



Message from the outgoing Cluster Manager

Michelle Carden

Welcome to the July 2012 Newsletter. This is my last newsletter as Cluster Manager. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Michael Phillips, the new Cluster Manager. Michael has almost 30 years in senior APS and private sector government-related ICT roles, so I expect he will be well-placed to drive the Cluster's activities moving forward.

A central theme for the eGovernment Cluster is to be a catalyst for ICT innovation within Australian Public Administration and as such we were pleased to provide sponsorship for three Innovation Week events GovHack (1-3 June), GovCamp (5 June) and GovJam (6-7 June). I worked as volunteer and judge to a number of government data sets to see if they can "hack" up some interesting applications. Working over the weekend I was completely amazed at both the dedication of the hackers, but also the quality of outcomes. I was particularly impressed with a teacher/student team from Canberra Grammar School that did a great visualisation of rainfall statistics. I was also pleased to present the best Open Government Prize on behalf of sponsors AGIMO, the ACT Government and the Australian eGovernment Cluster to Darren Reid and Adam Baxter from the Weathered Oak team. The team created an API for the ACORN Sat historical weather data - a data set provided by the Bureau of Meteorology containing temperatures from many Australian weather stations from approximately 1900 to December last year. The team turned the data set into a modern database enabling access for developers in a format that is easy to use (a RESTful API). To read more about their work please see <http://www.govhack.org/2012/06/02/weatheredoak/>

As this is my final newsletter, I would like to reflect that when I started 18 months ago we had no participants in the cluster and no permanent steering committee. We now have 80 participating companies and government organisations. One such company is Cocoon Data. There is an interview from Andrew McCauley, from Cocoon Data in this newsletter. We also have a vibrant Steering Committee consisting of

Upcoming Events

6th Annual Technology in Government & the Public Sector Summit

Hyatt Hotel, Canberra, 13-14 August 2012

For more information and to register for this event, please [click here](#)

Annual Event FutureGov Summit Australia

*National Convention
Centre, Canberra, 18-19 September, 2012*

For more information and to register for this event, please [click here](#)

The Australian Innovation Challenge Awards 2012

18 June - 12 August, 2012

For more information and to register for this competition, please [click here](#)

Big Data Analytics

Melbourne 28 - 29 August, 2012

For more information and to register for this event, please [click here](#)

representatives from federal and state government as well as representatives from multinationals and SME's.

From July, I will be handing over the Cluster's operations to Michael and concentrating on my role within NICTA as the Director of its Security and Environment Business Team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the cluster and steering committee members for their support over the last 18 months and to wish Michael, Ana and the Cluster all the best for the future.

Best wishes,

Michelle

Featured Member



Andrew McCauley, Head of Defense and Government, Cocoon Data

Why did you join the cluster?

We joined the cluster to gain a better idea of the issues that government are trying to solve around security, to network with other technology organizations involved in solving security problems in government and to meet with government people who are looking for solutions to these issues.

What problem does your technology solve for government?

Cocoon Data secures data being transferred between networks and 'the cloud'. It manages encryption, key management, access control and rights' management and provides an elemental and process audit (access and activity) trail on all data. The core technology of Secure Objects incorporating Secure Envelopes Version 1.5.1 has achieved a Common Criteria certification (accepted security standard in 26 countries in the world) of EAL 4+ from DSD (Defence Signals Directorate).

The technology solves security issues in areas like: communication by email, mobility and data storage. In this context, Verizon (a supplier of telecommunications services to Federal Government for nearly 10 years) has chosen Cocoon's Secure Mail product to replace Sigaba Gateway (an email gateway that enables organisations to implement email security) on all their Federal Government gateways.

In addition, the Attorney General's Office and the Australian Taxation Office have selected Cocoon Data's technology hosted by Verizon to provide secure collaboration for the HOCLEA Group (Heads of Commonwealth Law Enforcement Agencies).

What, in your view, are the hot technology topics in government at the moment?

The 'hot' technology topics for government at the moment are revolving around security of data management and data access. The government agencies are concerned about data transfer particularly outside Fedlink (encryption tool used in Government's communication). They also focus on issue like: managing the expanding mobility platforms and securing their access to government networks and desktop data storage and audit.

What is the biggest impediment or frustration you have found working with government?

Major frustrations in dealing with Government are identifying and gaining access to decision makers and the length of time to obtain a decision. For an SME such as Cocoon Data there is a requirement that it has to work through a major System Integrator to complete a sale which adds further complexity to the process.

Featured Events

GovHack Canberra & Sydney 1-3 June 2012 & GovCamp Canberra 5 June 2012



GovHack - Award Ceremony Image courtesy of Gavin Tapp

GovHack and GovCamp Canberra were held on 1-3 June and 5th of June respectively. They were part of the Innovation Week which promoted innovation in the Australian Public Sector with **eGovernment Cluster** among the sponsors of the events.

GovHack was held on 1-3 June simultaneously in Canberra and Sydney and brought together almost 45 teams competing for \$40,000 in money and grants. The teams worked to create the best new mashups, applications and data visualisations. GovHack was about finding new ways to do great things and encouraging open government and open data.



GovCamp workshop - Image courtesy of Gavin Tapp

GovCamp was opened with Leading Case Studies on Public Sector Innovation and Gov 2.0 and with an Academic Panel. The event continued with workshops ("Unconferences") like "How to Block Innovation" and "Bang the Table". The workshops gave an opportunity to Government officials and academics to discuss challenges and opportunities for innovation in the Australian Public Sector.

Key issues discussed were around building sustainable and solid software platforms, collaboration between academics

and government, collaboration between agencies in managing data sets and software systems, fear of failure as a major obstacle for innovation in Government, measuring innovation, spatial (location) data as key information for all data sets etc.

Best of GovHack Canberra 27 June 2012

The Best of GovHack showcased some of the prize winners from GovHack. The winning teams presenting and their projects were:

Code Cadets, a team from Canberra Grammar Schools which developed an App that provides visual representation of the past 10 years of rainfall. **History in Action** team developed a website which allows Canberra's visitors their own personalised bus tour exploring the city's rich history. **The Capitalist** team created Ok Capital website which brings individuals who lost their job together with *the city they were destined to live in*. **Matrix Mania** team summarised over 55,500 data observations from the Bureau of Meteorology into a single picture. **2 Guys 1 App** created the Open Budget online tool for a clear visualisation of the Budget expenditure and **Null Reference** team created the best API (Application Programming Interface) development for government data sets.



Featured Staff Member

Michael Phillips New Manager of eGovernment Cluster



We welcome Michael to the role. He started on 03 July 2012. Michael has tertiary qualifications in Surveying, Computing and Public Administration. He has had a varied and extensive career to date. He started work as a field surveyor then moved into a computing/systems design role in the early days of computing within federal government. He was selected for accelerated development and during this period held roles including Executive Officer to an Agency head; a 12 month interchange with Lend Lease; and as a lead consultant working directly to an Agency head on a range of critical federal administration issues.

From there Michael held a number of senior APS policy and operational roles culminating in him taking the lead for the commercialisation of his host agency in preparation for full privatisation. Michael then left the APS to join the private sector – where he has been up to now. There he has held both senior management and business development roles in Telstra, Lexmark and most recently Fujitsu. At Fujitsu Michael has been responsible for securing and running one of the company's largest contracts involving the on-going deployment of approximately 600 personnel in support of Defence ICT.

Proudly supported by NICTA and the ACT Government

Key Contacts

Cluster Manager

Michael Phillips

michael.phillips@nicta.com.au

Cluster Coordinator

Ana Belgun

ana.belgun@nicta.com.au

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook!

Twitter: [@eGovCluster](#)

Facebook: 'Like' our [page](#)

