

TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT

Missouri Accountability Portal (MAP)

Office of Administration, Tier Technology

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Paul Buckley
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Donna Peterson

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Stacy Neal
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In 2006 Congress passed a law requiring a searchable web site for federal contracts and grants, which is to be operationable by the end of 2007. Five states: Kansas, Hawaii, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas enacted laws this year requiring state internet sites that can search government contacts, grants, and in some cases, other kinds of expenses according to Americans for Tax Reform, a low-tax advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

As part of his on-going efforts to capitalize on emerging technologies to improve state services and provide information to Missouri's citizens, Governor Matt Blunt commissioned the Missouri Accountability Portal (MAP) website.

A project team formed and launched a first of its kind website that allows citizens of Missouri to easily search a database of state expenditures, both by broad categories, by specific vendors and by contracts in order to see where their tax dollars are being spent. The data available at this website is updated nightly from the State of Missouri's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) tool known as SAM II, which includes the state's accounting system.

The team delivered a highly successful and well executed project in a very short timeframe – only two months. The MAP project started on May 1, 2007 and was available to the public on July 1, 2007. The team achieved in two months a transition from mainframe development skills to web development skills that often takes a year or more to accomplish. Kansas is working on a similar system and estimates it will take three years to implement and will cost approximately \$40 million in technology upgrades. (<http://www.stateline.org/live/printable/story?contentId=209153>).

MAP was accomplished in a very short time frame and was accomplished using existing state resources. "What Missouri has done is the most extensive, and it got there first," said Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist. Missourians can now easily search the new site to find information that previously required a sunshine law request.

For additional information on this team's accomplishment please contact Dan Ross at 573-526-7746 or at Dan.Ross@oa.mo.gov.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Department:

1. Project or team name.

Missouri Accountability Portal (MAP)

<http://mapyourtaxes.mo.gov/MAP/>

2. List the name of all team members, job titles and organization.

MAP Team Members

Carolyn Aggeler, MPM, CITS II, State Project Manager, OA, ITSD

Donna Peterson, MPM, CIT Manager, OA, ITSD

Brenda Fife, CIT III, OA, ITSD

John Berhorst, MPM, CITS I, OA, ITSD

Dwight Todd, CIT III, OA, ITSD

Amy Rayburn, CITS II, OA, ITSD

David Beard, CITS II, OA, ITSD

Chris Angerer, CITS I, OA, ITSD

Kent Hillman, CITS I, OA, ITSD

Alicia J. Weaver, PMP, Director of Enterprise Applications and Data Management, OA, ITSD

Patty Kersten, Consultant Project Manager, Tier

Stacy Neal, CPA, Financial Manager, OA, Division of Accounting

Lynn Cannon, CPA, Financial Reporting Manager, OA, Division of Accounting

Pat Bacon, Program Review Coordinator, OA, Division of Purchasing

Paul Buckley, Assistant Commissioner, OA, Commissioner's Office

Rich AuBuchon, Deputy Commissioner/Chief Counsel, OA, Commissioner's Office

3. Nomination category.

(Check *only one*)

☐

INNOVATION

☐

CUSTOMER SERVICE

☐

PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

☒

TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT

☐

EFFICIENCY

4. Why did you select this nomination category?

Governor Matt Blunt commissioned the MAP website as part of his ongoing efforts to capitalize on emerging technologies to improve state services and provide more information to Missouri's citizens. Please refer to Attachment A – Governor's Press Release

The Associated Press reported that Congress passed a law last year requiring a searchable Web site for federal contracts and grants, which is supposed to be operational by the end of the year. Five states--Kansas, Hawaii, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas--enacted laws this year requiring state Internet sites that can search government contracts, grants and-- in some cases--other kinds of expenses, according to Americans for Tax Reform, a low-tax advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. Blunt authorized the Missouri site through an executive order. Please refer to Attachment B – Executive Order.

"What Missouri has done is the most extensive, and it got there first," said Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist. Please refer to Attachment C – Associated Press Release.

II. BACKGROUND

1. When did the team begin?

1 May 2007

2. When did the team implement this project?

The website was released into production on 30 June 2007 and became available to the public 11 July 2007 after the Governor signed the Executive Order

3. How long has the project been implemented?

☒ 0 - 3 Months

☐ 4 - 6 Months

☐ 7 - 9 Months

☐ 10 - 12 Months

☐ 12 or more

☐ On-going Project

III. RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENT

1. What did the team accomplish? *(Use specific data and examples to identify accomplishments and whom benefited: i.e. agency, division, department, citizens, individuals, etc. Information must be included for nomination to be considered for GAQP.)*

The team launched a first of its kind website that allows the citizens of Missouri to easily search a database of state expenditures, both by broad categories, by specific vendors and by contracts in order to see where their tax dollars are being spent. The data is updated nightly from the State of Missouri's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) tool known as SAM II. SAM II includes the state's accounting system.

