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ATARC Proposes Next Generation Federal Mobile Strategy

Following the release of OMB Category Management Policy 16-2: Improving the Acquisition and Management of Common Information Technology: Mobile Devices and Services, the Advanced Technology Academic Research Center held several collaborative meetings with mobile subject matter experts from government and industry to examine the technical components of the memo and discuss its implications.

The group focused its discussion around OMB's definition of Mobile. It was thought that the OMB mobile definition seemed to focus on earlier generation wireless phones with e-mail capability and that the definition did not address key technology areas such as mobile device security, mobile applications, mobile application vetting, derived credentials and other emerging mobile technology. This led to a conversation around the idea of a Next Generation Federal Mobile Strategy.

This strategy would include several components:

1. Overall Federal Mobile Vision
2. Federal Mobile Ecosystem Topic Areas
 - a. Definitions
 - b. Contract Vehicles
 - c. Technologies
 - d. Challenges/Solutions/Outcomes/Use Cases
3. Federal Mobile Recommendations/Initiatives/Timelines/Milestones

ATARC believes a successful Next Generation Federal Mobile Strategy requires an overall vision of mobile in the Federal government, as well as a definition of the mobile ecosystem and its key topic areas.

Using feedback from government and industry, ATARC has started the process of identifying potential topic areas within the mobile ecosystem:

1. APIs/Data/Big Data/Open Data
2. App Vetting/Standards/Reciprocity
3. BYOD/Workforce Management/Policy
4. Carrier Services
5. Connected Endpoint Devices/IoT
6. Continuous Integration/Continuous Development/DevOps/Code Reuse
7. Device Management/Mobile Device Management/Enterprise Mobility Management
8. Expense Management/TEMS
9. File Sharing/Access/Collaboration/Security
10. Mobile Analytics
11. Mobile Backend as a Service (MBaaS)

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12. Mobile Brokerage
13. Security
14. Trusted Execution Environment/Identity Management/PIV/CAC/Derived Credentials

In addition to defining the mobile ecosystem, these topic areas would be examined from a category management perspective, identifying the government contracting vehicles associated with each group. In addition, it would include a list of commercial vendors that provide products and services within each category.

ATARC has published five mobile White Papers that summarize collaborations sessions with mobile SMEs from government, academia and industry at previous ATARC Federal Mobile Computing Summits. These White Papers include an exhaustive list of government challenges, lessons learned and use cases within the Federal government. Each individual mobile topic area would have a similar compilation of mobile challenges, solutions, outcomes and use cases.

The eventual goal of this Federal Mobile Ecosystem section would be a one-stop shop for mobile practitioners within Federal Government to learn about existing mobile capabilities, the contract vehicles to procure these offerings, the vendor that support these products and services, the challenges faced by other agencies and the solutions and successful use cases for each particular topic area.

ATARC recommends that the creation of the Next Generation Federal Mobile Strategy follows a similar path to the Digital Government Strategy, creating collaborative working groups from government and industry to draft and compile content for topic areas within the mobile ecosystem. In addition, these groups would also provide feedback to the government on timelines for the milestones/deliverables for each topic area.

ATARC believes a Next Generation Federal Mobility Strategy is a necessary requirement in the ever-changing mobile landscape and that a collaborative effort between government and private industry will provide the proper perspective as Federal government leverages mobile technology to improve its efficiency and operations, and better engage and serve the citizens of the United States of America.

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