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Introduction

The Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) is responsible for the establishment of information technology (IT) policy and planning, for IT procurement and contracts, and for providing the computing and telecommunications infrastructure for all information systems technologies within state government. The Legislature has tasked ITS with providing statewide services that facilitate cost effective information technology and telecommunication solutions that can be shared with all state agencies. For FY 2018, ITS operated as a General Fund agency and received an appropriation from the Mississippi Legislature to provide IT services to state agencies.

ITS is composed of four service areas, an internal services division, and a governing board. The ITS Board is made up of two distinct components. First, five lay members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to serve five-year, staggered terms. Second, there are two non-voting legislative advisors representing each house who are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House.

This report reflects the continuing evolution of the ITS mission and the activities conducted by this organization for the Fiscal Year 2018 (July 2017 - June 2018).
ITS Vision

Technology for Tomorrow, Delivered Today

ITS Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) is to provide trusted information technology and telecommunications leadership and services that offer proven, cost-effective solutions to all stakeholders in Mississippi government.

ITS Core Values

- We are unified in our purpose and vision for success: to collaborate with our partner agencies to use information technology to achieve their business goals.
- Our goals and objectives are clearly defined organizationally and in concert with those of our partner agencies. Moreover, our roles and responsibilities are clearly defined whether within and between work teams or with partner agencies.
- We select relevant metrics to monitor progress and ensure accountability. We communicate clearly and often with our partner agencies, all other stakeholders, and internally.
- We are disciplined, consistent, and progressive in maximizing and optimizing IT solutions that we provide or facilitate.
- We work with state agencies and institutions to explore emerging technologies and to set policies, standards, and guidelines.
- We earn the confidence and trust of employees, customers, and government officials through the competent and timely delivery of IT services and solutions.
- We demonstrate respect for customers and each other through active listening and attentive follow-through.
- We communicate effectively on both an executive and technical level, to identify potential opportunities for information technology in the state.
- We collaborate as partners with customers, vendors, and each other to promote an environment that leads to continuous improvement of government services.
- We communicate decisions clearly and promptly, providing a rationale that reflects both the customer’s business need and that of the state to ensure a robust and reliable IT infrastructure.

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We provide superior enterprise IT solutions to effectively support the state’s business functions.

- We carefully evaluate, test, and implement cost-effective, state of the art solutions that meet or exceed our customers’ expectations.
- We recruit and develop skilled technical professionals who work comfortably with our customers and across disciplines with their peers.
- We provide opportunities for continuous learning to our employees and support them in applying the knowledge gained.
- We create opportunities with customers and vendors to advance learning, improve performance, and promote collaboration in delivering IT to state government.
Strategic Master Plan Activities

Each year, ITS publishes the State of Mississippi Strategic Master Plan for Information Technology and the State of Mississippi Architecture and Technology Infrastructure Plan. Both documents are used by various state entities to assist in planning future technology endeavors. The Master Plan outlines technology initiatives and the three-year direction for the state, while the Architecture and Technology Infrastructure Plan, outlines similar initiatives in a two-year timeframe from an enterprise technology asset perspective. These publications may be viewed online at [www.its.ms.gov/publications](http://www.its.ms.gov/publications). The following FY 2018 divisional accomplishments, in combination with the Master Plan and the Architecture and Technology Infrastructure Plan, empower ITS to better serve state agencies, institutions, and governing authorities.

Data Services

- Partnered with the Department of Finance & Administration in developing RFP specifications to replace the legacy IBM zEC12 platform. The new system is built on IBM’s z14 architecture for improved security, redundancy, and performance in support of MAGIC.
- Partnered with the Department of Finance & Administration to establish a shared colocation area within the Ancillary Data Center. The new colocation space will house the secondary systems for improved disaster recovery capabilities for MAGIC and other critical applications.
- Decommissioned the Mississippi Electronic Courts’ (MEC) application from the IBM z114 mainframe environment. MEC migrated the Courts application to the state’s shared virtual environment as part of their modernization project and for improved performance.
- Decommissioned Velocity Monitoring Software on all z114 z/VM LPARS. Data Services continues to evaluate its software inventory for need, relevance, and alternatives to optimize licensing and costs.
- Completed critical upgrades to the Virtual Systems Environment for greater efficiency and security. These upgrades include the following:
  - Redundant vCenter servers
  - Veeam backup software
  - VMware Configuration Manager
  - VMware Update Manager
ESXi and vSphere

- Completed virtual tape grid for TS7720 system. The new grid provides for one system to be located at Primary Data Center with a clone being located at the Ancillary Data Center for disaster recovery purposes.
- Completed mirroring function of DASD data across the DS8886 system. This mirroring allows for one system to remain at the Primary Data Center while installing the second system at the Ancillary Data Center for improved disaster recovery capabilities.
- Completed annual disaster recovery test. This test included cooperation with the Department of Human Services, Department of Finance and Administration, MEC, and Mississippi Department of Health.

