A progress snapshot of the government's 25 Quicksilver initiatives

PROJECT, LEAD AGENCY	WHAT IS IT?	WHAT'S NEW?	WHAT'S NEXT?
GOVERNMENT TO CITIZEN			
EZ Tax Filing, Treasury	To file tax forms online	The IRS in July reached an agreement with online software vendors on a plan for providing services. The project team is evaluating public comments, which were due Sept. 4.	The IRS will implement new online tax services in time for the 2003 filing season that will cover 60 percent of taxpayers who use Form 1040. This will expand services on **www.irs.gov**.
GovBenefits, Labor	To check eligibility for federal programs online	On Aug. 7, Labor added 25 programs, bringing the total to 110 services that users can link to from **www.govbenefits.gov**.	The department will add more programs on a monthly basis, including about 23 later this month.
Online Access for Loans, Education	To find loan programs	Education has conducted four focus groups with students, home buyers, farmers and small businesses to decide where the project needs to do.	After finalizing a plan and getting OMB's OK, Education will add a link to the GovBenefits portal for users to find out if they are eligible for educational loans.
Recreation One-Stop, Interior	To search for information and obtain services for all national and some state parks	Interior relaunched **recreation.gov** late last month with information from more participants. The site now also has local maps and driving directions, and a function to search for recreation sites by state. The department began piloting projects with state and local governments to provide more cross-government information.	The project team is developing a new user interface and is setting XML standards for use by site participants. Interior wants to partner with more states, as well as private organizations. Interior also plans to work with the National Association of State CIOs and other state and local government associations to develop data element standards for recreation sites.
GOVERNMENT TO BUSINESS			
USA Service, GSA	To let citizens personalize their government services in a secure environment	GSA in June created the Office of Citizen Services, which will run the eventual USA Services portal, the Federal Citizen Information Center and the E-Government Solutions Office.	GSA will add an e-mail service for the Federal Citizen Information Center's call center and the FirstGov portal.
Consolidated Health Informatics, HHS	To let agencies and private health care providers share and reuse medical information	The health systems team last month began reviewing a draft in-kind financing plan for the system. The team continues to work on standards for medical data elements.	HHS said the team this month will settle on a financing plan. It also will prioritize the standards proposals being considered and set a plan for finalizing federal standards that it hopes will prompt use of common data elements across the medical community.
Federal Asset Sales, GSA	To let agencies sell government property	GSA in July migrated the **www.fedsales.gov** site to the Firstgov portal to improve search capabilities for items that agencies want to sell.	The project team will work with asset sales companies to develop industry benchmarks for the pilot transaction portal.
International Trade Process Streamlining, Commerce	To combine 20 Web sites that support the export process	Commerce earlier this year began providing an online program to provide short-term financing to cover accounts receivable expenses of exporters. The Export-Import Bank's Working Capital Automation Project is integrated with **export.gov**.	This fall the Export-Import Bank will launch a collaborative workspace for international trade officials. Commerce also plans to automate the NAFTA process businesses use to certify the origin of a good.
One-Stop Business Compliance, SBA	To let businesses file information to comply with federal laws and regulations	This month SBA will launch a portal to help businesses find information by business theme. It also will include tools to let businesses apply online to get provisional employment identification numbers from the IRS and answer questions asked by prospective business owners.	SBA will release a profiler tool that lets business owners find specific laws and regulations that apply to them. In January, it also will release the first vertical registration tool, which will let truck drivers and trucking companies in Illinois register with the federal government online. Eventually, it also will link to state and local regulations.
Online Rulemaking Management, Transportation	To let businesses monitor and comment on proposed rules and regulations	Transportation has delayed the planned September launch of its portal because load testing found it could not handle the expected number of users.	The DOT team is working on the site to assure adequate access, with a target launch by month's end.
Simplified Tax and Wage Reporting System, Treasury	To let businesses file wage forms online	The first major deliverable, due by Dec. 31, would let business owners apply for an employer identification number online.	In January, an enhanced employment tax filing system will debut, and the IRS will let employers file corporate and tax-exempt-organization returns online by Jan. 2004.

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Disaster Management, FEMA	To coordinate public and private disaster relief, preparedness and response services	After some delay, FEMA launched its **disasterhelp.gov** portal late last month on a test basis.	FEMA plans to work with the 27 participating agencies to expand content and provide interactive services.
