

# Digital Transformation

September 23, 2022



Transforming How  
Texas Government  
Serves Texans

Texas Department of Information Resources

# Today's Speakers



**Jennifer Buaas**

**Director of Strategic  
Digital Services**

Texas Department of  
Information Resources

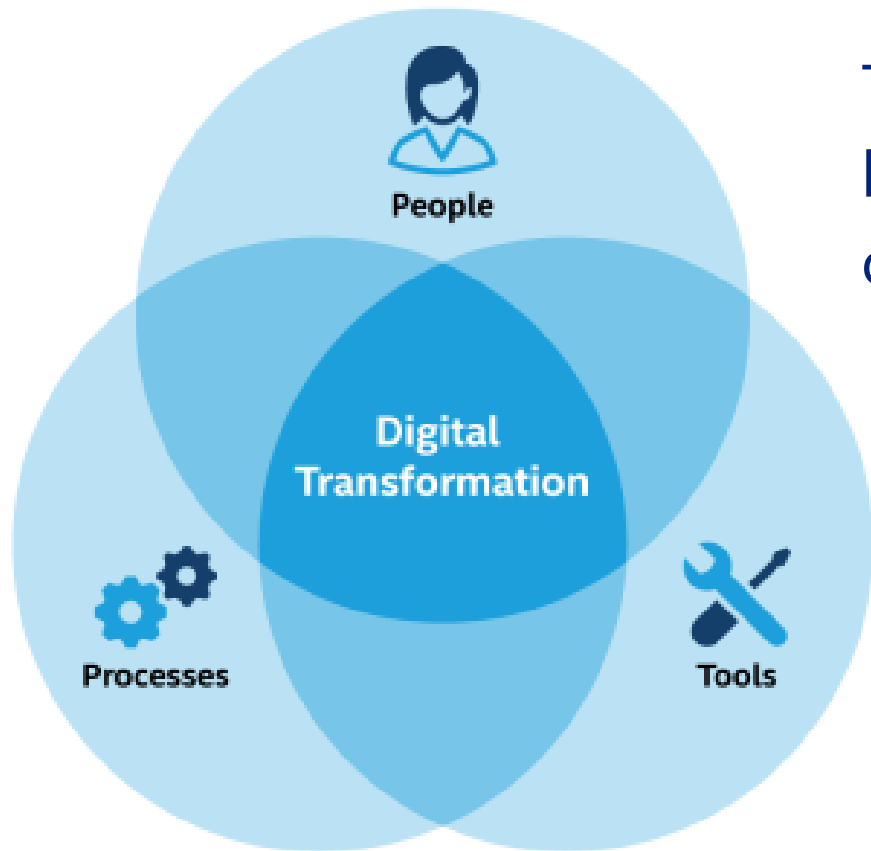


**Krishna Edathil**

**Director of Enterprise  
Solution Services  
(Cloud/AI)**

Texas Department of  
Information Resources

# What is Digital Transformation

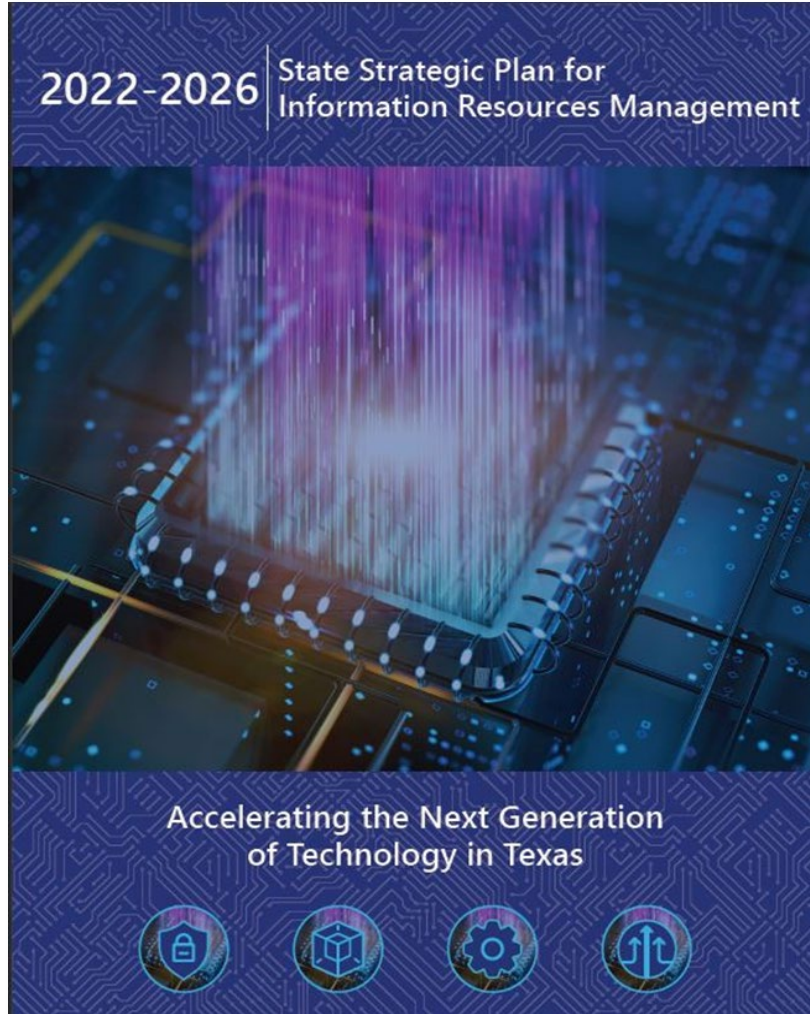


The integration of technology into all areas of a business to fundamentally change how an agency operates and delivers value to constituents.



