

What the MGT Act Means for Your Agency's IT

The Modernizing Government Technology Act (MGT) - signed into law on December 12, 2017 - apportions \$500 million to the Technology Modernization Fund (TMF) from which agencies can borrow to modernize IT systems.¹

This provides agency leaders with the funds to update legacy systems or acquire emerging technology. **But consider...**



“Just because systems *can* be in the cloud doesn’t mean they *should* be in the cloud.”

- John Connor, IT security specialist at the National Institute of Standards of Technology

There are concerns about cloud-related security threats that lead agency leaders to keep long-term storage and sensitive data in-house.

Certain legacy systems are difficult to transition towards a cloud-system and should be maintained or upgraded in the interim.

Some long-term storage may never be moved to the cloud if it contains confidential data.

The Recent Past

The Road Ahead

On January 3, 2018, the DoD announced that it would begin moving data applications to a classified, private, commercial cloud environment similar to one that the CIA employs.²

On April 17, 2018, the IRS extended the 2017 tax return deadline after hardware issues caused its online applications to malfunction. The IRS operates equipment that is almost 60 years old and updating efforts have been delayed.³

Upgrade existing IT and invest in new equipment to create highly-efficient, long-lasting infrastructure systems.

Hybrid clouds (e.g. systems that combine private and public clouds) let agencies keep high-risk data in-house while allowing public cloud providers to host less-sensitive operations.

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Citations

- ¹ "Trump Signed NDAA. Here's What it Means," Nextgov.com. Data accessed 2 May 2018. [Link here.](#)
- ² "Defense Agency to Begin Moving Classified Data," Nextgov.com. Data accessed 4 May 2018. [Link here.](#)
- ³ "Taxpayers Get Extra Day To File After IRS Online Tools Go Down." Nextgov.com. Data accessed 4 May 2018. [Link here.](#)