E-Grants, HHS	To combine federal grant services online	HHS reached an agreement with agencies, universities and nonprofits that sets data standards for grant applications. The planned grants system will use the government's SF 424 and the public-sector X12 standard transaction conventions for data interchanges, known as X12 Set 194.	HHS now will develop a prototype system by October of next year. The grants team must decide on the systems architecture, figure out how existing grant data requirements mesh with SF 424's data fields and identify changes that need to be made to the form. More information is available at **www.iagec.gov**.
E-Vital, SSA	To provide federal and state agencies online access to vital records	SSA and Colorado's vital statistics agency last week began using the E-Vital portal to let SSA employees search birth and death records to process benefits and Social Security number requests from Colorado residents.	SSA plans to expand the portal's use to seven more states in the next month.
Geospatial One Stop, Interior	To give federal and state agencies access to all government geospatial data	OMB in August issued a revised Circular A-16, setting the first new guidelines in 12 years for agencies that collect and maintain geospatial data.	The Geospatial One Stop team is working on standard terms to define features such as boundaries, hydrography and elevation. The committee expects to finish drafting data element standards by January. More information is available at **www.fgdc.gov/geo-one-stop**.
Safecom, FEMA	To coordinate wireless projects for federal, state and local public-safety programs	FEMA is finishing an agreement that will create an intergovernmental project management office for public-safety wireless programs.	Once the project management office is created, FEMA will work with state and local governments to develop a time line for integrating projects.
INTERNAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS			
E-Clearance, OPM	To combine the government's personnel clearance data	OPM is testing an electronic version of the personnel security questionnaire. Civilian agencies are uploading all clearance information into the Security/Suitability Investigations Index, which is set to go live for use governmentwide by January.	OPM plans to link the SII database to the Defense Department's Joint Personnel Adjudication System by November, ahead of its Dec. 31 deadline. Next year, the project team plans to start collecting images of all reports created by field investigators.
E-Payroll, OPM	To consolidate more than 22 federal payroll systems	The E-Payroll team is studying how many workers will be displaced once OPM consolidates 22 payroll providers at two or three federal facilities. OPM director Kay Cole James requested the study, which is supposed to be done early next month.	After reviewing agencies' proposals to become one of the payroll service providers, OPM in the next month will choose two or three to take over all government payroll services. The team will hold a vendor fair to provide agencies, which must choose from the new payroll providers by the end of December, with information about the chosen programs.
E-Records Management, NARA	To set policies for maintaining, storing and archiving electronic data as federal records	NARA last week released guidance outlining requirements for agencies to submit e-mail records to the archives. Agencies now can send files in either a markup language or the e-mail's native language.	The agency by January will finish a policy for the submission of records saved in image formats and by April guidance on Adobe Portable Document Format files. More information is available at **www.archives.gov/records_management/initiatives/erm_overview**.
E-Training, OPM	To provide a single site for all government training	OPM in July launched **www.golearn.gov**, a portal providing access to 30 government courses and 50 electronic books.	OPM next month plans to add more courses, including the curriculum created by the Federal Executive Institute and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
E-Travel, GSA	To consolidate travel services online	GSA is working with CIOs and chief financial officers to form an E-Travel Steering Committee and prepare business plans for a governmentwide travel portal. The travel team has formed a policy working group to work on travel reform issues across agencies.	GSA officials said they would release a draft statement of work this month outlining plans for an end-to-end E-Travel system and shortly after an RFP for an online booking engine. The team expects to launch the booking engine by January and a complete travel system by December of next year.
Enterprise HR Integration, OPM	To create a central repository for federal human resources information	OPM is evaluating two Army applications that support work force analyses and personnel forecasting.	By the end of the year, OPM will decide whether to adapt the Army software for governmentwide use. The HR team is working on a policy outlining what information needs to be collected, the framework for a system and the likely network design.
Integrated Acquisition Environment, GSA	To consolidate similar acquisition functions among agencies	GSA is modeling the acquisition process to identify existing systems, needed interfaces and data sharing possibilities. It also is developing a framework plan that integrates the buying requirements of all agencies.	GSA by January plans to award a contract for a new Federal Procurement Data System. It also intends to deploy a governmentwide acquisition contract directory. More information is available at **www.arnet.gov**.
Recruitment One-Stop, OPM	To improve **www.usajobs.opm.gov** by adding online resume submission, status tracking and eligibility screening	OPM is evaluating 62 responses from its request for information about how to enhance the USAjobs site.	OPM said it will release a request for quotations this month to outsource the site's operation and go live with the revised site by January.
CROSSCUTTING			
E-Authentication, GSA	To let agencies certify and authenticate users for online transactions	Late last month, GSA began testing the gateway using two National Finance Center applications, a public-key infrastructure, and PIN and password protections.	By January, the E-Authentication team expects to bring additional applications online.