Information Systems Services

- Provided the state with technology consultants possessing technical and project management skills to assist agencies and public universities in information technology projects.
- Filled key roles in multiple innovative and mission critical technology projects for state government. Examples include:
  - Partnered with the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to implement the next generation of eGovernment services;
  - Maintained a procurement vehicle for temporary technology consulting services available for use by state agencies, public universities, and other governmental entities; and
  - Procured technology support for cabling, telecommunications, and computer equipment for over 60 construction projects under the coordination of the DFA’s Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management.
- Developed web enabled applications utilizing Microsoft.NET. Examples include: Mississippi Auctioneer Commission Online Renewals, Mississippi Department of Health – Water Operator Online Renewals, Mississippi Department of Human Services ‘Find A Child Care Provider’ - online search; Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapists - Online Massage Therapist Provider Initial Application, Online Massage Therapist Provider Renewal, Online Massage Therapist Initial Application, and Online Massage Therapist Renewals.
- Supported web enabled and client applications in two primary environments: Microsoft.NET and JAVA. Examples include: Mississippi Board of Public Accountancy - Online and Backend Licensing Applications; Mississippi Real Estate Appraisal Board - Online and Backend Licensing Applications; Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce - Market Bulletin, Pesticide Permitting, and Seeds Registration Online Applications; Mississippi Department of Banking & Consumer Finance - Banking & Credit Union Compliance Application, National Mortgage Licensing Application, and Consumer Licensing Application; Mississippi
Board of Dental Examiners - Online and Backend Licensing Applications; Mississippi Board of Engineers and Surveyors - Online and Backend Licensing Applications; Mississippi Ethics Commission - Online Statement of Economic Interest; Mississippi Department of Education - Vocational Education and Workforce Application; Mississippi Home Inspector Board - Backend Licensing Application; Mississippi State Department of Health - Online Professional License Renewals; Mississippi State Department of Health - Child Care Licensing System; Mississippi Department of Human Services - Child Care Payment System; Mississippi Board of Massage Therapy - Online and Backend Licensing Application, Student Inquiry Application, and Subscription Service; Mississippi Department of Public Safety - Driver’s License Renewals, E-Citation, Kiosk Web Services, and Driver’s License Verification Web Service; Mississippi Board of Social Workers and Marriage & Family Therapists - Online and Backend Licensing Application; Mississippi Real Estate Commission - Backend Licensing Application, Mississippi Auctioneer Commission- Online and Backend Licensing Applications; Mississippi Department of Health – Water Operator Online and Backend Licensing Applications.

- Developed, redesigned and/or supported the following websites: Mississippi Board of Tax Appeals; Mississippi Real Estate Appraisal Board; Mississippi Real Estate Commission; Mississippi Home Inspector Board; Mississippi Board of Engineers and Surveyors; Mississippi Board of Chiropractic Examiners; Mississippi Board of Dental Examiners; Mississippi Ethics Commission; Mississippi Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportionment; Mississippi Board of Massage Therapy Roster; and Mississippi Board of Social Workers and Marriage & Family Therapists.

- Provided primary Local Area Network (LAN) and desktop support for ITS employees.

- Managed the Statewide Cellular Master Agreement for purchase of cellular devices and services by state agencies, public universities, and local governmental entities.

- Staffed the ISS Procurement Help Desk during business hours to respond to customer and technology vendor questions on the procurement process.

- Produced multi-use procurement instruments for routine technology acquisitions, with associated savings of time and money for both customers and technology vendors:
  - Express Products Lists (EPLs) - The EPLs are published awards to multiple vendors compiled from evaluating responses received to Request for Proposals (RFPs). Information Systems Services (ISS) also works with major software companies to negotiate license agreements that provide access to best pricing by leveraging the total purchase volume for the state.

  **EPLs published in FY 18:**
  - Hardware
  - 2-Way Radios
  - Software: Adobe, Attachmate, Citrix, Computer Associates, Corel, EMC, IBM- Lotus Passport, Novell, McAfee, Symantec, Microsoft, and other manufacturer’s software licenses, support, and training
  - Apple Products
  - E-911 PSAP Equipment
  - Cabling Materials and Labor
General RFPs - General RFPs are issued for frequently needed hardware, software, and services that cost more, are more complex, or are more specialized than those on the EPLs. Special RFPs are multi-use RFPs developed for a particular customer base and/or technology.

General RFPs for FY 18:
- Inside-Outside Cabling
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Telephone Equipment and Services
- IT Consulting Services

- Assisted agencies and public universities in technology planning activities.
- Developed and published business cases for information technology projects presented to the ITS Board.

Security Services

- Maintained the State of Mississippi Enterprise Security Policy (ESP). Continued work to align the ESP with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework, the security controls defined in the 800 series of publications by NIST, the recommendations in the National Governor's Association (NGA) Call to Action for Cybersecurity paper, and the Center for Internet Security (CIS) Critical Security Controls for Effective Cyber Defense.
- Maintained a partnership with a third-party forensics firm capable of assisting ITS resources in reducing the timeframe required to respond in the event of a major cybersecurity incident.
- Migrated all static IP addresses for Internet facing servers on the Enterprise State Network and required those connections to proxy through the enterprise reverse proxy managed by ITS.
- Maintained a one-year subscription for a CIS SecureSuite Membership that provides all state agencies access to vendor agnostic, consensus-based best practices to help agencies assess and improve their security posture.
- Maintained a vulnerability management program that includes identifying and remediating security vulnerabilities on all ITS managed systems.
- Gathered and disseminated cybersecurity threat and vulnerability information to Mississippi government entities.
- Hosted Security Council Meetings for all state agencies in order to provide education and awareness, identify cybersecurity related issues, set future direction for cybersecurity plans and policy, and offer a forum for inter-agency communication regarding cybersecurity.
- Managed core security operations including perimeter firewall and Intrusion Prevention System (IPS), State Data Centers firewalls and IPS, secure remote
access, authentication systems, and security incident and event management system.