"Missourians deserve openness in state spending," Blunt said in his press release. "We must be transparent. These dollars belong to the people of our state. We can use technology to allow Missourians to better see how their tax dollars are being used."

The portal is one of the first comprehensive searchable databases of financial records based on real-time data in the nation.

2. Which of the following describes the benefits of the accomplishment? (Check all that apply and provide an explanation)

☒ cost reduction

☒ time savings

☒ improved process

☐ other: describe

Through consolidation and the creation of the Information Technology Services Division, the MAP website was established within existing state resources. The Missouri Accountability Portal is organized such that there are three easy ways to find information: Search by Category, Search by Vendor, and Search by Contract. The website allows the public to enter the name of a company or a contract number to see cumulative payment data by fiscal year. The web site

provides links to other web sites containing detailed information related to Missouri vendors and contracts. Missourians can now easily search the new site to find information that previously required a sunshine law request to obtain thereby reducing costs and time delays associated with such types of requests.

Kansas is working towards implementing a similar system. The estimated cost is approximately \$40 million in technology upgrades and it will not be available until three years from now.
<http://www.stateline.org/live/printable/story?contentId=209153>

III. RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENT (continued)

3. Explain how the accomplishments of the team are beyond regular duties and responsibilities (150 words or less).

The project team delivered a highly successful and well executed project in a very short timeframe—only two months. And during that time the project team needed to learn new skills and established a new technical environment. The team achieved in two months a transition of development skills that often takes a year or more to accomplish. The core MAP team members support the State of Missouri's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) tool known as SAM II. SAM II is developed in a COBOL Mainframe environment. In order to deliver this MAP website, the project team was required to learn web development skills on the job with the mentoring of senior consultants from Tier. The project team also established new technical environments that can be used by subsequent web projects.

IV. MEASUREMENT/EVALUATION

1. Explain how the team measured and evaluated this project (Describe in detail the process and results).

The MAP team measured the delivery of information to citizens through rigorous performance and load testing. The website is able to process millions of records spanning the fiscal years since 2000 within seconds or even sub-second response time.

2. Are the benefits derived from this project: (Check only one.)

☒ Recurring ☐ One-time

3. Please explain in 300 to 500 words.

The MAP web site gives Missourians the ability to investigate government spending online, thereby providing them with a tool to take a more active role in demanding fiscal discipline. Through this new web site, the public can readily access information about Missouri government spending. The more Missourians know how their tax dollars are being spent, the more they can help eliminate wasteful spending and make government more efficient.

The MAP web site is anticipated to include a searchable database of state employee salaries—the information currently published on paper in the biennial "Official Manual of the State of Missouri."—and Tax Credit information from the Department of Economic Development in the near future.

V. RECOGNITION/AWARDS

1. Has this project ever been nominated for the Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity? If yes, when?

No.


2. If yes, for which category was it nominated?

N/A

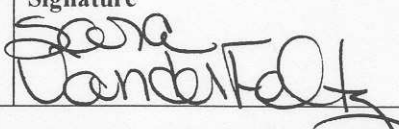
3. Has this project received any other awards or recognition in the past? If yes, describe.

No.

VI. NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION**NOMINATING DEPARTMENT****Office of Administration, Information Technology Services Division**

Name	Signature	Telephone Number	E-Mail Address
Dan Ross, CIO		573.526.7746	Dan.Ross@oa.mo.gov

VII. DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR INFORMATION**DEPARTMENT****Office of Administration, Information Technology Services Division**

Name	Signature	Telephone Number	E-Mail Address
Sara Vanderfelz		751-0357	Sara.Vanderfelz@oa.mo.gov

VIII. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR APPROVAL

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S NAME	DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE*
Michael Keathley	

Nomination must be signed ONLY by the Department Director to be eligible for consideration.
Nominations not signed by the Department Director will be returned.

ATTACHMENT A

Governor's Press Release

<http://www.gov.mo.gov/press/MAP071107.htm>

Missouri Governor **Matt Blunt**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Contact: Jessica Robinson, 573-751-0290

Blunt Shines the Light on State Spending With New Internet Site

New Portal Provides Missourians with a Map of Their Tax Dollars

JEFFERSON CITY—Gov. Matt Blunt today signed an executive order launching the Missouri Accountability Portal (MAP), a free, Internet-based tool that provides easy to use data about state spending. The new site will help ensure that state government is accountable to its citizens.

"Missourians deserve openness in state spending," Blunt said. "We must be transparent. These dollars belong to the people of our state. We can use technology to allow Missourians to better see how their tax dollars are being used. Whether it is more than a half of a billion dollar increase to education or important investments in our state's future, the Missouri Accountability Portal will provide Missourians with up-to-date information to track the use of their tax dollars."

The Missouri Accountability Portal is one of the first comprehensive searchable databases of financial records based on real-time data in the nation. The portal, as its acronym MAP implies, provides citizens a map to their tax dollars.

