

Information Policy/Technology in the News

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Introduction

The policy that I conducted legislative tracing on is called the BIS IT Modernization Act, which focuses on modernizing the IT systems and applications of the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the Department of Commerce (Jason, 2025). The news event that I chose in relation to the policy is from ACM's response to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)'s request on the development plan for AI Action plans (ACM, 20). I believe that the news and policy are related to each other due to their focus on adapting to new technologies especially towards legacy systems. Overall, we are starting to see multiple sectors shift their technology to AI and machine learning systems in order to adapt to the rapid development and progression of technology.

Policy and Event Analysis

The core issue of the policy and event is that technology is advancing at a rapid rate, and the government IT infrastructures need to adapt to the progress to keep their systems functioning while maintaining efficiency. I also believe that the government and technology organizations face the conflict of balancing security, efficiency, and accuracy, considering that these systems will start to rely on AI, machine learning, and other technologies (Jason, 2025). The government needs to handle information and data using methods that respect transparency, fairness, accountability, and public interest.

There are also several implications, such as definitions and guidelines legislation, accountability mandates, data governance laws, and education and research. In order to apply new technology, Congress would have to pass legislation that creates clear definitions and guidelines regarding handling these new technologies. There could also be legislation that requires AI systems to provide audits, explanations of decisions and methods, documentation of

data sources and training, and mechanisms for when harm occurs. The information mentioned should also be public so that the general public is aware of how the government is using AI in their IT infrastructures. The ACM suggests the “science-to-policy pipeline” and bug-bounty-style testing for these models (ACM, 2025). Since AI is rooted in data, legislation about data collection, usage, sharing, protection, retention, deletion, and bias auditing also becomes relevant. Focusing on data governance is also important since the general public’s data and information may be used for the new IT infrastructures that will eventually use AI and machine learning. Pasek’s mapping to the information highlights that creation, processing, and access flows are all subject to information policy concerns (Pasek, 2015). The ACM also comments on the policy implications for education and workforce development in AI. Therefore the policies should have emphasis on AI literacy, public awareness, data skills, and oversight research (ACM, 2025). This can also be found in the policy, where it focuses on “reassessing staffing and personnel needs across the Bureau throughout the modernization process described in this section” (Jason, 2025). Reassessing the staff and personnel needs can include education and awareness about the new IT infrastructure, especially for older employees who have been potentially working with the legacy systems for years.

There are multiple stakeholders to consider regarding this topic. Government officials would be in charge of enacting and governing the information policies. The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the Department of Commerce is involved in following the policy and updating their IT infrastructures based on what the policy outlines. OSTP and ACM also work hand-in-hand in approaching AI systems based on the ACM statement. There are also foreign relationships to consider due to their relation to BIS and the fact that the policy was referred to the Committee of Foreign Affairs. Technology and information professionals are also involved

due to their contribution in potentially developing IT infrastructures, whether the legacy systems or the modernized systems. The general public are also related because their data and information is collected which is most likely involved in developing these AI and ML systems to prevent bias. ACM also highlights user-centric design and trust for any developing systems (ACM, 2025).

Based on everything that I read regarding the policy and event, the core of this policy is that the federal government is approaching its need to modernize digital infrastructure to keep pace with technologies' advancements while preserving security and public trust. BIS focuses on commerce, trade, technology, and national security; therefore, outdated systems create bottlenecks and vulnerabilities. Since the policy wants to approach AI and ML infrastructures, there needs to be transparency and interpretability. Information flow will be different with the modern systems; therefore, it needs to be publicized how information is being processed and how decisions are being made. The ACM emphasis on transparency of system design and human-machine collaboration (ACM, 2025). Another issue is that this is a policy event that may also start developing in other agencies in the government. Interagency coordination needs to balance being secure and seamless transition of information and data flow. The policy event also highlights a broader national conversation about how quickly federal agencies should adopt new technologies into their systems and highlights the future of information and data flow and controls within the government.

Information professionals and society face implications as these policies and events occur. Information professionals strive for modern IT infrastructure using AI and machine learning, amongst other technologies, and their methods may strive for the most efficient and fastest data and information processing. But this has the ethical implication of "Is that the

method that protects the society's best interest and safety?" Information professionals also need to adhere to guidelines and legislation to make sure that their development of these new IT infrastructures are safe and ethical practices. Society and the general public also deserve to know what is being done to their data and information within the government. Overall, modernization may widen or reduce digital inequities depending on its implementation. If the systems are too complex, stakeholders may struggle to adapt to the technologies. Therefore, there should be emphasis on creating education programs or workshops to ensure that all stakeholders have a baseline understanding of the new technologies.

References

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