- Maintained a security awareness program that included cyber awareness resources via the ITS website and social media, coordinated awareness training for ITS staff, provided awareness training opportunities and materials to state agencies, and gave cybersecurity awareness presentations to Mississippi government entities.
- Implemented an enterprise computer-based cybersecurity awareness and education training solution to be used by state agencies. The solution includes all the training, tools, guidance, and support to simply and effectively improve the cybersecurity awareness state government employees.
- Promoted Cybersecurity Awareness Month throughout state government by working with the Governor's Office to sign a proclamation declaring October 2017 as National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, created a webpage on the ITS website containing security awareness information, and distributed cybersecurity-themed awareness information to government and educational entities.
- Co-hosted a Cybersecurity Summit with Mississippi Office of Homeland Security and the Office of the State Auditor with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity. All Mississippi government entities were invited to attend.
- Coordinated and promoted a Cybersecurity Poster Contest for K-12 schools in Mississippi. The contest was designed to increase the cybersecurity awareness of children across the state. All public, private, and homeschooled students in Kindergarten - 12th grades in Mississippi were eligible to participate in the contest.
- Utilized the ITS website to promote security awareness. The web page includes resources such as monthly cybersecurity newsletters, the State of Mississippi Enterprise Security Plan, the State of Mississippi ESP, security procurement contracts, security alerts, and links to the latest security-related news. The web page also contains security awareness information, security news articles, and educational opportunities.
- Maintained cybersecurity focused relationships with state and federal entities including Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, Mississippi Fusion Center, Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), Mississippi Office of the State Auditor, Mississippi National Guard, National Association of Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- Developed the State of Mississippi Enterprise Cloud & Offsite Hosting Security Policy. The goal of this policy is to improve the security posture of the State by establishing minimum security requirements that all agencies will adhere to, for the utilization of offsite hosting facilities including cloud computing.
- Implemented additional interfaces in the enterprise perimeter intrusion prevention System (IPS) to provide the capability of inspecting ITS VPN traffic for malicious activity. All client and site-to-site VPNs supported by the ITS VPN solution will now be inspected by the IPS.
- Installed additional interfaces in the perimeter IPS to provide the capability of inspecting ITS VPN traffic for malicious activity. All client VPNs related to the ITS VPN solution will now be inspected by the IPS. Prior to this change, approximately
98% of the site-to-site VPNs were being inspected by the IPS. After this change, all site-to-site VPNs will be inspected.

- Developed an RFP for an enterprise VPN remote access solution that will be used by state agencies to establish secure remote connectivity from external networks to services and resources within state governments Enterprise State Network.
- Managed enterprise security monitoring and event correlation tools and leveraged internal/external partners for the identification and notification of security incidents impacting state agencies.

**Telecommunications Services**

- Implemented new phone systems with full integration into the state Avaya enterprise phone system at the following agency sites:
  - Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services – Harrison County
  - Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services – Marion County
  - Mississippi Fire Academy – Pearl, MS
  - Mississippi Department of Health – Jackson County
- Implemented two-factor authentication in the core of the Avaya enterprise phone system to enhance the security posture of the voice network.
- Implemented new Avaya media servers to provide a centralized location for storing announcements and other media files.
- Implemented a project to move the Mississippi Board of Tax Appeals to the Woolfolk Building, Jackson, MS.
- Facilitated the emergency move of the Mississippi Department of Human Services Headquarters from 750 North State Street to 200 Lamar Street.
- Performed security upgrades of various voice and data network devices around the Capital Complex and Data Center Networks.
- Completed a project to consolidate the voice and data switching equipment at the Mississippi Office of State Aid Road Construction to simplify data flow to the voice switching infrastructure.
- Completed a major state network upgrade with the implementation of a pair of fully redundant and resilient Cisco 6800 VSS core switches.
- Collaborated with Mississippi Development Authority to provide for the deployment of guest wireless Internet access solution in the Woolfolk Building.
- Collaborated with Mississippi Development Authority to implement upgraded guest wireless equipment at various State of Mississippi Welcome Centers around the State.
- Implemented a project that extends the enterprise state network to the Ancillary Data Center to allow for use of the Ancillary Data Center facility for Co-Location purposes and allow for future expansion into a public cloud offering.
Coordinated with the Mississippi Department of Revenue to implement a co-location environment within the Ancillary Data Center.

Coordinated with the following state agencies to implement co-location environments within Eastwood Data Center:

- Mississippi State University
- Mississippi State Hospital
- Mississippi Public Employment Retirement System
- Mississippi Office of Post-Conviction Counsel
- Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
- Mississippi Attorney General’s Office
- Mississippi State Veteran’s Affairs Board
- Mississippi Office of the State Auditor
- Mississippi Department of Human Services

Improved the security posture of the Enterprise State network by coordinating and implementing the blocking of outbound DNS.

Implemented a secondary AVPN data circuit at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency in Pearl, MS for enhanced redundancy and resiliency in emergency situations.

Implemented an Internet access solution at the new Civil Rights Museum for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Collaborated the Mississippi Supreme Court for the implementation of new network infrastructure in the Siller’s Building.

Continued the migration of legacy BellSouth NetVPN MPLS data circuits with AT&T AVPN MPLS circuits.

Implemented new network cabling and connectivity in the primary Eastwood Data Center.

Provided day-to-day management of the state's voice and data communications infrastructure to provide agencies in the Capitol Complex and across the state with high quality, reliable communications services.

Provided local calling access and long distance services to state government and institutions in the Jackson-Metropolitan Area and across the state through trunking, business lines, and Centrex services.

Provided technical support and project management services for all Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration’s Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management renovation, and new construction projects.

Developed policies, procedures, and long-range plans to ensure the compatibility of telecommunications systems and services within state government.

Researched and evaluated convergence (integration of voice and data communication applications) technologies to ensure that the most efficient, technically sound, and economical telecommunications services are offered to Mississippi government entities.
Updated the online State Government Telephone Directory, which includes a statewide listing of state employee extensions and state agency information.

Performed billing reconciliation on invoices from state contract vendors for telecommunications services and saved the state $1,381,958.