# 2022-2026 State Strategic Plan

## Accelerating the Next Generation of Technology in Texas



### Goal 1

Secure IT Service Delivery



### Goal 2

Advanced Data Management



### Goal 3

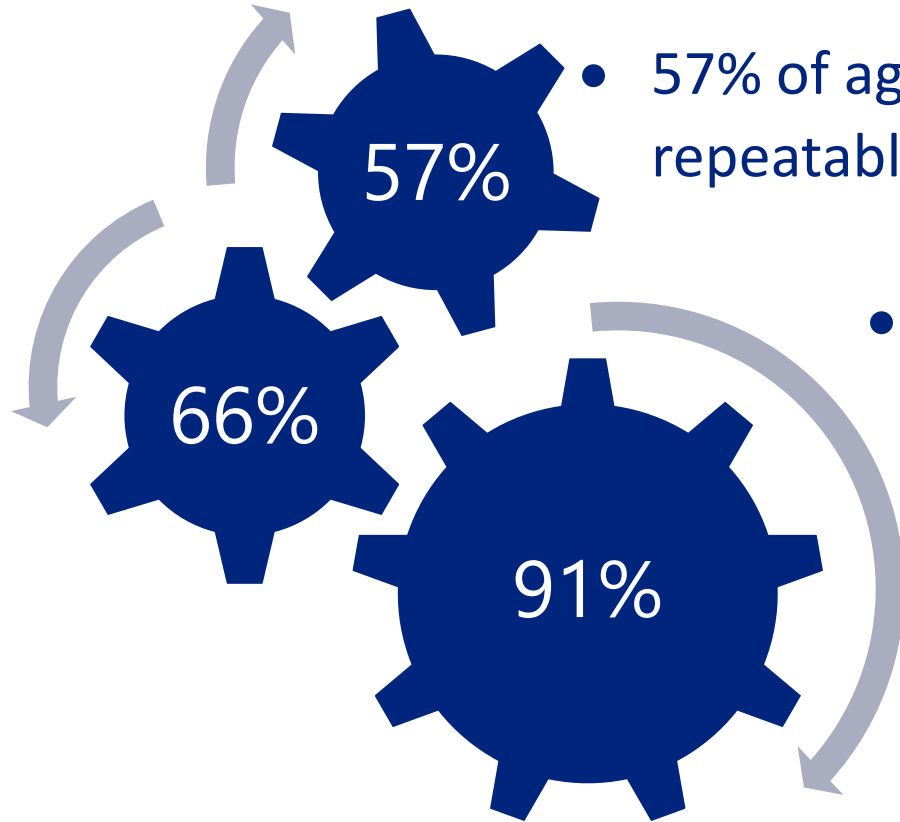
Strategic Digital Transformation



### Goal 4

Proactive Approach to Emerging Technologies

# What does the data say?



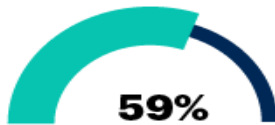
- 57% of agencies rate their digital transformation status as repeatable, defined, or controlled, up from 51% in 2020.
- Two-thirds of agencies have all or partially paperless processes.
- 91% of state agencies allow constituents to submit applications or forms via the internet, up from 85% in 2020.

