ANCHORS AWAY »

Navy Data Center Consolidation Torpedoes IT Budget

Janice Haith, Director, Deputy Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer (DDCIO) – Navy Division in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance

DATA CENTER EXCHANGE

MeriTalk

Anchors Away – Navy Data Center Consolidation Torpedoes IT Budget

Janice Haith, Director, Deputy Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer (DDCIO) – Navy Division in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance, rolled out a vision for shipshape IT operations for the Navy and Marine Corps at the February Data Center Exchange meeting.

> **"WE'RE CLEARLY FOCUSED ON THE Es. THAT'S EFFICIENCY, ELIMINATING DUPLICATION, AND DELIVERING EFFECTIVE ENTERPRISE INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING OPERATIONS, REDUCING COSTS, AND SUPPORT ALL NAVY OPERATIONS."**
>
> – Janice Haith
> *Director, Deputy Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer (DDCIO) – Navy Division in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance*

"Our goal is to cut our data center fleet from 150 to just 17," she explained. "But, it's not just about counting data centers – as we send old iron to Davie Jones locker, we're aiming to shrink our operational costs by 50 percent."

Getting A Grip

"Our biggest challenge is that the Navy's never managed data centers centrally," said Haith. "Those 150 data centers across the Navy and Marine Corps ran under different support and cost models," said Haith. "As we've moved through the discovery process, we've uncovered some interesting insights. For example, we thought the Navy owned 114 data centers of the 150 count, but discovered we actually own 132."

Rationalization Rationale

"Our application and help desk asset discovery proved interesting too," said Haith. "The Navy currently maintains 7,000 applications that feed 1,700 systems – but central IT does not own these applications. The application owners are responsible for development, sustainment, and Information Assurance (IA) enhancements."

"We discovered more than 1,000 application help desks across the globe," said Haith. "Without a standard application development and management process, consolidation is complicated. So we're very focused on application audit and rationalization as a critical step in our consolidation and efficiency drive. We can realize significant manpower and energy savings by consolidating help desks – and using Navy personnel instead of contractor support."

Take No Prisoners

The complexity of definitions and the requirement to get everything on the table has led the Navy to establish the most

granular definition of a data center in the government. As OMB moves back and forth from 500 square feet to 100 square feet, the Navy is taking no prisoners. "If a server is operating in a room and hosting one of those applications, then it is a data center," says Haith.

> "We can no longer approach our jobs by doing things the same way, simply because that is how we have always done it. The rapidly changing technology environment and the need to husband our decreasing resources will not allow this inefficient approach."
>
> – VADM Kendall L. Card
> *Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance in CHIPS magazine, July-September 2011*

A Wider Net

Currently, the Navy is assessing 38 data centers and looking to widen the net. Focused on more than closing data centers, Navy is looking at FDCCI as an opportunity to optimize, enhance efficiency, and deliver enterprise infrastructure services. As such, Haith and her team are driving for more accurate cost recording and accounting to provide better visibility moving forward. They're also updating IA protocols and beefing up COOP capabilities.

Anchors Away

Despite the data collection and application ownership challenges, Haith and her team have charted a clear course forward. In March 2012, the U.S. Navy will release the targeted site list for consolidation.

From March to September 2012, the agency will close those targeted data centers and continue to assess additional closures. By the end of FY 2014, the U.S. Navy plans to buy back all former Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) data centers.

"Fiscal years 2013-2015 will hold the greatest savings for the U.S. Navy," says Haith. "We're working on getting buy-in from stakeholders and evaluating the capabilities and resources we have available to help us achieve our goals."

