

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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April 27, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On March 4, 2015, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology convened a hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the Federal Communications Commission: The FCC's FY 2016 Budget Request" and received testimony from the FCC's Managing Director, Mr. Jon Wilkins, concerning the commission's FY 2016 budget request. At the hearing, Mr. Wilkins provided information concerning the commission's intent to relocate more than 200 servers as part of its IT modernization plans.

On March 27, 2015, we sought additional information in writing concerning the commission's intention to relocate these servers. The commission responded to our inquiry on April 13, 2015.

This inquiry reflects our longstanding concern with the fairness, openness, and transparency of the commission's administrative and rulemaking processes. As we stated in our March 27 letter, our purpose is to gain information to better understand the facts and circumstances surrounding the planned relocation of these servers and the impact, if any, such relocation may have on the FCC's information and document management practices.

While we appreciate the information that the commission has provided, the commission's responses raise several additional questions. We respectfully request that you schedule a briefing with committee staff as soon as reasonably possible. In addition, we request that you respond to the following questions:

1. In response to Question 1(a) of the Committee's March 27 letter regarding the servers subject to relocation, you stated that "the Commission has: Windows/HP Servers – 74 and Unix/Solaris/Oracle Servers – 134."

- a. Please identify specifically where these servers are (or were) located before the planned relocation.
 - b. Please identify specifically the location to which these servers will be moved.
 - c. For each server, please identify the server software in use, including any and all applicable service pack or version information. Please also include a breakdown of the number of servers using the software identified.
 - d. Please explain whether any software being used by any of the identified servers will reach its designated end-of-life within the next five years.
 - i. If yes, how will this affect the commission's compliance with FISMA?
 - ii. If yes, what security risks does the continued use of unsupported products pose? How does the commission plan to manage these risks?
2. In your response to Question 1(c), you stated that "the average 'system' age is nearly 10 years."
 - a. For each of the 208 servers, provide the estimated mean-time-to-failure (MTTF).
 - b. As the average system age is nearly 10 years, when does the FCC estimate that these servers will need to be replaced?
3. In further response to Question 1(c), you stated that "[m]any of the present servers are irreplaceable because the newer operating systems will not accommodate the applications the FCC is running. Also, the newer hardware will not accommodate the operating systems the commission maintains."
 - a. Please identify the applications that the FCC is currently running that are not compatible with newer operating systems. Why are the applications not compatible with newer operating systems?
 - b. Identify the operating systems that the FCC maintains are not compatible with newer hardware. Why are the operating systems not compatible with newer hardware?
4. In your response to Question 5, you stated that "The [OMB] FDCCI seeks to curb unsustainable increases by: (1) reducing the cost of data center hardware, software, and operations; (2) shifting IT investments to more efficient computing platforms; promoting the use of Green IT by reducing the overall energy and real estate footprint of government data centers; and (4) increasing the IT security posture of the government." In your response to Question 6, you stated that "[b]ecause the major systems supporting IT in the FCC are more than 10 years old, we lack the capacity to properly maintain these systems independent of a large and fully resourced service center." Your answers to Question 6 and 1(c) seem to contradict the FCC's stated goals of complying with the OMB FDCCI.
 - a. Please explain how the decision to spend \$8.5 million to relocate and continue to rely on these aging servers is consistent with the purpose and goals of OMB's

FDCCI, including shifting IT investments to more efficient computing platforms and increasing the IT security posture of the government.

5. Will the FCC's relocation of its servers and subsequent "offline" status for a series of days affect any other organizations, agencies, regulated entities, or the public? Please explain the impact, if any.
6. In your response to Question 7, you stated that the FCC will "'mirror' and replicate applications."
 - a. When will these "mirrors" be created?
 - b. How will these "mirrors" be created?
 - c. How will these "mirrors" be stored?
 - d. Where will these "mirrors" be stored?
 - e. What exactly will these "mirrors" contain?
7. You state in your response to Question 9 that the "FCC does not have temporary databases or a need to establish a separate database for the move."
 - a. Please explain why the FCC will not need to establish separate databases for the move.

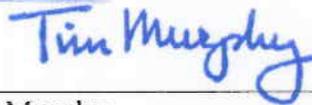
We appreciate your assistance with these requests and ask for your response no later than May 11, 2015. If you should have any questions, please contact David Redl or Charles Ingebretson of the committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology