GovCIO MEDIA & RESEARCH

JUNE 2026

DeepDives

FEDERAL IT EFFICIENCY

Priorities

INSIDE:

DOGE Service Priorities 3

Infographic: GSA's OneGov. 6

Q&A: The Challenge of Enterprise Integration. . . . 7

Shifting to Unified Platforms 11

SPONSORED BY

CDW

From the editor's desk

Sarah Sybert, Managing Editor

Driving Federal IT Efficiency

Federal agencies are entering a new phase of modernization, moving away from deploying individual technologies and focusing on improving operational efficiency across the enterprise.

The challenge is no longer access to technology; it is integrating those capabilities into cohesive systems that can scale across organizations, reduce complexity and accelerate mission delivery.

Efforts like the U.S. DOGE Service's push for agile procurement and the General Services Administration's OneGov Strategy are designed to help agencies move faster, reduce duplication and leverage the federal government's collective buying power. The goal is to replace fragmented approaches with enterprise solutions that deliver measurable outcomes.

Agencies are consolidating tools, standardizing governance frameworks and modernizing software delivery processes. Officials say unified platforms can improve visibility and reduce the operational burden on the federal workforce. Rather than relying on disconnected systems and manual processes, agencies are building environments that enable automation, real-time decision-making and faster deployment of new capabilities. AI is accelerating many of these efforts.

Ultimately, efficiency in government is becoming a measure of how quickly agencies can translate technology investments into mission outcomes. Success will depend on agencies' ability to simplify operations and scale capabilities to meet the demands of the rapidly changing tech landscape.

Table of Contents

Laura Mannweiler,
Staff Writer

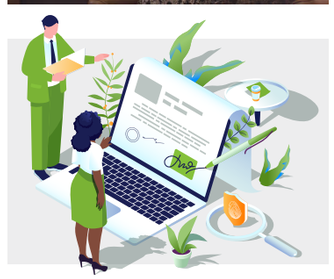
ARTICLE

DOGE Service Eyes Faster Procurement, AI to Modernize Government

Amy Gleason outlined a focus on agile procurement, legacy system modernization, AI adoption and improving citizen services.

BY LAURA MANNWEILER

Ross Gianfortune,
Senior Staff Writer



INFOGRAPHIC

Inside GSA's OneGov Strategy

GSA's OneGov Strategy aims to help agencies operate as "one government" when purchasing technology.

PARTNER INTERVIEW

Enterprise Integration Remains Government's Biggest Technology Challenge

Federal agencies are moving beyond standalone solutions and prioritizing scalable platforms, streamlined contracts and operational efficiency across the enterprise.

Travis Methvin, CDW Federal Strategist

ARTICLE

Agencies Shift From Fragmented IT Systems to Unified Platforms

Federal technology leaders discussed consolidating legacy tools, streamlining compliance and scaling AI to improve government efficiency.

BY ROSS GIANFORTUNE

DOGE Service Eyes Faster Procurement, AI to Modernize Government

Amy Gleason outlined a focus on agile procurement, legacy system modernization, AI adoption and improving citizen services.

BY LAURA MANNWEILER

The U.S. DOGE Service is eyeing procurement reform and legacy modernization as part of government's ongoing push for efficiency across agencies, Administrator Amy Gleason said at GovCIO Media & Research's May 2026 Federal IT Efficiency Summit.

"We still buy things like we buy ships and paper when we need to buy software and services. Really modernizing that process is something we focused on a lot in helping leaders remove those burdens," she said. "If it takes you a year to buy something, that's a year that it took you to not do your project and not deliver on something. And so we really need to find modern practices to help people get the modern tools they need, and to fix our processes."

Gleason, who also serves as strategic advisor at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, outlined an ambitious agenda for federal technology modernization, covering procurement reform, healthcare data interoperability and AI adoption.

Four Priorities Driving the DOGE Service Mission

The U.S. DOGE Service, which rebranded and repositioned from the former U.S. Digital Service, is focused on four core pillars, Gleason said.

