



VIRGINIA
IT AGENCY



Information Technology Advisory Council

Annual Report

2025

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Section [2.2-2699.6\(C\)](#) of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) respectfully submits this report, which provides an update “regarding the work of the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC) and any advisory subcommittee.” This report covers ITAC’s third year, from October 2024 through August 2025.

The Council met three times and has reviewed and discussed multiple presentations, which are summarized below. Copies of meeting presentations and other materials are available from [the ITAC page on VITA’s website](#) (under About => Councils & Committees).

ITAC’S PURPOSE

ITAC is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Commonwealth and the Secretary of Administration regarding information technology in the Commonwealth.

Specifically, pursuant to Virginia Code [§ 2.2-2699.6](#), ITAC advises regarding:

1. Cybersecurity policies, standards, and guidelines, for
 - a. assessing security risks,
 - b. determining appropriate security measures,
 - c. performing security audits of government electronic information,
 - d. strengthening the Commonwealth’s cybersecurity, and
 - e. protecting against and responding to breaches of information technology security;
2. Strategies and priorities for information technology for executive branch agencies.
3. Information technology planning and projects;
4. Policies, standards, and guidelines for the Commonwealth’s information technology and data; and
5. Information technology budgeting, investments, and expenditures.

ITAC MEMBERS

ITAC consists of up to 20 members, including:

- The CIO of the Commonwealth,
- The Secretary of Administration,
- The Secretary of Labor
- Four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House,
- Three members of the of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and
- An even number of non-legislative citizens appointed by the Governor.

This year ITAC achieved a full complement of 20 members. Current members are:

Executive branch officials:

- Robert Osmond, CIO of the Commonwealth
- Lyn McDermid, Secretary of Administration
- Bryan Slater, Secretary of Labor

Legislative members, appointed to terms coincident with their terms of office:

- Senator Jennifer B. Boysko
- Senator Bill DeSteph
- Senator Saddam Azlan Salim
- Delegate Michael Feggans
- Delegate Fernando J. Martinez
- Delegate Joshua E. Thomas
- Delegate Jackie Hope Glass

Citizen members, appointed by Governor Youngkin:

- John A. Craft
- Constantina "Dena" Kozanas
- Anthony D. Gitalado
- Cherif Kane
- James S. Kraemer

- Adam S. Lee
- Sam Nixon
- Phea Ram
- Dr. Timothy M. Tillman
- Robert I. Turner

ITAC citizen member terms are staggered. Current term information for citizen members may be found on [the ITAC webpage](#).

ITAC MEETINGS

ITAC met three times during the timeframe of this report.

DECEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING

During the December 2024 meeting, ITAC heard and discussed the following presentations (which may be found in full in the agenda packet at the above meeting link):

- Amy Braden, Director of Security Governance at VITA discussed VITA's authority, scope, and key cybersecurity policies. The presentation addressed policy flexibility, identified areas for improvement, and updates to cybersecurity aligning with NIST standards. Also discussed was the expansion of guidance, training, and agency engagement, along with the collaborative review process to support greater compliance and adaptability across diverse agencies.
- CIO of the Commonwealth Bob Osmond then presented Virginia's current IT planning efforts and proposed a six-year IT modernization plan. Discussed were strategic initiatives to improve cybersecurity, addressing technical debt, and enhancing system sustainability through structured prioritization and investment models. More information may be found in the presentation.

APRIL 24, 2025 MEETING

The Council heard and discussed the following presentations (which can be found in the agenda packet in the above meeting link):

- First, Julie Chatman, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer for Finance and Mike Watson, Chief Information Security Officer, presented on The Finance Agency Cyber Project which focuses on assessing cybersecurity across key agencies that manage a significant portion of the Commonwealth’s financial assets. Discussion reviewed the risk environment, efforts to extend best practice over 300 localities, and threats such as insider risks, vulnerabilities, and infrastructure, and the importance of system prioritization. See presentation for further information.
- Mike Watson, Chief Information Security Officer, then presented a new joint subcommittee on cyber risk which was established in language in the biennial budget. Discussed was the importance of reporting on agency risk management, oversight of infrastructure, and prioritizing funding to address risks effectively. More detailed information about the subcommittee and further discussion can be found in the presentation.
- Joshua Heslinga, Legal and Legislative Services Director, then presented a legislative update on the 2025 legislative session, highlighting legislative outcomes relevant to information technology, which can be found in detail in the presentation.
- Dan Lewis, Project Management Center of Excellence Leader, presented two topics:
 - First, the application modernization cycle. Discussion reviewed the agency’s application modernization process, reviewing over 2,500 applications with next steps in analysis, and budget planning. Also discussed was prioritizing critical upgrades, promoting innovation, and encouraging collaboration across agencies. More information can be found in the presentation.
 - Second, the Project Management Center of Excellence (PMCoE). Discussion included the initiative to improve agency project planning and delivery, highlighting risk management, vendor oversight, and training. Also discussed were gaps in planning, contracting, and reporting as well as efforts to integrate compliance, AI, and cultural change into project practices. More details and information can be found in the presentation.

AUGUST 13, 2025 MEETING

During the August 2025 meeting, ITAC heard and discussed the following presentations (which can be found in the agenda packet in the meeting link):

- Joshua Heslinga, VITA's Legal and Legislative Services Director, reviewed the readoption of the Remote Participation Policy. In compliance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3, the policy was unanimously readopted.
- Richard Matthews, Chief Customer Experience Officer, presented an update on Application Modernization and the Six-Year Plan, noting that 61 out of the 62 Agency IT Strategic Plans are complete. Of the 2,552 applications assessed, 865 were identified for modernization, with 603 included in the six-year plan. Discussed was how the Virginia IT Agency is focusing on enterprise-level support using tools like Microsoft Power Platform and AI. Brahma Alaparathi, Chief of Enterprise and Cloud Solutions, emphasized a shift from custom development to shared platforms and introduced the Commonwealth App Store initiative. More information can be found in the presentation.
- Mike Watson, Chief Information Security Officer, presented on cybersecurity risk management, highlighting threats from AI-driven phishing and nation-state threats. Discussed was completed projects as well as the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, training for privileged accounts, AI-related data leakage, third-party risk management, and transitioning to a trust-based security model. More details and information can be found in the presentation.

Finally, ITAC completed required organizational business, readopting its remote participation policy and conducting the nomination and election of a new Board Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Dena Kozanas was unanimously elected as Chair and Mr. Adam Lee as Vice Chair. They will assume their roles at the next meeting in December.