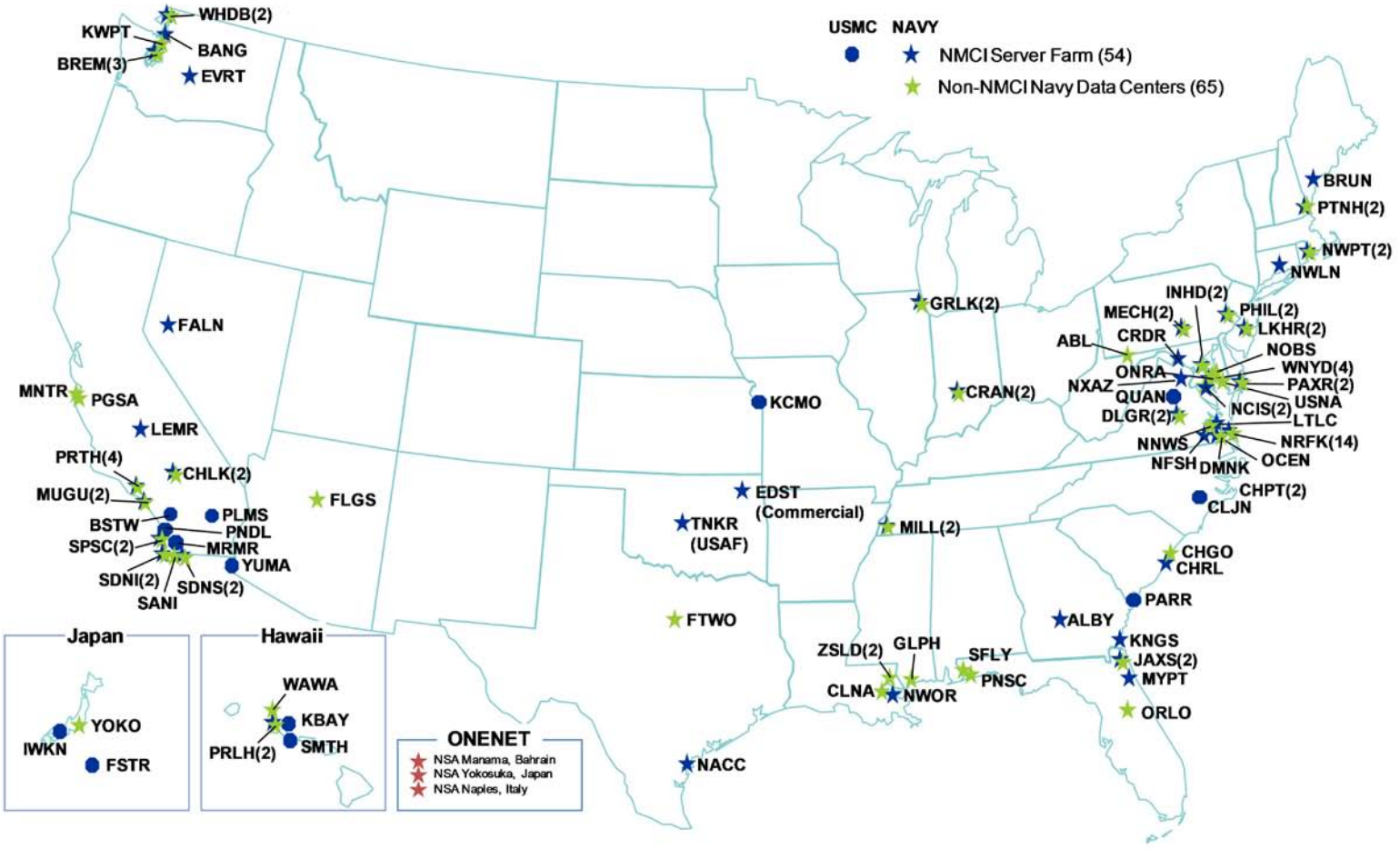
"In the future, the Navy will function as an enterprise for information management/ information technology," said Haith. "We're reviewing our legacy network consolidation efforts. Currently, we have approximately 300 networks – we plan to slash that complexity by 85 percent by 2015. In addition, by FY 2014, we plan to own 100 percent of our data centers."

Taking a leaf out of the Marine Corps playbook, the Navy is the expeditionary force in Federal Data Center Consolidation. Haith and her team understand the requirements for clear audit and application rationalization as precursors for consolidation. "You can't win by simply targeting data centers. You need to understand the total plan – and that takes investment and backing from agency leadership."

Click here to see Janice Haith's full presentation from the February Data Center Exchange meeting.