The first is improving services for the public through human-centered design — designing with the user instead of for them to make processes easier.

The second priority is recruiting top technology talent into government. Gleason said modernization cannot happen without engineers at the table.

"Sometimes I can go through agencies and have a lot of meetings about technology and modernization, and there won't be a single engineer in any of

Photo credit: Invision Events

the conversations. And so it's really hard to do that modernization if you don't have great tech talent," she said, and added that they are "always hiring."

Third is partnering directly with agencies to modernize legacy systems, including COBOL code dating as far back as 1964, and focusing on agile procurement that delivers results in months rather than years.

The fourth pillar is protecting taxpayer dollars by tackling fraud, waste and abuse, and promoting transparency and accountability across federal programs.

Gleason named several high-profile successes that demonstrate what human-centered design can accomplish. Federal Student Aid's FAFSA, which saw its lowest completion rate two years ago, was relaunched and hit a record completion rate with two months remaining in the current filing period. The redesigned process now takes most users just 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Another example is passport renewals. Citizens can now complete the entire renewal process online, including submitting a self-captured photo from home, and receive their passports in days or weeks rather than the months the old process required.

For veterans, a new filtering feature on disability claim screens drew over 400,000 users in its first two weeks alone, with high satisfaction reviews.

The Health Tech Ecosystem: Killing the Clipboard

At the center of Gleason's work at CMS is the Health Tech Ecosystem, which she launched last summer at the White House with President Donald Trump and CMS Secretary Mehmet Oz. The initiative brought together more than 800 organizations in a public-private collaboration aimed at solving healthcare interoperability within one year.

The initiative's top goal is putting health data directly in patients' hands.

"My daughter has 51 patient portals, which is virtually impossible to remember how to access that many systems, and her data is siloed across all of them," Gleason said, drawing on her experience as the mother of a child

Photo credit: THICHA SATAPITANON/ Shutterstock

“We still buy things like we buy ships and paper when we need to buy software and services. Really modernizing that process is something we focused on a lot in helping leaders remove those burdens.”

— Amy Gleason, Administrator of U.S. DOGE Service and Strategic Advisor, CMS

diagnosed with a rare disease.

The ecosystem’s “kill the clipboard” initiative would allow patients to share their records via QR code at a provider visit, mirroring the experience of showing a boarding pass at an airport.

AI as a Force Multiplier

Gleason is an outspoken advocate for AI adoption across government. Recently, CMS used AI to analyze more than 30,000 public comments it received on a recent RFI. The technology summarized them into searchable themes while preserving access to individual responses.

She also described AI’s potential in healthcare, recounting how her daughter used generative AI to reanalyze 16 years of medical records and discovered she had been misdiagnosed, a finding that made her newly eligible for a clinical trial.

“She didn’t have to know the right question to ask, and she didn’t have to know all of her information or what was in her biopsy, it just did that for her,” Gleason said. “That’s the power of having that data and having technology with it.”

Gleason’s call to action for federal leaders who have yet to embrace AI tools in their daily work was to use it every day.

GovCIO MEDIA & RESEARCH

DeepDives

Inside GSA's OneGov Strategy

Launched in April 2025, GSA's OneGov Strategy aims to help agencies operate as "one government" when purchasing technology by streamlining procurement, standardizing pricing and leveraging the federal government's buying power.

IMPACT SO FAR

3.4 MILLION AI USERS ENABLED ACROSS GOVERNMENT
$1.15 BILLION IN FEDERAL SAVINGS

PHASE 1: IT INITIATIVE

Establish direct relationships with original equipment manufacturers and secure enterprise-level pricing discounts for federal agencies.

PHASE 2: STRATEGIC OFFERS

Introduce limited-time agreements with technology providers as a pathway to longer-term contracts.

PHASE 3: LONG-TERM CONTRACTS

Transition vendors to direct agreements through GSA's Multiple Award Schedule program to create sustainable, governmentwide purchasing vehicles.