Installed and supported voice and data cabling systems for state government users in the Capitol Complex and Jackson-Metropolitan area.

Provided oversight and management of the Mississippi Research Network (MissiON) redundant cores within the State Data Centers.

Managed the state’s dedicated, redundant, and diversely-routed commodity Internet drains for state government and educational use. This included providing Internet connectivity to the MissiON network.

Maintained contracts for telecommunications services and products to support voice and data communications, access to the statewide backbone, and the Internet.

Provided dedicated and fully redundant wide area network (WAN) access to statewide data resources running at the State Data Centers to support agency-distributed applications.

Managed the Capitol Complex campus area network to provide agencies on the network connectivity to the Internet and State Data Centers.

Continued to implement and support several agency high availability network solutions moving into the State Data Centers.

Planned and implemented a complete network environment for the purpose of disaster recovery testing.

Collaborated with the State Network Advisory Council consisting of representatives from the Institutions of Higher Learning, Community Colleges, Department of Education, Library Commission, Mississippi National Guard, Governor’s Office, and state agencies for the drafting requirements and proposal evaluations of the request for proposal (RFP) for a contract for statewide telecommunications services.

The Eastwood Education Center offers an ongoing educational program consisting of instructor-led classes, online training, and customized training designed to enhance and improve the technical and communication skills of personnel within state government. Activities for FY 2018 include:

Trained 1,092 state employees in various areas of information technology, this includes instructor led training and online training.

Added 11 courses to the Eastwood Education Center’s curriculum to keep pace with changing technology. New topics included:

- Active Shooter
- IRS Disclosure Awareness
- Angular 2
Mississippi’s official website, *ms.gov*, helps the State of Mississippi streamline and enhance the way citizens and businesses access government information. The portal provides a single, common gateway to Mississippi government, improving access to free information, while at the same time, offering value-added services for commercially viable information of interest to the business community. The *ms.gov* eGovernment portal initiative reflects a vision of a state government that is attentive to the needs of constituents and businesses. The state’s official website and eGovernment portal, *ms.gov*, is managed by ITS and is the modern embodiment of everyday government.

The following custom applications, mobile applications, and websites were developed in FY 2018:

**On-Line Applications:**
- Division of Medicaid Secure Application Transmission
- Department of Health Water Quality Invoicing
- State Department of Health Child Care Licensing Payment Processing
- Office of the State Treasurer Unclaimed Property Report FTP Upload
- Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks Lake Privileges
- Department of Mental Health Snapshots Application
- Information Technology Services Telephone Directory
- Public Service Commission No Call Mobile App
- Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks Museum of Natural Science Teacher Workshops
- Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks MDWFP Mobile App
- Department of Finance and Administration AIR Data Transfer Application
- Department of Revenue Tag and Title Payments
- Franklin County Tag and Title Payments
- Board of Registered Foresters Payments
- Motor Vehicle Commission Payments

**Website Launches/Redesigns for:**
- Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
- Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage & Family Therapists
- Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel
- Board of Medical Licensure
- Commission for Volunteer Service
- Department of Education
The ms.gov eGovernment portal initiative received the following awards in FY 2018:

- Overall State Government Experience Winner - 5th place - ms.gov
- DotComm Platinum Award - ms.gov
- WebAward: Standard of Excellence - ms.gov
- Davey Silver Award: Best User Experience for Websites - ms.gov
- MarCom Gold Award: Digital Media/Website Element - MISSI, ms.gov Chatbot
- MarCom Honorable Mention - ms.gov
- Communicator Award of Excellence: ms.gov
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Best Mobile Experience: MDWFP Hunting and Fishing App
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Mobile Sports App: MDWFP Hunting and Fishing App
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Features - Integrated Mobile Experience: MDWFP Hunting and Fishing App
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Features - Best Visual Design: MDWFP Hunting and Fishing App
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Features - Best Visual Design: ms.gov
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Features - Best Practices: ms.gov
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Websites - Government: mdwfp.com
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Features - Structure and Navigation: mdwfp.com
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Websites - Government: ms.gov
- Communicator Award of Distinction, Features - Structure and Navigation: ms.gov
- Hermes Gold Winner - ms.gov
- Hermes Honorable Mention - mdwfp.com
- Hermes Honorable Mention - Y’all Vote
Data Services

- Provided computing services to approximately 110 state agencies and multiple private entities that access public records
- Processed approximately 3,556 batch jobs per day and .5 million online transactions per day
- Hosted approximately 29 websites, 845 virtual VMware servers, and 7 eGovernment applications
- Relayed approximately 4.5 million emails per day
- Blocked approximately 4.1 million SPAM emails per day
- Documented, managed, and resolved 3,721 requests and 2,175 incidents through the 24x365 Service Center

Information Systems Services

- Provided 26,627 hours of technical and project management services for agency projects
- Provided professional services to supplement agency information technology staff in the following roles:
  - Project Managers for application and web development
  - Project Managers for technology procurements
  - Web-enabled application analysis, design, development, testing, and deployment, including key roles in e-Government initiatives
- Produced the following competitive procurements:
  - Developed and advertised 31 RFPs
  - Developed and sent 38 Letters of Configuration (LOC) to General RFP and EPL vendors for the purchase of technology products and services
  - Produced 548 procurement approval documents (CP-1s) for the purchase of technology products and services, representing $288,143,215 of purchase authority
- Published 10 Express Products Lists, with purchases of approximately $65,251,207
- Administered the Statewide Cellular Master Agreement for purchases by state agencies, public universities, and local government entities
- Negotiated and executed approximately 400 technology contracts and contract amendments
- Approved purchases and awards to over 200 technology vendors
Security Services

