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The Roadmap for Renovation of Government Information Systems

RRGIS

Published On: 17 June 2014

Organisation: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)

Country: Japan

Level of government: Central government

Sector: General public services

Type: Digital, Organisational Design

Launched in: 2013

Overall development time: 7 months

Description

The roadmap for renovation of government information systems (RRGIS) was decided by the government of Japan in 2013. RRGIS shows all the renovation process of individual government information systems, e.g. consolidation of systems, system migration to the “Government Shared Platform” (GSP) which utilises cloud computing technologies etc.

The number of systems that can be estimated by using RRGIS was about 1,500 in the fiscal year (FY) 2012 and will be about 620 in FY 2018 (43% of the number in FY 2012). 250 systems on the “Government Shared Platform” (GSP) are treated as one system because they are sharing the same hardware.

The consolidation of systems and the transition to the GSP can strengthen the security of systems and can also reduce running costs due to economies of scale.

To ensure the migration of 250 systems, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) has developed and is operating the GSP which started to run in March 2013.

Why the innovation was developed

With the telecommunication development, online administrative services have increased. The number of government information systems and operation costs have risen. According to a survey for all government information systems (conducted in 2012), there exist many similar systems in local offices and many of which that can be integrated. This is why the IT platform for government ministries & agencies utilising cloud computing technologies (=GSP) has been developed. The RRGIS contributes to take a steady step towards each system’s renovation throughout the National Government.

Objectives

Improve access, Improve efficiency, Improve service quality, Improve user satisfaction, Other

- 50% reduction of the number of systems in FY 2018.
- Reduce the running costs of the systems.
- Strengthen the security of systems by using cloud computing technologies.

Main beneficiaries

General population, Government bodies, Government staff

All citizens who use public services that are provided by using government information systems.

Results

Effectiveness

- Our initiative, the RRGIS, is just getting started so absolute results are not yet available (because the target time of RRGIS is the FY 2021).
- In the process of deciding about the RRGIS, approximately 120 systems had already been consolidated etc. and the number of systems was about 1 360 when RRGIS was released.

Development

Design

- First, to develop the GSP a council was founded. The members included policy planning staff, scholars and industrialists.
- Keeping pace with designing the GSP, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) first surveyed the current situation of all government information systems.
- June 2013, Cabinet Decision: “Declaration to be the World’s Most Advanced IT Nation“ states that the number of existing information systems should be nearly halved by FY 2018.
- Based upon the Cabinet Decision, the MIC planned a proposal for the RRGIS.

Design time: 1 month

Testing

To progress smoothly with the system migration, the MIC followed the approach, “have a small baby and raise it to grow big” (at the beginning only a few systems were integrated into the GSP).

Implementation

Tools used:

- ICTs: GSP is a private cloud for the Japanese Government, utilising cloud computing, providing a platform (virtual server, hardware, operating system, middleware, security device, network, operation, facilities, equipment, etc.) and common functions.
- Management approaches: In May 2013, the function of a Government Chief Information Officer (CIO) was created by law. The CIO is responsible for:
  - The promotion of the Business Process Re-engineering (BPR).
  - Government-wide IT investment management ensuring that the IT investments contribute to the BPR.
  - Planning, drafting and promoting strategies for e-government.

Resources used:

- Staff: 15 people (to plan the RRGIS).
- Budget: About YEN 500 million (corresponds to EUR 3.5 million) in FY 2012 (in order to develop and operate the GSP just for a few systems).

Implementation time: 6 months

Challenges and solutions

Before developing RRGIS, we discussed with other ministries whether some systems can be consolidated (or migrated to GSP) or not. To coordinate with other ministries is the most serious challenge.

Partnerships

Chief Information Officer
Other Public Sector

We partnered with the Government Chief Information Officer (CIO) and his staff.

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

Before the planning of the Plan–Do–Check–Act (PDCA), it is important to know the facts about the object of the project. In our case, before planning the RRGIS, the survey for all government information systems was conducted.

Conditions for success

- To know the facts about the object of the project.
- To use effective technologies such as cloud computing.
- To take a steady step approach.