



Tech Debt | Mainframe Decommissioning Program FAQ

This FAQ is a living document and will continue to be updated as more information becomes available. If you have a question not answered in this FAQ, please email Shelly Porter at shelly.porter@state.co.us

General Information

1. What is the Mainframe Decommission Program?

The state mainframe is a 30-year-old hardware system housing millions of data points and linking computers and services throughout the state. It is unreliable and very expensive to maintain. OIT will shift to a third-party hosted solution for mainframe storage and operations, removing the risk of older equipment failing and interrupting the delivery of critical services to Coloradans. Decommissioning the mainframe is the most important project in our work to remediate technical debt in state systems and applications.

2. Why is OIT doing this?

By shifting to a hosted solution for mainframe storage and operations, OIT can continue to deliver the technology that supports uninterrupted critical services for Coloradans, including state benefits and payments, access to child-related services, and processing payroll for state employees. The interface between state and federal government agencies (Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service and the Office of Child Support Enforcement) will be upgraded and made more secure. These changes will ensure government services are more accessible, easier to use and more secure for all Coloradans.

3. Who is affected?

While the mainframe decommissioning will impact many state agencies, the work is being done in a way that is intended to minimize impacts to agency partners, customers and Coloradans. There will be impacts on applications utilized by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), the Department of Revenue (DOR), the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), the Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA) and the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) during the code freeze and mainframe migration cutover activities.



4. Which applications and services are on the mainframe, and which agency(ies) own those applications?

The following table lists the applications and services and the agency and business owners of those applications.



App or Service on the Mainframe by Agency/Business Owner

App/Service	Agency(ies)
State ID Module (SIDMOD) (App)	CDHS
Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) (App)	CDHS
Colorado Personnel and Payroll System (CPPS) (App)	DPA
State Verification Exchange (SVES) (App)	CDHS, HCPF
CBMS/UI (Service)	CDLE
SSA MFT Replacement - SSA FTP Process (SDX, BENDEX, LIS) & SVES - CBMS (Service)	CDHS, HCPF, DOR, CDLE
SSA MFT Replacement - IRS connection through Cyberfusion (Service)	DOR
SSA MFT Replacement - OCSE - NDNH (Cyberfusion integration) (Service)	CDHS, DPA
Batch file coming from LEAP (Salesforce) to SVES (CBMS) (Service)	CDHS, HCPF
Broker interface between ACSES and TRAILS (Service)	CDHS
Broker interface between CBMS and TRAILS (Service)	CDHS
ACSES, FTPs remaining (DORA, print vendors, IDS North) (Service)	CDHS, DORA, DPA, DOR
COFRS (has been approved for removal by Bob Jaros) (Database)	DPA

5. When will this happen?

OIT has identified key milestones for the July 29, 2023 migration date.

- The project team is currently working on operational readiness and data migration in preparation for the mock migration. Data migration involves the creation of a duplicate copy of all the operational data on the mainframe in the hosted environment. These requirements must be met before the migration can occur so that mainframe operations can be sustained once the migration is complete.



- A mock migration will occur from July 14 - 27 in preparation for the actual migration. A mock migration is a complete move to the new environment while maintaining the existing state system. This will allow OIT to test the functionality of the new environment and ensure there are no known vulnerabilities before the actual migration.
 - **OIT Integration testing is scheduled for July 17 - 20.** Integration testing ensures the application and service integrations have proper connectivity and functionality.
 - **The official mainframe cutover to the hosted environment will occur on July 29.** During the cutover, the mainframe production system will move from the State of Colorado to our new cloud service vendor, Ensono. **As a result, mainframe applications will be unavailable between July 28 at 6 p.m. and July 31 at 8 a.m.**
6. Will there be User Acceptance Testing (UAT) before or after the cutover (mainframe migration)?

UAT is not required during the mock migration before cutover, as no application code changes exist. We will have resources and support for agencies after the migration if they encounter any issues or have concerns. UAT will be conducted after the July 29 cutover, and a testing plan for UAT will be shared with agencies by July 14. If an agency can volunteer for testing, please let Shelly Porter know. We appreciate our partners' support during this process.

7. Are any adverse outcomes expected due to skipping UAT ahead of the cutover?

No, we do not expect adverse outcomes. We are taking steps to resolve any issues identified during our mock migration testing. After the mock migration, we will test the integrations to ensure the network and firewall configurations are moved/copied correctly. This is a "like for like" copy of our current mainframe to the third-party vendor-hosted mainframe. There will be no changes to applications due to the mainframe migration.

8. Will OIT provide communications plans and agency-specific resources to agencies and business partners?

OIT's project communications plan is an internal work product and will not be shared as it is specific to project-level communications. OIT won't be creating agency-specific resources. OIT will send updates, service desk notifications, and other communications to IT directors and agency product directors (as appropriate) and rely upon those groups to share information with their agencies and partners. Each agency knows its stakeholders best and should work with its communications team to communicate important information to their staff, partners and customers. The project communications manager is happy to review your agency's communications—email jillian.likness@state.co.us for communications questions and support.



9. Are there Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs)?

OIT has a disaster recovery (system restoration) plan, and agencies should have COOPs. Each agency has specific applications and processes and should have manual work processes (backup plans in case of an outage or failure). Even with the mainframe moving to a vendor-hosted environment, agencies will still need to test COOP and manual work processes. It would benefit all agencies to develop and test their COOPs in the coming year.

10. Is there a plan for the cutover weekend, and how will updates be received on the status of the cutover activities?

OIT will open a Google Chat group starting at 6 p.m. on July 28 and will be available throughout the migration. OIT has identified the IT directors and agency points of contact for the cutover weekend. Updates will be provided via the project workbook. Shelly Porter will share the workbook.

11. Will there be a go/no-go meeting and any follow-ups to that initial decision?

There will be a technical team go / no-go meeting and follow-up communication to the designated points of contact (POCs) from the affected agencies and OIT IT Directors (ITDs). Please contact [Shelly Porter](#) if you have any further questions about this event.

12. Where can I get more information about Tech Debt and the Mainframe Decommission Program?

OIT employees and agency partners can join the project team for one of the scheduled status calls and Q&A sessions until September 1, 2023. These sessions are for state employees and county, city and jurisdictional partners. For more information, you can also check out the [ReimagineIT website](#).