Current Navy Data Center Footprint

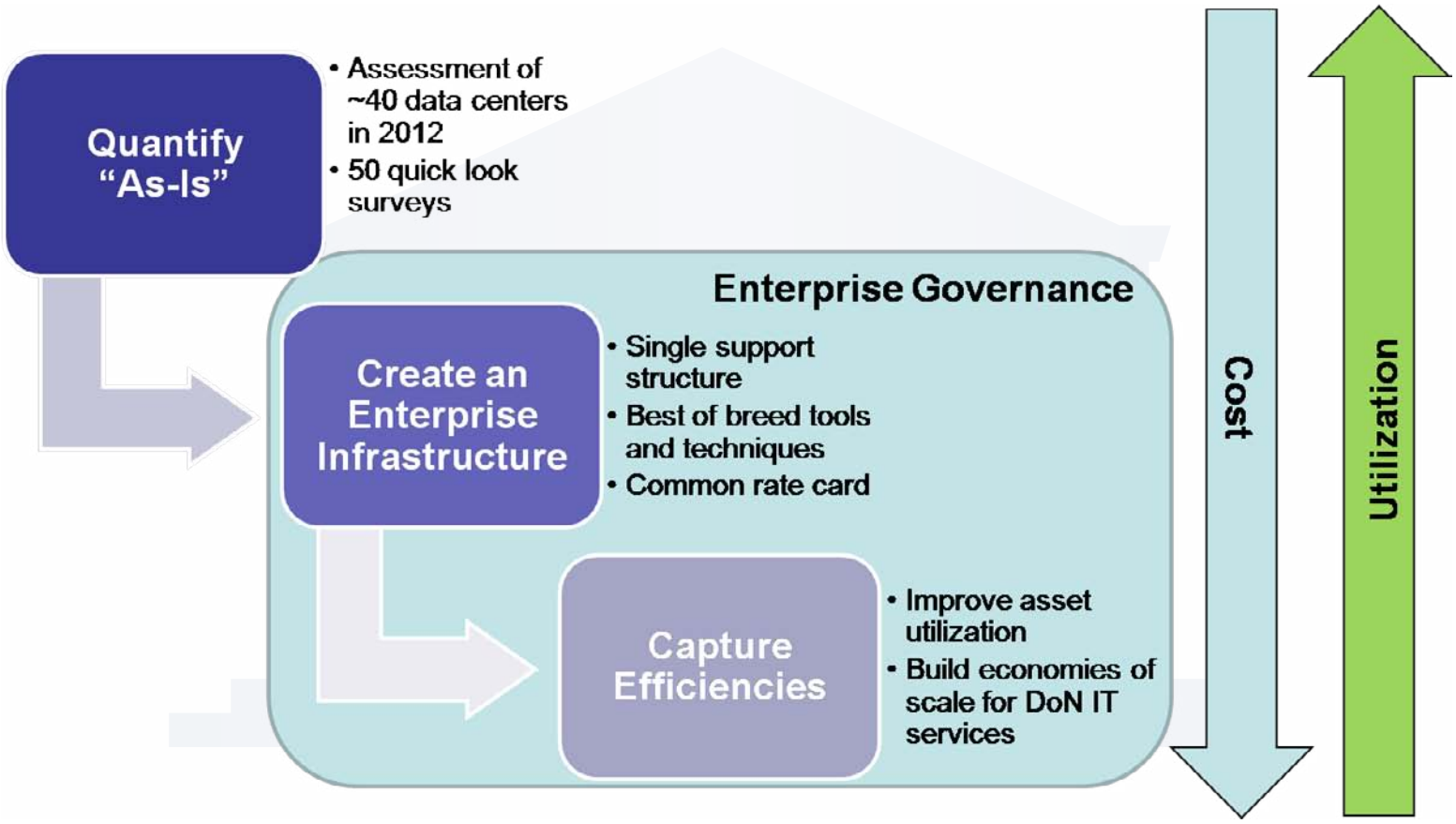
Back to Text »



Back to Text »