- Published 12 monthly cybersecurity newsletters and distributed 502 Cybersecurity news articles
- Facilitated and coordinated three (3) Security Council Meetings with an average of 33 agencies represented
- Distributed 154 security advisories, 12 situational reports, and 43 cybersecurity alerts
- Disseminated 1,150 cybersecurity incident notifications
- Processed 237 firewall, 24 intrusion prevention system (IPS), 287 VPN, and 49 uncategorized requests
- Processed 10 firewall, 44 IPS, 83 VPN, and 4 uncategorized incidents
- Supported 674 remote access VPN tunnels and 101 site-to-site VPN tunnels
- Prevented over 28 billion network packets from entering the Enterprise State Network based on firewall policies and rules
- Prevented over 6 million intrusions to and from the Enterprise State Network based on IPS policies, rules, and signatures
- Dropped over 8 million malicious connections on the Enterprise State Network by the IPS security intelligence feed
- Prevented over 6 thousand malicious files to and from the Enterprise State Network by the advanced malware protection service
- Prevented over 342 million intrusions to and from the State Data Centers based on IPS policies, rules, and signatures
- Coordinated cybersecurity assessments for ITS managed systems
- Performed weekly vulnerability scans on all ITS managed systems

Telecommunications Services

- Supported 24,477 telephone lines statewide
- Processed 12,534,471 minutes of long distance usage
- Supported 362 toll free numbers totaling 12,848,265 minutes of usage
- Supported 5,944 voicemail boxes for customers statewide
- Processed 3,946 work orders containing 34,432 unique work order items
- Maintained an industry standard P.01 grade of service or one call block for every 100 call attempts for each telephone switch and Centrex facility managed by ITS
- Supported 918 state agency and local government data network sites
- Supported the Avaya phone system in the state buildings within the Capitol Complex, as well as 111 agency sites around the state
- Supported 482 audio/web conference accounts for use within the Capitol Complex and around the state with 11,394 audio/web conference calls and 1,955,626 audio/web conferencing minutes of usage
Summary Statistics

- Supported 10.086 Gbps of fully redundant MPLS bandwidth of wide area network (WAN) traffic for agencies located around the state
- Supported 1,124 10Gbps Ethernet ports, 2,388 10/100Mbps, 10/100/1000Mbps, and 1Gbps Ethernet ports in the State Data Centers
- Supported 482 10Gbps Ethernet ports, 1,772 1Gbps and 10/100Mbps Ethernet ports in the Capitol Complex network
- Provided average network device uptime of: 429 days for Capitol Complex, 188 for State Data Centers and 308.5 days for overall
- Provided telecommunications system availability of 99.99%
- Provided 99.90% availability of 40 Gbps backbone bandwidth for the State Data Center network
- Provided 99.90% availability of 20 Gbps backbone bandwidth per agency with average latency of <2ms for the Capitol Complex network
- Provided 99.90% availability with average latency of 36ms for the wide area network
- Provided 99.90% availability of 18 Gbps for Internet connectivity
- Performed 360 locates/markings for our underground cabling infrastructure in the Capitol Complex

Education

- Offered 94 instructor led classes to 561 students
- Trained students representing 41 state agencies, 2 universities, and 2 governing authorities
- Provided online training to 531 students

eGovernment

- Processed electronic payments for 49 Mississippi government entities using the state’s Enterprise Payment Portal, delivering 153 services
- Launched 24 digital government services
- Interacted with citizens via social media over 500,000 times.
- Enhanced the protection of citizen and government data. The state’s eGovernment partner, MSI received a certificate of compliance from Verizon’s Security Management Program which addresses threats across six categories of risk, including:
  - Electronic threats and vulnerabilities
  - Malicious code
  - Privacy issues
  - Human factors
  - Physical environment
  - Downtime issues
Enhanced the protection to citizen’s personal information with powerful privacy and security safeguards during online transactions through the following technologies:

- Disaster recovery procedures
- Uninterruptible power supply
- Multi-tiered environments
- Intrusion detection hardware
- Secure Socket Layer (SSL) 256-bit encryption
- Application firewalls and traffic monitoring
- CyberTrust certification
- Annual audits for compliance audits
- PCI DSS certification

The latest iteration of ms.gov featured a chatbot named “Missi” that is capable of assisting site visitors by answering questions about Mississippi on everything from hunting licenses to taxes. Using machine learning or artificial intelligence, Missi will analyze the data input by visitors and learn to provide more complete and correct answers as time goes by.

The site also includes a virtual reality tour of the State Capitol Building. The Virtual Mississippi Capitol Tour is a resource for students and visitors of all ages, both here in Mississippi and around the world. Users can discover more about the Magnolia State and learn about the history, arts, and architecture of the building that serves as the heart of our state government.
American Academy of Certified Public Managers (AACPM) and the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers (MSCPM)

ITS is committed to both our employees and our partner agencies to provide continuing education to our staff. This commitment is pertinent to both the managerial requirements and the technical aspects of the responsibilities of ITS. ITS is a strong supporter and participant in the state’s Certified Public Manager (CPM) program in order to provide and encourage continued managerial development of staff members who are in supervisory or managerial roles.

Participants and graduates of the CPM Program are encouraged to join the MSCPM, which is the state society arm of the AACPM. ITS has a strong representation in the MSCPM and utilizes the society’s programs to provide additional continuing managerial education.

The AACPM is a national organization that holds an annual conference for additional training and educational programs as well as providing opportunities to share governmental experiences with members from other states.

