

# PressRelease

For Immediate Release: December, 11, 2009



THE OFFICE OF  
**ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY**  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

---

**CONTACT:**

**Cathy de Moll, Director of Communications**

**651-556-8002**

**Cathy.de.moll@state.mn.us**

658 Cedar Street

Saint Paul, MN 55105

[www.oet.state.mn.us](http://www.oet.state.mn.us)

---

## **Federal Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra outlines 'Open Government Directive'**

**St Paul, MN** – The 28th annual Minnesota Government Information Technology Symposium on December 9 became the state's first opportunity to hear details of the new national "Open Government Directive" that was released Tuesday by the federal government. The directive, designed to increase the openness of government and inspire more innovation, instructs federal agencies "to implement the principles of transparency, participation and collaboration" as outlined in a memorandum signed by the president.

Federal Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra, a co-author of the plan, visited Minnesota to speak to an audience of about 800 government information technology specialists at the symposium. The theme of the gathering, "The IT Revolution," fit well with Chopra's message about harnessing technology and innovation to transform the economy. "We hope this is an opening dialogue in the state of Minnesota and throughout the country," Chopra said.

State CIO Gopal Khanna invited the federal appointee to speak at the symposium, which hosted 80 other speakers from across the state and nation to focus on information technology tools and trends for government IT. The symposium concluded Thursday at the St. Paul RiverCentre.

Among the federal directives outlined in Chopra's speech was the creation of a national broadband technology plan by Feb. 17, 2010. He also outlined an aggressive timeline for releasing high-value data sets from federal agencies, launching an open government web page, and publishing a federal open government plan.

The Open Government directive was unveiled in a [Tuesday Dec. 8 video chat](#) on WhiteHouse.gov by Chopra, along with Federal Chief Information Officer Vivek Kundra, and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. [A 22-page report](#) was also released.

In his Minnesota remarks on Wednesday, Chopra stated that the U.S. is lagging in its rate of change across 15 key measures of global competitiveness, and outlined the Obama administration's current strategy for improving on innovation. From the IT perspective, he encouraged innovation through open data standards, with emphasis on health IT, the energy grid, and education, and argued for enterprise architecture that would align federal, state and local systems for meaningful flow of data from government to citizens.

Chopra reminded the IT specialists assembled at the symposium that the greatest changes in open government would occur at the local level.

During his two day trip to Minnesota Chopra also visited a Medtronic research and development site in Mounds View and spoke at a Health IT Summit at UnitedHealth Group in Minnetonka.

# PRESS RELEASE

Continued



---

The annual Minnesota Government IT Symposium is presented by Government Training Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping those who provide services to Minnesota citizens and communities meet current needs for knowledge and skills and prepare for the changes to come. Since 1976, the group has been working with policymakers, staff, appointed officials from all levels of government and all types of nonprofit agencies – and their collaborators in associations, business, higher education and community groups.

###