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architectureGOV 2006 – The Reality of Service-Oriented Architectures

Farmington Pennsylvania – May 22, 2006 One of the highlights of the program for architectureGOV 2006 was a panel discussion on the merits of service-oriented architecture use in the federal government. "Service-Oriented Architecture Governance: From Theory to Execution" was focused on demonstrating the current business drivers and technology issues relevant to a number of individual agencies and the intelligence community's various 'communities of interest'. The participants for this session included: George Thomas, Chief Enterprise Architect, General Services Administration; Beverly Hacker, Director, Enterprise Architecture, US Department of Housing and Urban Development; Suzanne Acar, Chief Data Architect, US Department of the Interior; Bryan Aucoin, Chief Architect and Clark Smith, Director, Technical Group, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

George Thomas led off the session by giving a brief on the technical issues that most organizations must overcome before beginning to implement SOA's. Expressing his opinion that SOA is not a replacement for enterprise architecture, Mr. Thomas said, "SOA is an *architectural style* that supports service orientation and web services." Beverly Hacker spoke to HUD's business drivers for SOA and the efficiencies that they expect to realize by the sharing of common services. Bryan Aucoin intimated that there are 3 major elements to SOA success, "...governance...a data architecture....and a data sharing architecture." Suzanne Acar talked about the Federal Data Reference Model and how it will assist federal IT managers in sharing information through an SOA. Clark Smith rounded out the session by speaking about the Information Sharing Environment, which is an effort to combat terrorism through coordinating the data collected by 16 disparate intelligence agencies. He stressed the importance of communities of interest by saying the key is to have "people working together from all levels and areas." He expressed that COI's are invaluable to expediting shared information projects that serve to foil terrorism. "Information Sharing is a strategy. Trust and elements of security need to be built in."

What was clear from the discussion is that SOA's hold a great deal of potential value to the federal IT community, in improving information sharing, security and efficiency. Work will continue to deal with the technical and procedural issues in making SOA a reality in the federal enterprise architecture.

About architectureGOV

Through an eclectic mix of keynote presentations, interactive think tanks, workshops and conference sessions, government's elite enterprise architects will offer proven methods and lessons learned in effective implementation and management of enterprise architecture. In addition, this forum will unite forward-thinking chief architects with leading industry executives in private executive meetings- enabling the officials to evaluate cutting-edge, results-based business solutions.

As the US Government is charged with creating a collaborative and interoperable state, **architectureGOV 2006** has been specifically designed to optimize time efficiency and effectiveness while providing EA officials with world-class information discourse.

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