



Army Enterprise Collaboration

What is it?

Army Enterprise Collaboration is an effort to improve knowledge management and promote IT efficiency through the delivery of collaboration capabilities as a managed service. The Army will use existing enterprise licenses to provide access to centrally managed versions of Microsoft SharePoint® and IBM FileNet. These products will enable team collaboration, content management, records management and business-process management among all Army users, regardless of location. Importantly, they also will integrate with the systems used by Army forces during training and deployment. While the Army will retain oversight of the Enterprise Collaboration service, its day-to-day management will rest with the service provider, the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA).

Why is it important to the Army?

Today's collaboration environment is limited to local SharePoint® enclaves, making it both difficult and costly to share information across the Army. An Enterprise Collaboration environment will allow users at different locations to work together easily, improving overall Army productivity and efficiency. It also will help users find and connect with those who have the right expertise, experience and job role.

In addition, the Enterprise Collaboration environment will create new opportunities to integrate enterprise information systems the Army already owns into a common set of Army Information Management Services. It also will generate savings; individual Army organizations will not have to take on the extra cost and risks associated with server hosting, operations and maintenance.

What has the Army done?

The Combined Arms Center approved the requirements for Enterprise Collaboration in 2010. The Chief Information Officer/G-6, with help from Army Commands, has developed the initial enterprise collaboration baseline and received a service proposal from DISA. To help smooth the transition, CIO/G-6 also has captured lessons learned by various Army service providers during their implementations of SharePoint® and FileNet.

What does the Army have planned for the future?

The Army intends for the Enterprise Collaboration environment to come online in late fiscal 2011 or early 2012. Over the next several months, the Army will continue to refine enterprise collaboration requirements and will determine the exact suite of capabilities to be offered. CIO/G-6 also will craft a basic plan for organizations to follow in the transition from individual instances of SharePoint® to enterprise services, and will formally update Army-wide policy regarding SharePoint® by 2013.

The Enterprise Collaboration environment is linked to other CIO/G-6 efforts, including Enterprise Email and Active Directory migration.

For more information, and to participate in community discussion of this initiative, please visit: <https://www.kc.army.mil/book/groups/army-SharePoint> ■

ARMY CIO/G-6

An Enterprise Network: the Key to Army Transformation

The individual warfighter and the collective Army rely more heavily than ever before on information technology to execute the mission. To provide the data and capabilities Soldiers need, among them intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, communications and command and control, securely and on demand, the Army's network must become an enterprise system. Only by centralizing the network, known as LandWarNet, will the Army be able to make it sustainable, defensible and a truly operational capability.

The challenge is to deliver network services that are timely, relevant and focused on the warfighter via enterprise solutions that effectively and efficiently support the Army of the 21st century. Today's Army is a versatile mix of tailorable and networked organizations that operate on a rotational cycle and conduct wide-ranging full-spectrum operations. LandWarNet is the key to making this force structure successful, down to the tactical edge.

The Army is moving to a global enterprise network. The results, so far, are promising. Various exercises have successfully demonstrated that the enterprise concept is viable and achievable; procurement and construction of the physical network infrastructure are proceeding apace. ■

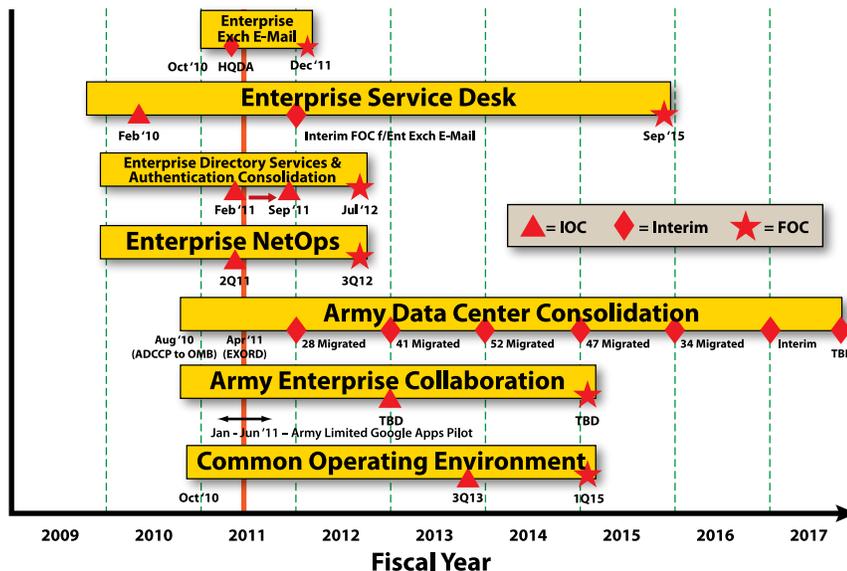
Why is LandWarNet transformation important to the Warfighter?

The ability to fight upon arrival is critical to enabling the predominantly CONUS-based Army to respond effectively to any threat in any environment. The Army's current networks, information systems and resources are not sufficient to support a true fight-upon-arrival capacity. Access to the network and information technology resources is inconsistent; units must deal with numerous IT-related changes as they move from one physical location to another and one phase of the Army Force Generation cycle to another. However, by providing all warfighters universal access to their applications, data and collaboration and training resources, as well as one email address and telephone number, the Army will achieve this essential fight-upon-arrival capability.

Where Are We Now?

In the past year, we have brought fidelity to the strategy, detailing plans for adopting industry standards and protocols, pursuing data center consolidation and establishing a common operating environment to accelerate software development and increase network security. Additionally, Army Cyber, a new command to oversee the operation and defense of Army networks, was activated. With fiscal reality and the always adapting enemy in mind, the Army will continue to define and refine network doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures, and to incorporate technological advances, customer demands, national strategic objectives and process improvements into LandWarNet. ■

Top Strategic Initiatives and Implementation Timeline



Enterprise Exchange Email & Calendar

Enterprise Service Desk

Enterprise Directory Services and Authentication Consolidation

Enterprise Network Operations (NetOps)

Army Data Center Consolidation

Army Enterprise Collaboration

Common Operating Environment

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