Source: GSA

GovCIO MEDIA & RESEARCH

CDW

Enterprise Integration Remains Government's Biggest Technology Challenge

Federal agencies are moving beyond standalone solutions and prioritizing scalable platforms, streamlined contracts and operational efficiency across the enterprise.

Travis Methvin
CDW Federal Strategist

What are the biggest operational and technology challenges facing federal agencies today?

Methvin The primary obstacle facing federal agencies is not the availability of technology itself, but the ability to integrate it at enterprise scale. Historically, industry has produced advanced technologies — whether quantum computing or identity management solutions — but has struggled to deliver them in a format optimized for large-scale integration.

To counter this, we're seeing a massive shift away from legacy development cycles, where agencies spend nine months building a bespoke system before testing its viability. Agencies now demand solutions that are mission-aligned and operationally ready on day one.

(ctd.)

Efforts like the Department of the Navy's other transaction authority (OTA) pilot-to-production programs emphasize rapid, six- to nine-week capability deliveries with pre-agreed success metrics. If a prototype demonstrates an understanding of the mission and can scale, follow-on contracts are awarded.

Operational efficiency also requires breaking down organizational silos. For example, the Navy historically managed 15 different types of endpoint devices, driving up contract management complexity and fracturing original equipment manufacturer supply chains. Transitioning to modern device-as-a-service models streamlines business, medical and administrative functions across multiple domains. True total cost of ownership is no longer just about hardware costs; it's about human capital efficiency — reducing the workforce needed to manage dozens of disparate contracts down to a single cohesive team.

Where is technology already delivering measurable impact across the federal government?

Methvin The most measurable impacts are occurring where application infrastructure, data layers and secure transport layers mature at the same pace rather than being bolted together piece by piece. This is demonstrated in Joint All-Domain Command and Control initiatives and, specifically, the Navy's Project Overmatch.

By standardizing data across flight sensors, satellites and tactical systems, and applying real-time AI and machine learning, the military can synthesize massive amounts of information into operational awareness. This translates raw data streams into warfighting advantages, boosting operational tempo and mission effectiveness.

(ctd.)

"The primary obstacle facing federal agencies is not the availability of technology itself, but the ability to integrate it at enterprise scale."

— Travis Methvin, CDW Federal Strategist

We are also seeing a significant shift toward leveraging commercial infrastructure for tactical edge use cases. Observations from recent global conflicts have expanded the government's willingness to adopt innovations such as low-Earth orbit satellite constellations and cloud backhauls that were once considered strictly commercial capabilities.

In addition, IT modernization has made real-time software updates a reality. The Navy no longer relies on mailing out physical CDs or enduring multi-year lag times. Updates happen in real time to sustain constant warfighter readiness.

What will define the next year of federal operational transformation?

Methvin The next year will be defined by a significant shift in acquisition philosophy and institutional agility. The War Department is moving funding closer to the point of execution, allowing program executive officers to make agile, in-year acquisition adjustments based on real-world events rather than parking money for three years to fund a rigid plan.

This speed of execution is redefining the federal supply chain. Instead of purchasing laptops or tactical equipment only to have them sit in a warehouse for 12 to 15 months and become outdated, data forecasting enables just-in-time delivery of mission-capable technology. Open orchestration platforms, such as BrainGu and BigBear.ai, will further enable application development to pivot more quickly as mission needs evolve.

This shift is giving rise to a rapid-response ecosystem fueled by Rapid Capability Offices and the Defense Innovation Unit. Government entities that previously took months to evaluate technology are now issuing requests for proposals with 10-day turnaround times, forcing industry to adapt to an unprecedented pace.

Additionally, two factors will continue to reshape operations behind the scenes. A younger generation of workers that grew up with mobile technology is accelerating the adoption of modern, dashboard-driven software over command-prompt administration. This has fundamentally altered training paradigms, shifting toward short-form video instruction and placing greater emphasis on customer experience and hardware design.