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)

The ASPA is the largest and most prominent professional association for public administration. It is dedicated to advancing the art, science, teaching, and practice of public and non-profit administration. ASPA’s four core values are Accountability and Performance, Professionalism, Ethics, and Social Equity. Membership is open to anyone working in, studying, researching, or interested in public service. ASPA also promotes the value of joining and elevating the public service profession, builds bridges among all who pursue public purposes at home and internationally, provides networking and a professional development opportunity to those committed to public service values, and achieves innovative solutions to the challenges of governance.

Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP)

The Jackson AITP Chapter, active since the 1950s, consists of over fifty members with varied backgrounds, from college professors to attorneys. The purpose of the Jackson chapter is to contribute to the professional benefit of the members and their employers and to benefit the information technology industry, both business and educational, in our local community. The Jackson AITP Chapter has been awarded the Chapter Outstanding Performance Award (COPA) many times and has claimed the Most Outstanding Chapter Award in Region 3. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS
Executive Director, has been honored as the recipient of the AITP Mississippian of the Year Award. Dr. Orgeron serves as a member of the Advisory Governing Board.

**Building Industry Consulting Services International (BICSI)**

BICSI is a professional association supporting the information transport systems industry with information, education, and knowledge assessment for individuals and companies. BICSI serves more than 24,000 information transport systems professionals, including designers, installers, and technicians. These individuals provide the fundamental infrastructure for telecommunications, audio/video, life safety, and automation systems. Through courses, conferences, publications, and professional registration programs, BICSI staff and volunteers assist information transport systems professionals in delivering critical products and services, as well as offering opportunities for continual improvement and enhanced professional stature.

**Cloud Advisory Council**

ITS formed the Statewide Cloud Services Council as a technical advisory committee to foster a dialogue on cloud implementation strategies across all state government. The Council began in September of 2016 and has worked to define the strategy, direction, framework, and future policy for cloud services in Mississippi state government. With formation of the Council, ITS has sought to collaborate and foster an inclusive relationship with each participating agency, enabling the definition of technical and functional requirements and the establishment of a standards-based enterprise cloud solution. Senior ITS staff serve as Chair and provide leadership to the Council.

**Connect Mississippi**

Innovation through broadband is changing the landscape of our culture, improving our lives and our livelihoods from global impacts to our own backyards. Connect Mississippi is committed to fostering broadband adoption and promoting innovative broadband solutions across Mississippi. In 2010, Mississippi was awarded a State Broadband Initiative grant through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NITA), which was used to fund the Mississippi Broadband Connect Coalition. This study group developed a report entitled, *Mapping Mississippi's Digital Future*, which outlines recommendations to increase digital literacy through broadband adoption and access strategies. Among the earliest and most impactful successes was the creation of the Mississippi Telehealth Association. Mississippi is nationally recognized as the leader in telehealth advances and is one of only seven states to receive an “A” grade from the American Telemedicine Association. Now, Connect Mississippi continues to orchestrate policy forums and adoption strategies to bolster our state’s economic growth through broadband innovation. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to serve as an Advisory Board Member.
EDNET Board

The Mississippi EDNET Board coordinates the use of 20 Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) broadcast channels licensed to the Mississippi Community College Board, the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, the Mississippi State Board of Education, and EDNET. EDNET’s mission is to provide education and training to all Mississippians through the use of innovative digital wireless technology. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, serves as a member of the EDNET Board representing ITS.

eGovernment Oversight Committee (EOC)

Senate Bill 2975 passed during the 2011 Regular Legislative Session established the eGovernment Oversight Committee (EOC) to oversee the implementation and management of eGovernment and related technology initiatives. The goal of this partnership is to enable government entities to create program efficiencies, meet legislative service deadlines, and establish a citizen-centric website, as well as an enhanced social media presence. Other responsibilities include addressing policy issues such as privacy, security, costs, and accessibility. The committee promotes economic development and efficient delivery of government services by encouraging governmental and private sector entities to conduct their business and transactions using electronic media. As defined in SB 2975, the Committee members are the Executive Director of ITS, the State Auditor, the State Treasurer, the Secretary of State, the Executive Director of DFA, the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the Commissioner of Revenue. ITS staff provides administrative support for the committee. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, currently serves the Chairman.

Gartner Group Services

ITS subscribes to consulting services from Gartner, a leading supplier of tactical and strategic analysis and data in the information technology industry. Services provided include research, advisory and planning services, consulting services, research products, audio teleconferences on technological topics, and availability of a research staff for specific topical advice. Research materials provide a brief analysis of companies, technologies, planning issues, and future innovations.

Information Security Council

House Bill 999 passed during the 2017 Regular Legislative Session formally established the Mississippi Enterprise Security Program and tasked ITS to provide centralized management and coordination of state policies for the security of data and IT resources. ITS formed the Information Security Council to foster collaboration throughout state
government to plan, develop, and implement enterprise security objectives. Information Security Officers (ISOs) from each state agency are members of the Information Security Council. ITS schedules regular Council meetings to provide education and awareness, identify cybersecurity-related issues, set future direction for cybersecurity plans and policy, and provide a forum for inter-agency communications regarding cybersecurity. Senior IT staff serves as Chair and provide leadership to the Council.

**Joint Legislative Task Forces**

The ITS staff and Executive Director are frequently asked to participate in legislative task forces that involve the use of technology across the state in either the public or private sector. When serving in these task forces, ITS officials provide guidance and advice to the legislature regarding technology. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, is currently serving as a member of the Fantasy Contest Task force, as directed by the Mississippi Legislature via Senate Bill 2541, 2016 Regular Session and the Statewide Offense Reporting System Task Force, as directed by the Mississippi Legislature via Senate Bill 2685, 2017.

**Mississippi Association of Governmental Purchasing and Property Agents (MAGPPA)**

The Mississippi Association of Governmental Purchasing and Property Agents brings together governmental purchasing, property, and materials management experts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government through education and knowledge transfer. MAGPPA is part of the national purchasing association, the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc. (NIGP). ITS employees are involved in the local and national organization by previously or currently serving as officers and committee chairs.

**Mississippi Association of Personnel Administrators (MAPA)**

The Mississippi Association of Personnel Administrators provides a means for the improvement of public personnel administration through networking, sharing information, and providing professional, educational and development opportunities. The membership is composed of individuals in state, county, or municipal government with responsibilities for personnel, payroll, and/or training functions. ITS employees have served as officers and board members and are active in both the quarterly meetings and the annual conference.

**Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

The Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (Coordinating Council) is responsible for the coordination of remote sensing and GIS activities in the establishment and enforcement of standards that will make it easier for users to share data and to facilitate cost-sharing arrangements to reduce data acquisition costs. The Coordinating Council provides direction to ITS for the
operation and maintenance of the GIS data warehouse known as the Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse. The Coordinating Council also provides oversight to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the management, procurement, development, and maintenance of the Mississippi Digital Earth Model (MDEM), which includes seven core data layers of a digital, land-based computer model of the State of Mississippi. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, serves as the Vice-Chairman of this council.

**Mississippi Data Management Working Group**

Acknowledging the difficulty that comes with managing data in a cross-jurisdictional context, the Mississippi Legislature passed HB 649 during the 2017 Regular Session to create the Mississippi Data Management Working Group. HB 649 acknowledges state government data as a strategic asset and tasks the Data Management Working Group to research and report on issues related to the quality, utility, and accessibility of data maintained across all branches of Mississippi state government. The findings of the research, as well as any recommendations resulting from the study, are to be reported to the Speaker of the House, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor, and the Chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees no later than December 2018. ITS staff provides administrative support for this group. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, serves as the Chairman of the Data Management Working Group.

**Mississippi Health Information Network (MS-HIN)**

MS-HIN is a secure electronic exchange of patient information that allows healthcare providers quick, secure, reliable access to patient health records. MS-HIN collects data from data sharing partners then with patient consent, makes the data securely available to clinicians who are providing treatment or coordinating care for their patients. MS-HIN also offers secure email, electronic referrals, alert notifications, medication history lookup, and a community health record system that consolidates each patient’s information into a single ‘chart’ for their provider. In addition, MS-HIN is helping providers meet federally required health information technology standards surrounding Meaningful Use (MU). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services require providers to meet technology standards that incorporate implementing electronic health records and sharing clinical data. MS-HIN has assisted 2118 providers in receiving $159 million in MU incentive funds.

MS-HIN has aggressively added hospitals to the network. These hospital connections are generating more than 7 million transactions a month. MS-HIN offers a Community Health Record (CHR) system. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, serves as the Vice-Chairman for the MS-HIN Board.
Mississippi Management and Reporting System Steering Committee (MMRS)

MMRS was established for the purpose of creating and maintaining a central repository of current, accurate, and relevant management information (Section 7-703, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated). MMRS is responsible for the development, enhancement, maintenance, and support of several statewide applications that combine to form this central repository of management information. Details on the applications can be found by visiting (www.dta.ms.gov/mmrs). The Steering Committee for MMRS is composed of the Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration, the Executive Director of the State Personnel Board, and the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services.

Mississippi Telecommunications Management Association (MTMA)

ITS agency staff participates in MTMA on a monthly basis. MTMA is a non-profit organization that enhances and develops the telecommunications management function by providing a forum where major users of telecommunications facilities and services can readily exchange information, experience, and concepts to the mutual benefit of the individual members and their organizations. Membership is comprised of Mississippi-based organizations that are users of telecommunications technology or entities that are predominantly engaged in the production, sale, or rental of telecommunications equipment and consulting services.

Mississippi Telehealth Association (MTHA)

Officially organized in March of 2014, the mission of the MTHA is to provide a statewide forum for developing telehealth related policies and programs designed to improve health care outcomes for Mississippians. The MTHA has established six core objectives: Provide a forum for business-to-business development; Improve rural health care access to broadband; Market telemedicine to improve adoption rates; Develop coordinated telehealth policy; Support Health IT workforce solutions; and convene stakeholders for grant making opportunities. The MTHA is currently growing its membership of private sector telehealth vendors, telecommunications providers, hospitals, health insurance agencies, and other relevant groups. Through the MTHA, all of the entities involved in delivery and use of telemedicine will be able to work together to increase access to and quality of healthcare in the State of Mississippi, allowing the state to be a national model of telehealth innovation. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, was appointed by the MTHA Board of Directors to serve as an Advisory Council Member.

Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission (WCC)

WCC is a 16-member commission comprised of representatives from state and local governmental entities and is charged with making recommendations and developing strategies for achieving interoperability to ensure effective communications services
are available in emergencies. The Mississippi Wireless Information Network (MSWIN) was fully operational statewide in March 2013, providing statewide P-25 700 MHz land mobile radio wireless communications with ninety-seven percent mobile area coverage. Senior ITS staff serves as a member of the WCC.

**Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC)**

The MS-ISAC is a voluntary and collaborative effort based on a strong partnership with the National Cyber Security Division within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). MS-ISAC has been designated by DHS as the key resource for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for the nation’s state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) governments. Through its state-of-the-art 24/7 Security Operations Center, the MS-ISAC serves as a central resource for situational awareness and incident response for SLTT governments. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, serves on the Executive Committee of the MS-ISAC.