Source: 2022 IRDR

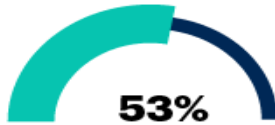
# Transformation Objectives and Challenges

Even during this time of disruption, governments share common digital government objectives and challenges.

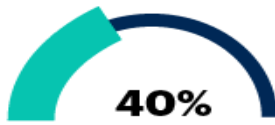
## Objectives



Improve the citizen or user experience of the organization

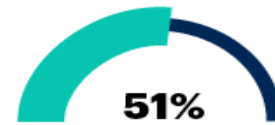


Improve operational efficiency



Improve outcomes associated with the public purpose or mission

## Challenges



Siloed strategies and decision making



Business culture blocking change



Insufficient funding/budgets

Government CIOs must **focus business executives on these objectives** and proactively build mitigation strategies for these challenges.

Source: Gartner



# Strategic Digital Services

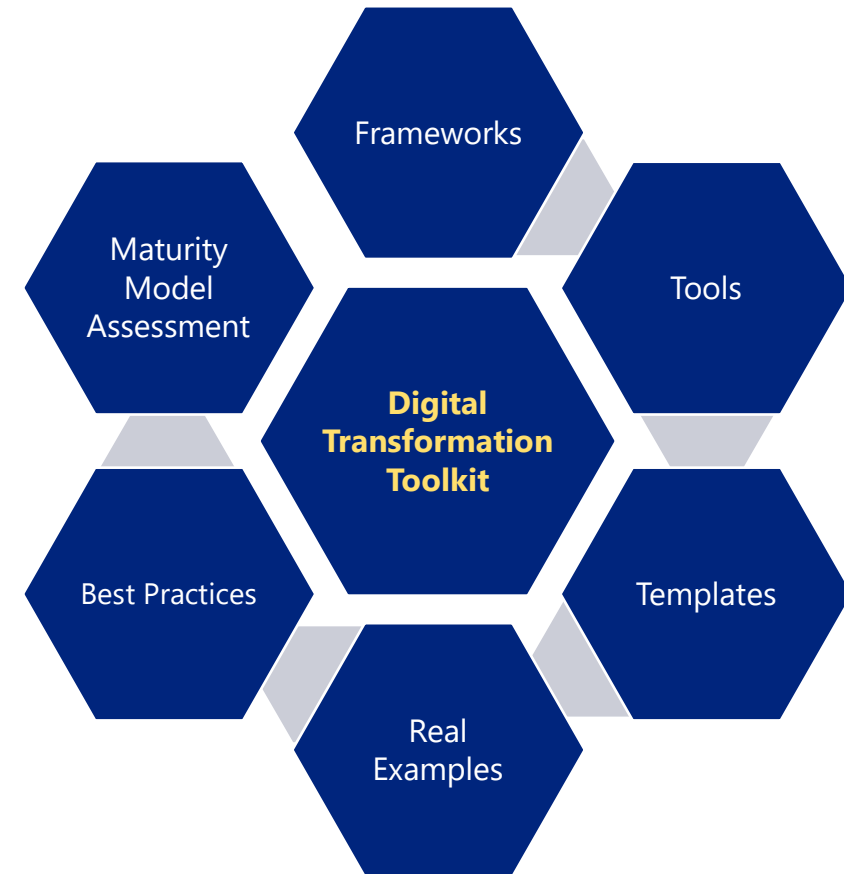


# DIR's Strategic Digital Services (SDS) Program

## *Vision*

Help agencies adopt digital technology to:

