

*Federal Government Information Technology:  
Management, Security, and  
Congressional Oversight*

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Federal Government Information Technology:  
Management, Security,  
and Congressional Oversight



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
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# Foreword

The primary focus of this report is on the management, use, and congressional oversight of information technology in the Federal Government. Rapid advances in technology—such as microcomputers, computer networking, computer modeling, videoconferencing, and electronic information exchange—are generating many new applications, opportunities, and issues that warrant congressional attention.

The report addresses five major areas: 1) management of information technology, including strategic planning, innovation, procurement, and the information resources management (IRM) concept; 2) information systems security and computer crime; 3) information technology and decision support; 4) management of government information dissemination; and 5) opportunities for using information technology in conducting congressional oversight.

Prepared at the request of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice, this report is the second component of the OTA assessment of “Federal Government Information Technology: Congressional Oversight and Civil Liberties.” The first component, *Electronic Surveillance and Civil Liberties*, was published in October 1985. The third component, *Electronic Record Systems and Individual Privacy*, is forthcoming in 1986.

In preparing this report, OTA has drawn on working papers developed by OTA staff and contractors, the comments of participants at four OTA workshops on these topics, and the results of an OTA survey sent to over 140 agency units. Drafts of this report were reviewed by the OTA project advisory panel, officials from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, General Services Administration, and National Bureau of Standards; the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense (including the National Security Agency), Education, Interior, State, and Transportation; the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Justice), Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Archives and Records Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Veterans Administration; and a broad spectrum of interested individuals from other Federal agencies, the research community, and private industry.

OTA appreciates the participation of the advisory panelists, workshop participants, Federal agency officials who responded to OTA’S survey and/or provided review comments, and others who helped bring this report to fruition. The report itself, however, is solely the responsibility of OTA, not of those who so ably advised and assisted us in its preparation.

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