The MAP site was established within existing state resources and is updated at the close of each business day to provide up-to-date access to information about state spending, allowing citizens to demand fiscal discipline and responsibility. Users can search the MAP site by budget category, vendor or contract. Links to other public information maintained by the state are also available on the MAP site. In addition, state employees' salaries will be listed in a searchable database beginning January 1, 2008.

Blunt launched the site as part of his ongoing efforts to capitalize on emerging technologies to improve state services and provide more information to Missouri's citizens. Earlier this year he unveiled the Missouri Business Portal, a one-stop-shop that connects small business owners with state government resources based on their inquiries and interests.

Blunt encourages Missourians to visit the MAP site at <http://mapyourtaxes.mo.gov>. A link to the MAP site can also be found on the governor's Internet site at <http://gov.missouri.gov/index.htm>.

[Governor's Office Home Page](#) | [State Government Home Page](#)

ATTACHMENT B

Executive Order

RECEIVED & FILED

EXECUTIVE ORDER
07-24

JUL 11 2007

Robin Carnahan
SECRETARY OF STATE
LEGISLATION DIVISION

WHEREAS, the mission of Missouri state government is to provide essential services to Missouri citizens; and

WHEREAS, this mission requires state agencies to procure goods and services and disburse funds to eligible recipients; and

WHEREAS, Missouri state government must be accountable to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2006, President Bush signed the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act creating an internet site for the public to freely search and access information about government spending, grants, and contracts; and

WHEREAS, it is equally important for Missourians to know how Missouri state tax dollars are spent; and

WHEREAS, open access to government spending will reduce costs and promote efficiency in Missouri state government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matt Blunt, Governor of the State of Missouri, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Missouri, do hereby order as follows:

The Commissioner of Administration shall establish the Missouri Accountability Portal as a free, internet-based tool allowing citizens to demand fiscal discipline and responsibility.

The Missouri Accountability Portal shall be an easy-to-search database of financial transactions related to the purchase of goods and services and the distribution of funds for state programs.

The Missouri Accountability Portal shall be updated each state business day and maintained as the primary source of information about the activity of Missouri's government.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have hereunto set my hand and
caused to be affixed the Great
Seal of the State of Missouri, in
the City of Jefferson, on this
11th day of July, 2007.

Matt Blunt

Matt Blunt
Governor

ATTEST:

Robin Carnahan

Robin Carnahan
Secretary of State

ATTACHMENT C

Associate Press Release

New Internet site lets people search Missouri expenses

By David Lieb

The Associated Press

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) _ From utility to hotel bills, the curious now have an easier way to see how Missouri is spending its tax dollars.

Missouri launched an Internet site Wednesday that allows people to search a database of expenditures both by broad categories and by specific businesses and individuals. It's updated after the close of business each day _ a feature that Gov. Matt Blunt's office claims makes it one of the first of its kind nationally.

For example, a simple search shows the state spent \$70 million on fuel and utilities during the 2007 fiscal year, which ended June 30. A more-detailed search shows half of that was for electricity. And further detail shows about half of those electricity payments went to St. Louis-based Ameren Corp.

Through the first 10 days of its new fiscal year, the state already has spent \$249,675.89 on utilities and fuel. A further search can break that down by recipients.

Five states _ Kansas, Hawaii, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas _ enacted laws this year requiring state Internet sites that can search government contracts, grants and _ in some cases _ other kinds of expenses, according to Americans for Tax Reform, a low-tax advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

Congress also passed a law last year requiring a searchable Web site for federal contracts and grants, which is supposed to be operational by the end of the year.

Blunt authorized the Missouri site through an executive order.

"What Missouri has done is the most extensive, and it got there first," said Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist.

Missouri's Internet site also can be used to draw comparisons. For example, Missouri's fuel and utility costs for the past two years were 12.5 percent higher than the average for the five years before that.

The site is dubbed the Missouri Accountability Portal, or MAP _ an acronym intended to suggest it provides a map to how tax dollars are spent.

"Missourians deserve openness in state spending," Blunt said in a written statement announcing the site. "We must be transparent."

Users of the Internet site can search for money paid to a particular vendor, which because of the state's classification system includes expense reimbursements to state employees.

Type in the vendor name "Blunt" and one of the recipients is "Matthew R. Blunt," the governor. The Internet site shows he was paid \$156.79 last fiscal year for out-of-state meals while traveling.

Blunt's likely gubernatorial challenger is Attorney General Jay Nixon. A search under that name reveals that a "Jay Nixon" was paid \$1,151.48 for travel last fiscal year for in-state and out-of-state lodging, meals and transit.

The Internet site does not list the specific businesses where Blunt, Nixon and others ate or slept.

By Jan. 1, the Internet site also is to include a searchable database of state employee salaries _ information currently published on paper in the biennial "Official Manual of the State of Missouri."