

ITS-ITANA

Launch Memorandum

Motivation:

ITS is a large and complex organization, serving many important and sometimes complex needs to a large institution. As budgets flatten and shrink, expectations for time to market for new services are now measured in months if not weeks, and faculty/staff/student expectations are becoming more consumer-like. ITS needs to think differently about how it develops the most fundamental layers of all of its services. Security, policy, re-use, reliability and high performance have to become design elements. This can only be accomplished through a broader understanding of what is in place today across all of ITS, and what is being planned as future elements of our infrastructures.

All of the units in ITS have specific aspects to their missions. Unit level focus allows for some autonomy in understanding and reacting to customer needs. But in responding to these needs, there is significant overlap in the basics of what we must do - network, store, compute, authenticate, Web serve, allocate, authorize, administrate, etc.

Goal:

Establish a vibrant community of information technology architects in ITS for the purposes of

- creating central IT services which incorporate security, policy, reuse, reliability and high performance as inherent design characteristics
- reducing time to market for new services across all of ITS
- identify areas for improved efficiencies and reduced cost
- leveraging the considerable collective knowledge in the group for cross-cutting and unit specific services

Action:

ITS will establish a group called ITS-ITANA modeled after the emerging national group called ITANA (Information Technology Architects in Academia - <http://itana.org>). ITS-ITANA will be lead by co-chairs who will serve one year. Co-chairs will come from two different organizations within ITS. Additionally, a person other than the co-chairs will serve as Penn State's representative to the national ITANA effort. The ITANA representative will also serve for a term of one year.

ITS-ITANA will meet at least five times in its inaugural year.

ITS-ITANA co-chairs will meet with Kevin and Jeff in between each of their meetings in year one.

Kevin will kick-off the initial meeting.

Initial Charge: ITS-ITANA will work to establish a rich understanding among its membership of what each other does and how they do it, for the purposes of understanding how to help each other accomplish goals with greater ease, make decisions with better accuracy, and seek out opportunities to achieve cost and effort efficiencies in deploying new architectures or improving older architectures. By the end of the first year, the group will make recommendations to ITS Senior Leadership about possible future technical directions for ITS and share their observations about what they've learned about each other and ITS.

Year One Membership:

- Cole Camplese
- Phil Devan
- Lynn Garrison
- Randy Hegarty

- Jason Holmes
- Steve Kellogg (Year 1 ITANA representative)
- Jim Leous (Co-chair)
- Terry O'Heron
- Phil Pishioneri
- Jeff Reel
- Mark Saussure
- Matt Scott
- Carl Seybold
- Renee Shuey
- Scott Smith (Co-Chair)
- Christian Vinten-Johansen