Delivering an Efficient Enterprise Infrastructure

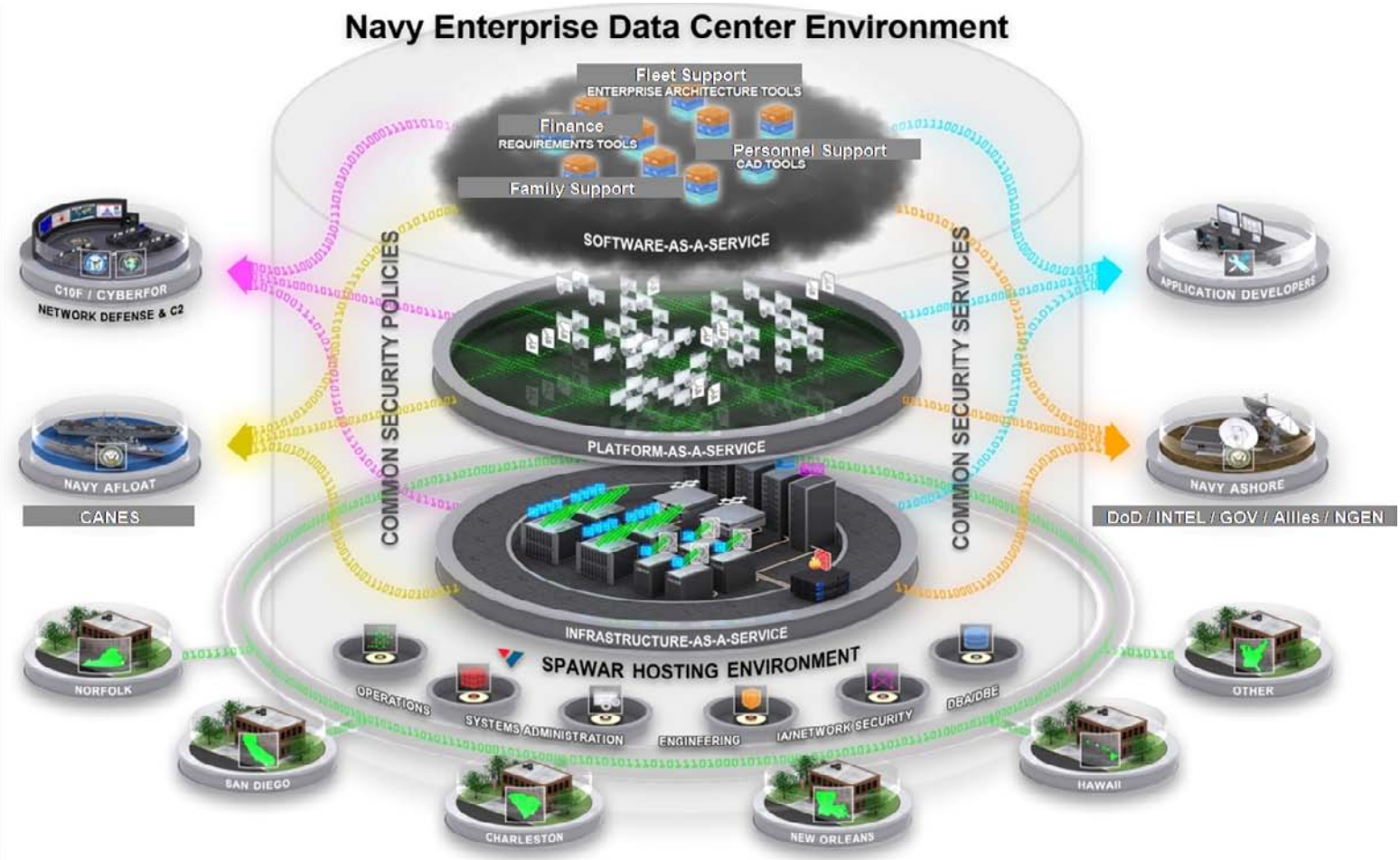
Back to Text »



Back to Text »

Proposed Navy Enterprise Data Center End-State

Back to Text »



Back to Text »