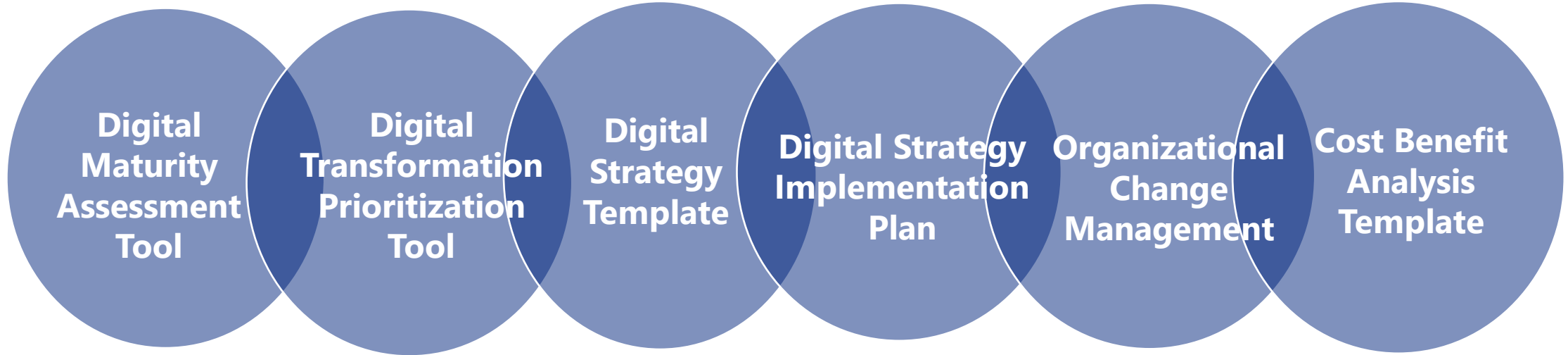
- transform manual processes with ***digital processes***,
- replace legacy technology with ***modern technology***,
- and shift from a task workforce to a ***knowledge workforce***.





# Digital Transformation Resource Guide

Provides guidance on the development and format of digital strategies for Texas state government. The tools intended to provide resources that can make the process of developing a digital strategy efficient and effective.



