

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Ehardt, Vice Chairman Wisniewski, Representatives Vander Woude, Horman, Scott, Amador, Armstrong, Furniss, Hartgen, Lickley, Young, Adams, Yamamoto (Yamamoto), Chew, Necochea, Nash

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Hartgen, Necochea, Nash

GUESTS: None

Chairman Ehardt called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Jeff Weak, Idaho Technology Services Administrator, presented on IT Modernization, with a brief update on cybersecurity in the state. Previously, 68 different state agencies were handling IT separately. With the IT Modernization plan, agencies were able to merge and improve services, simplify procedures, save money, and improve purchasing power. Phase III has stalled this year. It's taken time to hire during a global pandemic. Transitioning the states workforce to work from home, put planned projects on hold.

In answer to concerns, **Mr. Weak** explained that Information Technology Services (ITS) houses data for all ITS customers. It is only open to state personnel, and only data owners have access to the data base. Currently ITS uses a few artificial intelligence security processes, such as machine learning, but big data analytics artificial intelligence has not been used yet. AI will be used more in the future.

Covid-19 brought offices to homes, and extended security perimeters from a core network to houses. During this same time there was an increase in phishing scams for Covid-19. Almost half a million zoom accounts were sold on the dark web. SolarWinds, which is used to monitor networks, was compromised, and led to a hack in the network. ITS had to back out of all usage of that product. And recently, Microsoft Products had a zero-day attack. ITS spent a long weekend putting patches in to fix the exposed parts of the software. If it wasn't for the current IT modernization, agencies would not have had the resources to prevent, protect or solve the recent cyber-security threats.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Weak** shared how ITS has had discussions on developing talent to provide for future employees. They are working with multiple colleges and strategizing how to develop programs and certificates that would meet these goals. There will be a Cyber-security task force working with the colleges soon.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Maggie Price
Secretary