Government leadership is also increasingly embracing venture capital and incubation methodologies, collaborating directly with firms to seed, fund and accelerate innovative startups focused on mission-critical challenges.

Photo Credit: Dabarti CGI/Shutterstock

Secure Supply Chain

1000+ OEMs

Recognized Leader

CMMI Appraised

Trusted Partner

CDW Government

Compliant Solutions

CMMC Compliant

Unmatched Expertise

IT Modernization

Cyber Security

Managed IT Services

AI Strategy

Solutions Provider

Cloud Migration / Adoption

Software

IT Hardware

Staff Augmentation

Zero Trust

Oasis+

Vehicles

GSA MAS

NASA SEWP

Shield

For more information, reach out to your dedicated account team.
800.800.4239 | CDWG.com/federal

CDW®

Agencies Shift From Fragmented IT Systems to Unified Platforms

Federal technology leaders discussed consolidating legacy tools, streamlining compliance and scaling AI to improve government efficiency.

BY ROSS GIANFORTUNE

Federal agencies are shifting from isolated modernization projects to broader operational transformation efforts, using AI governance frameworks, consolidated platforms and DevSecOps pipelines to improve efficiency and speed mission delivery, officials said at GovCIO Media & Research's May 2026 Federal IT Efficiency Summit.

Standardizing AI Governance Through NIST

National Institute of Standards and Technology Principal Researcher for AI and Cybersecurity Martin Stanley said improving efficiency starts with standardized frameworks that integrate into existing organizational functions.

"We're seeing an uneven application of AI in federal agencies," Stanley said. "We want to ensure that we're promoting conversations around use of AI, even if we don't have tools."

Stanley, who leads the AI Risk Management Framework project at NIST, said the framework has been operationalized across commercial, academic and federal sectors over the past three years to establish governance aligned with organizational values. To improve efficiency, agencies should encourage internal dialogue and experimentation around AI capabilities before procurement decisions are finalized, he added.

Beyond internal planning, Stanley highlighted the need for transparent vendor partnerships to maximize return on investment. Agencies must understand how their data is handled and how secure the underlying AI models are, he said. Operationalizing AI governance is less about avoiding regulations and more about integrating requirements into existing workflows to avoid duplicative processes.

(ctd.)

Photo Credit: Invision Events

Colin Crosby

Service Data Officer at the Marine Corps and Deputy CDO at the Department of the Navy

Overcoming ‘Accidental Architectures’ in IT Operations

Government agencies also need to rethink tool consolidation strategies, said Cody Bell, federal sales leader at NinjaOne. Many agencies currently suffer from what he called an “accidental architecture” — fragmented environments created through decades of disconnected procurement cycles, where separate tools manage patching, asset inventories and ticketing independently.

“It’s a platform that nobody really designed, no one owns it end to end and no one can see all the way across, and so the problem isn’t that any one of these tools is bad,” Bell said. “The gaps in between all these different tools are where risk and inefficiencies live.”

When new vulnerabilities emerge and compliance requirements demand immediate remediation, analysts are forced to act as “human middleware,” Bell said. He argued that tool consolidation should not be viewed solely as a cost-cutting measure, but as a critical path to operational efficiency.

“A dashboard is what gives you visibility, but a consolidated platform is what’s going to give you velocity,” Bell said.

By using a unified platform built on a single code base and agent, agencies can layer AI capabilities directly onto endpoints, he added. He said that “patch intelligence” can automatically cross-reference vulnerabilities against community sentiment and installation failure rates to identify stable patches for deployment.

“Every agency here is under pressure to do more with less, that’s really not new. But the scrutiny on how you spend, how many tools you maintain and how fast you can respond is at a level that we’ve never seen before,” Bell said.

Digital Transformation as a Human Endeavor

Beyond broad modernization mandates, Marine Corps Service Data Officer Colin Crosby said the service is focused on deliberate execution strategies that embed technology directly into operational workflows.