# Digital Services Academy (DSA)

Public Sector



Private Sector

- Trainings
- Workshops
- Best practices
- Evolving Technologies



**Transformation  
and  
Digital  
Champions**

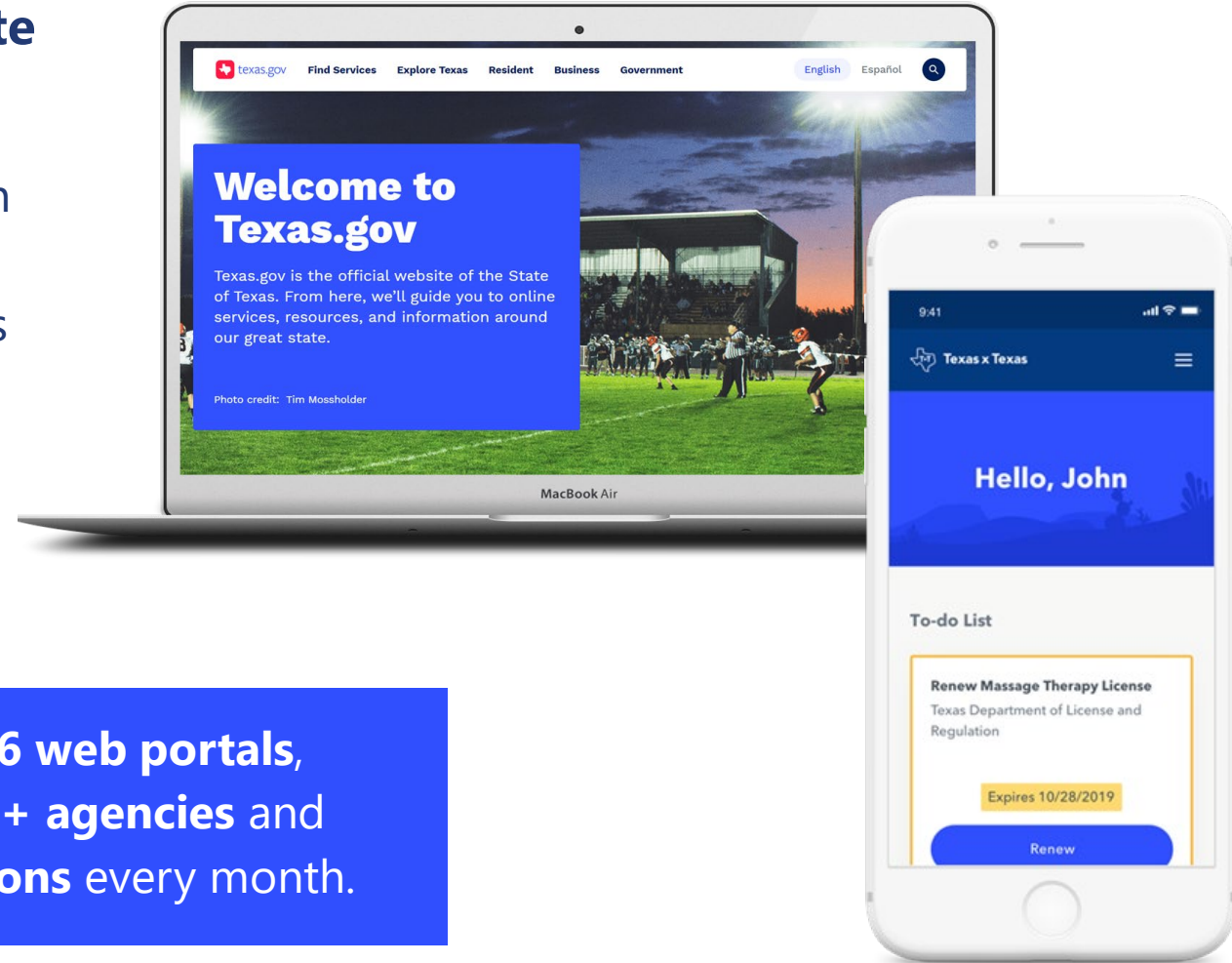
# Digital Transformation in Action



# Texas.gov Program Mission

**Texas.gov is the state's official website and digital government program.**

- Provides Texas government agencies with a portfolio of solutions to deliver the convenience and safety of online services to constituents.
- Enables Texans to conduct business with their government in a variety of easy, secure, and user-centric ways.



The Texas.gov Services portfolio includes **6 web portals**, **50+ hosted applications** on behalf of **30+ agencies** and supports **millions of users and transactions** every month.

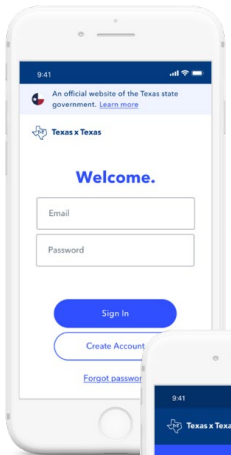


# Texas by Texas (TxT)

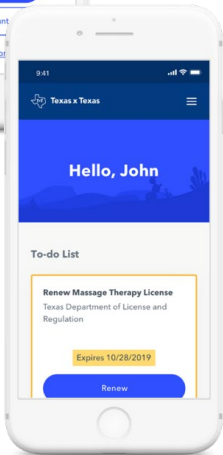


TxT is the state's official digital assistant. TxT gives Texans an easy, fast, and secure way to take care of government services – anytime, anywhere, and on any device. And it lets government agencies integrate constituent-facing services on a centralized, account-based, and trusted platform.

## KEY FEATURES



- Create a single, secure, and multi-factor authenticated **user account** and **link services** (DL/ID, vehicle, etc.)
- Access a **personalized dashboard** with upcoming to-dos, stored payment info, transaction history, etc.
- Set **notification preferences** to receive proactive alerts and reminders
- Complete **agency transactions** in just a few taps



Learn more and create your TxT account!

- Visit [www.texas.gov/TxT](http://www.texas.gov/TxT) to get started.
- Hear state agency executives share their perspective on TxT:

**Amanda Crawford**, DIR Executive Director and State of Texas Chief Information Officer

**David Gonzales**, TDLR Deputy Executive Director

## CURRENT INTEGRATIONS

- TDLR Massage Therapy License Renewal
- TxDMV Vehicle Registration Renewal
- DPS Driver License/ID Renewal, Replacement, and Address Change

## KEY SUCCESS METRICS

**>2.9M**

Accounts Created

*Over 15% of the State's eligible population has a TxT account!*

**>4M**

Transactions Completed



**Been waiting for this!**

Setup was easy and intuitive. Had my driver license and all four family vehicles linked to my account in less than 10 minutes. Got a notification right away that two of my vehicles were within 90 days of their renewal deadline and was able to start the process right away from my phone. Can't wait for more services to be added.

