



Engaging IT in Operations and Maintenance of Electronic Equipment

FEC Partner Teleconference

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How the FEC Works

- The FEC is a management challenge issued to federal agencies and facilities
- The challenge is designed to encourage agencies/facilities to:
 - Purchase greener electronic products
 - Manage their electronic assets in an environmentally sound manner
 - Change their current practices in order to encourage electronic stewardship

FEC at EPA: IT Involvement

- IT Management at EPA
 - Decentralized: managed by individual Offices and Regions
 - Requirements and guidance issued from Office of Environmental Information (CIO)
- Each local IT manager has to balance (sometimes) conflicting requirements
 - More security
 - End user needing / wanting a newer, better ...
 - Doing more with less staff, less time and less money

FEC at EPA: IT Involvement

- So how to get IT involved?
 - Need to convince the IT staff that being environmental stewards can help them (or at least not hurt them) in achieving their goals
- For example
 - Doing more with less staff, less time and less money
 - Instead of setting ENERGY STAR on each PC, use the network-based tools from ENERGY STAR (EZ-SAVE and EZ-GPO) to enforce power management
 - Work with your local property offices to find easy ways for donating and recycling equipment; many IT folks still send the equipment to GSA because it is “easy”
 - Use a managed print service that save time, money and appropriately manage resource to prevent “wasting” toner and other supplies

Greening Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

- You can make your IT operations greener...
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation
 - Extending the Lifecycle
 - Optimizing Printing and Copying
 - Asset Management
 - User Education

FEC at EPA: O&M Policies

- Setting policies to be implemented across the Agency is one way to force environmental stewardship
- Currently working on several
 - 4 year refresh cycle
 - Power off guidance
 - Duplex printing

FEC at EPA: O&M Activities

□ Security vs. Power Management

■ The Problem

- IT Security staff want to have people leave PCs on at night to receive patches
- EPA staff are “annoyed” by patches and AV scans running during the day
- Environmentalist want PCs to be shut off when not in use

■ The solution

- Agreement with IT Security to turn off PCs as a rule, and have staff “restart” only when specifically requested
- Implement Energy Star features on monitors and computers
- Discussion with staff about competing needs and request that they allow minor delays to support the common good

FEC at EPA: Overcoming O&M Challenges

- New vs Extension of Life Cycle or Upgrades
 - The Problem
 - Managers and staff want the newest, best tools available; many are willing to spend a \$500 or \$1000 here or there on a credit card to get the newest toys
 - Environmentalist want to delay replacement of functional equipment, or upgrade when possible
 - The solution
 - If you can get high level management support, push back on those managers and staff who say they need the newest tool
 - Ask for a business case to justify the new device
 - Establish policies for refreshment of equipment; stress the importance of procuring robust equipment that will last for 4 years or longer
 - Educate managers and staff on both the cost savings side of reducing diversity, and the environmental issues of reducing waste

FEC at EPA: Overcoming O&M Challenges

- Two vs. One computer per person
 - The Problem
 - Managers and staff want a computer for use at work and also one for use at home
 - The solution
 - Push for use of laptops as the sole computer device
 - With a monitor and keyboard at work, the experience is the same as if it is a laptop and then, they can take the PC home at night, or for trips, as necessary
 - Other advantages
 - Supports flexiplace goals
 - Supports emergency readiness goals
 - Reduces overall costs

FEC at EPA: Other O&M technologies

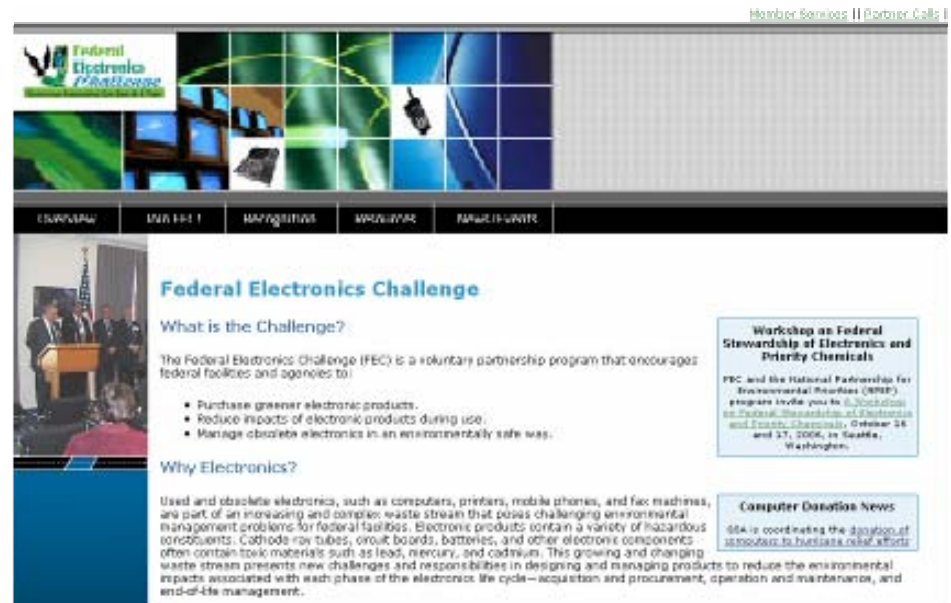
- ❑ Flexiplace and Remote Access
- ❑ Use of Remote Conferencing Tools and Technologies
 - Web Conferencing
 - Video Conferencing
 - Audio Conferencing
- ❑ Centralized Management and Consolidation of IT services
 - Storage Area Networks
 - Consolidated Data Centers
 - Remote administration and support technologies
 - Managed Service models for desktops, networks, data centers

What are you doing ?



Need More Information?

- FEC Website:
<http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/>
- Educational materials
- Fact sheets
- Checklists
- Implementation guidance
- Presentations
- FEC Forms



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Electronics Challenge website. At the top right, it says "Member Services | Partner Calls |". The main header features the "Federal Electronics Challenge" logo on the left and a grid of images on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with tabs for "OVERVIEW", "WHAT WE DO", "MANAGING IT", "PROCUREMENT", and "PARTICIPANTS". The main content area is titled "Federal Electronics Challenge" and includes a section "What is the Challenge?" with a sub-section "The Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) is a voluntary partnership program that encourages federal facilities and agencies to:" followed by a bulleted list: "Purchase greener electronic products.", "Reduce impacts of electronic products during use.", and "Manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way." Below this is a "Why Electronics?" section. On the right side, there are two callout boxes: "Workshop on Federal Stewardship of Electronics and Priority Chemicals" and "Computer Donation News".