Tech Debt | Mainframe Decommission 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?**

The mainframe was successfully migrated to the vendor-hosted mainframe environment on July 29, 2023. The project team is now focused on ensuring that all service integrations are connected to the vendor's environment and that IT service management is fully integrated as well.

6. **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.

7. **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.

8. **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.