# Native Mobile Apps

TxT is available to end-users as a responsive web application and/or a mobile app.

***iOS and Android available now!***

## FEATURES

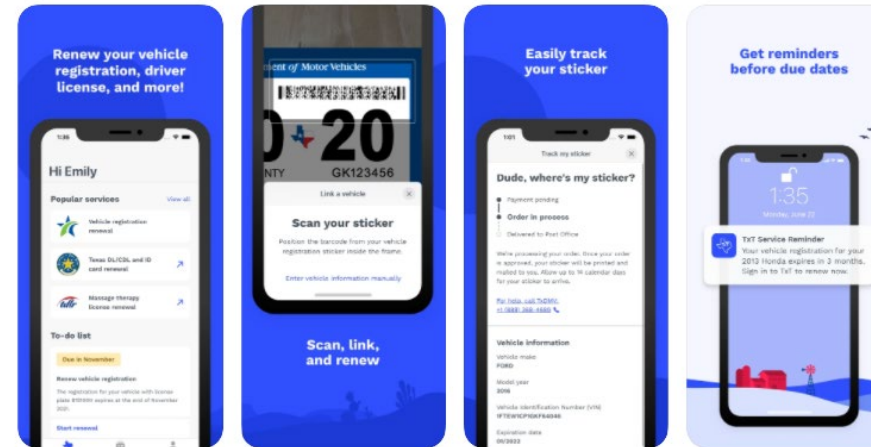
- Push notifications for streamlined call-to-action and status updates
- Scan vehicle sticker and DL barcodes to link to TxT account
- Geolocation ability to find inspection stations
- Integration with existing TxDMV "Dude, where's my sticker?" tracker to view status of mailed sticker upon renewal



**Texas by Texas (TxT)** 4.1  
An official Texas.gov app  
Texas Department of Information Resources  
★★★★★ 4.7 • 28 Ratings  
Free

**149,880+**  
iOS and Android Downloads

iPhone Screenshots



★★★★★★  
harten74, 01/21/2022

**FINALLY!!!**  
Been waiting for this for years! Setup was easy and intuitive. Had my Drivers License and all four family vehicles linked to my account in less than 10 minutes. iPhone camera did a great job of scanning barcodes on DL and Registration Stickers which made adding them to my account very easy. Got a notification right away that two of the vehicles were within 90 days of their renewal deadlines and I was able to start the process right away, from my phone. Can't wait for more services to be added... talking to you Texas Parks & Wildlife 😊

# Quick Start

	NATIVE APP	MOBILE WEB APP
<b>Overview</b>	An application for specific mobile devices (smartphone, tablet, etc.) installed directly on the device. Apps are typically acquired through the Apple App Store or Google Play.	An internet-enabled application with specific mobile device functionality accessed through a web browser (ex. Safari or Chrome) that does not need to be downloaded and installed on the device.
<b>Development Environment</b>	Unique development platform (ex. iOS and Android) and development process.	Runs on a mobile web browser and each browser may have its own unique features, quirks and bugs.
	Unique native mobile development platform and language (ex. Java for Android, Objective-C for iOS, and Visual C++ for Windows Mobile).	Offers more development flexibility as can be developed in HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript and server-side languages, or web application frameworks of the developer's choice (ex. PHP, Rails, Python)
	Standardized software development kits (SDKs), development tools, and common UI elements are provided by the platform.	No required, standard software development or UI kits but accelerators are available.
<b>Native Features</b>	Ability to access with the device's native features, information, and hardware.	Limited access to the device's native features, information, and hardware.
<b>Delivery</b>	Downloaded onto a mobile device.	Accessed through a mobile device's web browser.
	Installed and runs as a stand-alone application without a web browser.	No need to install new software.
	Users must manually download and install app updates.	Updates are pushed to the web server without user intervention.
	Stores and marketplaces provide easier access to find app.	No centralized marketplace so it's more difficult for user to find app.

