. My name is Ervan Rodgers and as Director Damschroder described, I serve in a dual role as both the State of Ohio's Chief Information Officer and Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

The DAS Office of Information Technology delivers statewide information technology and telecommunication services to State government agencies, boards and commissions, as well as policy and standards development, lifecycle investment planning, and privacy and security management.

Information technology powers the business of government. IT systems support State agencies in delivering vital services to the people of Ohio and serve as critical links with Ohioans seeking assistance to start or grow businesses, obtain services, and thrive in our state. The use of State technology assets to increase the well-being of Ohioans and their health, property, security, livelihood, and prosperity is essential.

With the signing of Executive Order 2019-15D in April 2019, Governor Mike DeWine established the enterprise focus on IT innovation. The goal is to make State government a more effective and efficient leader in using technology to provide a secure and improved customer experience. Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted are committed to improving the lives of citizens and state service delivery through innovative technologies and I work with them closely to make IT innovation a top priority.

InnovateOhio Platform

The InnovateOhio Platform (IOP) is the State's enterprise digital channel for identity and user experience solutions. Digital identity allows us to interact and build meaningful relationships with the citizens who use our services. Our innovative platform fuels digital transformation and provides State agencies with products, capabilities, and tools to streamline how they deliver their services. IOP services comply with federal and state information security standards and regulations, and accessibility guidelines. We're on a mission to provide Ohio's citizens, businesses, and workforce with a secure and private digital identity and an intuitive and interactive user experience. State government's greatest asset is data, and data analytics took center stage during the COVID-19 emergency, most notably with the development of coronavirus.ohio.gov, which showcased the State's proficiency with presenting and analyzing data. There are numerous factors impacting complex policy challenges that are not isolated to data collected by a single agency, such as the issues of opioid use and infant mortality. To support the Governor's priorities, the IOP is positioned for use across State government to enable and promote data sharing by providing a modern technology platform that can be leveraged by all State agencies.

Also of note is the [DataOhio Portal](#). Launched in December, the portal is the first of its kind in State technology and acts as an interactive window into Ohio's secured data-sharing platform. This public-facing portal displays the platform's public datasets and facilitates the request, approval, and delivery of secured datasets. With the ability to easily browse and

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view data, the Portal allows the public to access information with transparency and ease, thereby improving customer interactions with State agencies and institutions. “Made with Ohio Data” features project summaries containing research focused on data-driven projects, led by state agencies, and the outcomes that resulted from these projects.

The DataOhio Portal delivers:

- Increased transparency by expanding access to not just data owners, or those intimately familiar with the data, but providing ease-of-access to more people who can use the data
- An empowered public by putting data into the hands of key partners, local governments, researchers, media, and citizens
- Informed policy and State programs that better serve Ohio communities with actionable data and insights at their fingertips to drive meaningful action

The DataOhio Portal will continue to evolve as more State agencies, boards, and commissions onboard their data, ultimately becoming the one-stop shop for Ohio data.

Another important activity for DAS is the support of Lt. Governor Husted’s InnovateOhio program. InnovateOhio initiatives include developing a statewide broadband strategy to improve access to high-speed internet in urban and rural communities and improving information and data sharing techniques across agencies, boards, and commissions. Strong Ohio eWarrants and BMV customer experience are both priorities of the administration.

Cloud Initiative

Infrastructure is an important part of any IT endeavor and DAS’ Cloud Smart initiative ensures we can maintain a robust and secure infrastructure. The Cloud is a dynamic, cost-effective set of services and technologies from private and public clouds that will improve State operations and quality of services to Ohioans. The Cloud Smart initiative is also intended to have the long-term effect of preventing in the migration to the cloud what happened 20 years ago with the migration from mainframes to servers – a haphazard, disparate approach to storage and computing power. Cloud Smart creates governance and ensures agency-level adherence to security policies when migrating from on-premises capacity to the cloud.

The completion of this directive from the Governor’s Executive Order I mentioned earlier resulted in the migration of an additional 1,600 servers to the State’s central environment. This allows all agencies to benefit from lower volume-based rates for servers. Using a Cloud Smart mindset, DAS will support and guide agencies as they seek new approaches such as “Infrastructure as a Service” and “Platform as a Service” opportunities. The Department will also act as a broker of these services for state agencies with various cloud providers.

Collaboration

While we have centralized infrastructure and many shared services, state agencies still have their own IT shops and budgets to support their end users, application development, and other unique requirements. I was engaged in the recruitment and hiring of many of the agency CIOs in place today. We also have an engagement model in place to ensure that we are communicating and working closely together to further the strategic direction of state IT. I have a Technology Advisory Council which includes the CIOs of six state agencies and my leadership team. We meet on a weekly basis. They in turn lead a Technology Advisory Group made up of their peers in other agencies. We bring the entire group together every six weeks at our Multi-Agency CIO Council meetings. This recurring dialogue and collaborative planning approach ensure greater success for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the State's priority technology and innovation projects.

We are committed to modernizing interactions between the State and the public through technology and appreciate your partnership.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.