Photo Credit: Invision Events

“It’s not as simple as IT upgrades. It’s the fundamental rewiring of how we operate, how we make decisions and how we fight,” Crosby said. “Transformation is not a mandate. It happens through deliberate execution.”

The Marine Corps uses digital transformation teams as “operational muscle” to help commanders integrate modernization initiatives into daily operations.

“We know their frustrations in having new technology going out to command,” Crosby said. “What if we had a capability that could help commanders understand the technology, understand how to use and integrate that technology into their everyday experience?”

By embedding directly with operational units, digital transformation teams ensure new technologies align with existing workflows rather than disrupting them.

“They get into the trenches with these units,” Crosby said. “The digital transformation teams ensure that the new capability that arrives actually connects to workflows instead of disrupting them.”

Crosby also highlighted the Marine Corps’ use of Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) to safely test emerging commercial technologies within operational environments. Rather than relying on isolated pilot programs, CRADAs create structured environments for collaborative experimentation, he said.

“Under a CRADA, we bring you inside our environment, you use our data, you get to use our get on our network,” Crosby said. “We get to actually test how that technology works within the service within the day-to-day operation that we do, and so that is a very important capability.”

Crosby added that modernization efforts are only as effective as the personnel operating the technology.

“Digital transformation is ultimately a human endeavor,” Crosby said. (ctd.)

Photo Credit:
Invision Events

Tech and Efficient Edge AI

HP Federal COO Matt Barry expanded on Crosby's point, arguing that successful digital transformation efforts remain rooted in trust and human relationships.

"This is a human sport," Barry said. "None of it happens without trust, and we can only move at the speed of trust when we invest in human relationship."

Barry said edge devices are becoming increasingly important as government organizations look to run complex AI workloads locally instead of relying entirely on cloud-based environments.

"We see incredible opportunities with clients looking at workstation-class devices where they can have compute workflows AI at the edge in ways that are more secure at times, depending on the use case, less latency, higher performance," Barry said. "The economics are quite compelling when you look at operational cost of operating workloads at scale at the edge versus transporting a lot through tokens and cloud consumption."

For operators working in disconnected or contested environments, localized compute capabilities can provide significant operational advantages, Barry added.

"If I'm in a contested place in the world … and on my laptop, not connected to anything, I've got billions of parameters of information that I can query, like ChatGPT," Barry said.

Shifting Security Outcomes to Accelerate Delivery

In software development, the authority to operate (ATO) process can be notoriously slow, said David Raley, chief digital business officer for Operation StormBreaker in the Marine Corps. Raley said that traditional, paper-based compliance acts as a massive bottleneck, actively blocking the delivery of vital capabilities to the warfighter.

"[The ATO process] is blocking implementation and getting capability to deliver it to the warfighter in the context of the Marine Corps and the Department of War," Raley said.

Photo Credit: Invision Events

Raley said both vendors and mission owners frequently focus too narrowly on applications while overlooking the broader operational environment and infrastructure layer. Because as much as 85% of risk management framework controls exist outside the application itself, Operation StormBreaker centralizes infrastructure services to simplify compliance requirements.

"We're able to push container workloads into production with an authorization in 15 minutes," Raley said, "We put all the guardrails, and we've got the platform set up properly. We put the guardrails and everything else in the DevSecOps pipeline that apply the RMF steps through an automated process and puts the control in the hands of the developer."

By shifting security outcomes "left" and leveraging a certified DevSecOps pipeline, developers can run efficient, automated compliance scans and receive real-time feedback, Raley said. This approach replaces massive, multi-year deployment batches with containerized, incremental releases, he said.

"[We can move] to that model and that gets us aligned with industry's best practice of being able to agilely develop and build an internal release capability at that seat of the mission requirements, as opposed to a four- or five-year deployment cycle," Raley said.

"It's not as simple as IT upgrades. It's the fundamental rewiring of how we operate, how we make decisions and how we fight."

— Service Data Officer at the Marine Corps and Deputy CDO at the Department of the Navy