**National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)**

Agency staff actively participates in NASCIO which represents information resource executives and managers from the 50 states, the United States territories, and the District of Columbia. Representatives from federal, municipal, and foreign governments participate in the organization as associate members. Corporate members representing the top hardware, software, and consulting firms are also a vital part of NASCIO. Opportunities provided for sharing information through NASCIO membership are significant. The state has benefited from researching information systems developed by other states that are available for transfer to Mississippi at little or no cost. Dr. Craig Orgeron, ITS Executive Director, has previously served as the association’s Treasurer, Vice-President, and President and has also served on the Public Safety Broadband Committee, the Programs Committee, Enterprise Architecture Committee and others. Dr. Orgeron recently received the association’s Meritorious Award.

**National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD)**

Agency staff actively participates in the NASTD, which consists of telecommunications and technology professionals from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories. Various members of the ITS staff have served in leadership positions in the organization including Southern Regional President, National Executive Board
Member, Chair of the Corporate Relations Committee, Coordinator of the eGovernment Special Interest Group, Chair of the E-Rate/Rural Health Committee, and Regional Meeting Host State Coordinator. ITS staff has also participated on several other committees and special interest groups including: The Regulatory Action Committee, Security Special Interest Group, Network Management Special Interest Group, and the IP Telephony Special Interest Group. Agency staff also actively participates in the NASTD listserv by posting requests for information as well as responding to requests for information posted by other members.

Network Advisory Council

The Network Advisory Council is a diverse committee, comprised of government and education stakeholders critical to the success of the statewide network. The principal focus of the Network Advisory Council is to research emerging technologies, as well as the collaborative development of technical specifications for the next-generation statewide telecommunications network. With the current state contract for telecommunications services expiring in 2018, the Council is analyzing future needs and technologies. This collaborative work is to ensure that Mississippi government and education entities remain competitive and at the forefront of the global market, structuring a successful outcome that will allow for the continued establishment of a standards-based, enterprise solution that minimizes operational costs for all parties by leveraging the volume buying power of the entirety of the state. Senior IT staff serve as Chair and provide leadership to the Council.

Project Management Institute (PMI)

In an effort to ensure that state resources are managed as effectively as possible, several agency staff members carry the credential of Project Management Professional (PMP) ® administered by the Project Management Institute (PMI). PMI is a not-for-profit professional organization for the project management profession with the purpose of advancing project management through the development of standards, research, education, publication, and networking-opportunities in local chapters.

SHARE Inc.

SHARE Inc. (SHARE) is a non-profit, voluntary organization. SHARE’s mission is to improve the effectiveness of members’ information systems by providing education, promoting mutual support, and by influencing information technology strategies, products, and services. Since their charter in 1955, SHARE has become synonymous with high quality, user-driven education and resources making enterprise-computing specialists more effective professionals. SHARE is comprised of more than 2,000 top enterprise computing organizations including the majority of the FORTUNE 500, many top international corporations, universities and colleges, local through federal government organizations, and industry-leading consultants.
## Travel

### 2018 Board Meeting Travel

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Member</th>
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<th>Travel Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Lange</td>
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<td>Rodney Pearson</td>
<td>520.00</td>
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<td>June Songy</td>
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<td>J. Keith Van Camp</td>
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<td>Thomas Wicker</td>
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**In-State - Board**

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### 2018 In-State Travel

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<tr>
<td>Chris Grimmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Nix</td>
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<td>Foster Fowler</td>
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<td>Gary Rawson</td>
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<td>Hayden Ellis</td>
<td>Jackson Vicinity - MS</td>
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<td>John Schulz</td>
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<td>Kent Tolbert</td>
<td>Starkville, MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Conn</td>
<td>Biloxi, MS</td>
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<td>Renee Murray</td>
<td>Biloxi, MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robbin Steen</td>
<td>Wiggins, MS</td>
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<td>Robin Shaw</td>
<td>Jackson Vicinity - MS</td>
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<td>Timika Franklin</td>
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**In-State Employee Travel**

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### 2018 Out-of-State Travel

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betsy Ward</td>
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<td>Billy Rials</td>
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<td>Billy Rials</td>
<td>NASTD Southern Region Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Norwood</td>
<td>NASTD Southern Region Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Johnson</td>
<td>NASCIO Midyear Conference</td>
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<td>Gary Rawson</td>
<td>SECA Spring Meeting</td>
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<td>Gary Rawson</td>
<td>USAC Fall Training</td>
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<td>Greg Nohra</td>
<td>MS-ISAC Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Jay White</td>
<td>MS-ISAC Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Wellman</td>
<td>IBM Z for SAP Customer Technical Briefing</td>
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**Out-of-State Employee Travel**  

6,918.71
### ITS Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Dr. Craig P. Orgeron</td>
<td>(601) 432-8000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.orgeron@its.ms.gov">craig.orgeron@its.ms.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Michele Blocker</td>
<td>(601) 432-8111</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michele.blocker@its.ms.gov">michele.blocker@its.ms.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Operations Officer</td>
<td>Roger Graves</td>
<td>(601) 432-8092</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roger.graves@its.ms.gov">roger.graves@its.ms.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Services</td>
<td>Laura Pentecost</td>
<td>(601) 432-8191</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laura.pentecost@its.ms.gov">laura.pentecost@its.ms.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Systems Services</td>
<td>ISS Help Desk</td>
<td>(601) 432-8166</td>
<td><a href="mailto:isshelp@its.ms.gov">isshelp@its.ms.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Services</td>
<td>David Johnson</td>
<td>(601) 432-8126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:david.johnson@its.ms.gov">david.johnson@its.ms.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Services</td>
<td>Jay White</td>
<td>(601) 432-8180</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jay.white@its.ms.gov">jay.white@its.ms.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecom Services</td>
<td>Steven Walker</td>
<td>(601) 432-8004</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steven.walker@its.ms.gov">steven.walker@its.ms.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services**

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