# Pros & Cons

NATIVE APP	
+	-
Typically, perform faster than mobile web apps.	Typically, more expensive to develop, if supporting multiple devices.
App stores and marketplaces help users find native apps.	Supporting multiple platforms requires maintaining multiple code bases and can result in higher development, and maintenance costs.
App store approval and distribution assures users of the quality and safety of the app.	Users with different versions can make it harder to maintain and support.
Accelerators via tools, support and best practices provided by the platform can speed up development.	App store approval can delay or prevent the launch and release date.

MOBILE WEB APP	
+	-
Common code base across all platforms.	No access to all device functionality, but likely forthcoming.
Users don't have to go to a store or marketplace to download the app and install the app.	Supporting multiple mobile web browsers can result in higher development and maintenance costs.
More release freedom on format and timing as there's no app store to approve and warehouse the app.	Different mobile browsers and can make your app harder to debug, maintain, and support.
Ability to retrofit an existing web app with a responsive design.	Lack of a centralized marketplace may increase marketing costs for user.



# Proactive Approach to Emerging Technologies

**Krishna Edathil**



# Did You Know?

Did you know that of the 4,130 business applications (identified as part of 2014 study) in use in Texas, over half rely on hardware and software technology that is considered obsolete or inefficient?



# Three Phases in Application Modernization Journey

- Phase 1:
  - Identifying the Projects and evaluating using Legacy Modernization Guide
  - Gartner's TIME Quadrant for Risk and Impact Analysis
  - Application Development Decision Framework for prioritizing Apps for modernization
- Phase 2:
  - Implement Application Portfolio Manager for funding efficiency, Roadmap Development, End of Life and Risk and Impact Analysis. APM is paid for DCS agencies by the program.
  - Provide IT Modernization Roadmap and strategy by October 1, 2022 (HB 4018 Section 2)
- Phase 3:
  - Participate and submit legislative reports and especially IRDR, PCLS to inform legislature about your technology debt and urgency for funding
  - The Centers of Excellence (CoEs) will help implementing the project using emerging technologies through research items, proof of concept and rapid prototyping

# Embrace the Funding Levers – IRDR, PCLS, APM, ADDF...

- Section 2054.069, Government Code entitled Prioritized Cybersecurity and Legacy System Projects Report requires the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) to report on state agency cybersecurity projects and projects to modernize or replace legacy systems, as defined by Section 2054.571, Government Code to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) no later than October 1 of each even-numbered year.



The 2020 report contains information about 59 projects from 27 agencies totaling an approximate funding request of \$898.6 million.

In 2018 about 67 projects from 28 agencies totaling an estimated funding request of \$482 million.

59 Projects awarded 1.6 Billion USD as \$430 modernization fund



# Technology Improvement and Modernization Fund

- Special fund created in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund.
- Fund consists of:
  - Funds transferred or deposited at the direction of the Legislature.
  - Federal funds for improving and modernizing state agency information resources.
  - Gifts, donations, and grants and interest earned.
- May be used to improve and modernize state agency information resources, including legacy system projects and cybersecurity projects.
- Joint Oversight Committee On Investment In Information Technology and Improvement Projects is made of up of three members from House of Representatives and three from the Senate which will review investment and funding strategies for projects to improve or modernize state agency information resource technologies.
- SB 8 (3<sup>rd</sup> special session) allocated \$200M from ARPA to the fund.
- HB 4018 requires each agency to create a strategic plan to modernize.

# Prioritization of Cybersecurity and Legacy Systems (PCLS)

- Every even year, before the start of the Texas Legislative session, DIR reports on state agency cybersecurity projects and efforts to modernize or replace legacy systems.
- Agencies must submit information about their requests to DIR through the SPECTRIM portal prior to the agency's LAR due date to be considered in the prioritization report.
- For questions about the PCLS assessment content, please email [pcls@dir.texas.gov](mailto:pcls@dir.texas.gov).
  - [PCLS Instructions](#)
  - PCLS inbox [pcls@dir.texas.gov](mailto:pcls@dir.texas.gov)



# Texas Cloud and AI Centers of Excellence



# DIR Centers of Excellence (CoE)

## Background

- Initiated in spring of 2019 to drive with cloud initiatives.
- Hands-on user experience approach with in-person and virtual training.
- DIR, customers, and vendor community provide training and risk-free environments.
- Currently focused on cloud and artificial intelligence technologies.

## Impact

- Over 6,000 training seats for cloud skills development.
- Accelerated response efforts during pandemic period.
- Twenty-nine artificial intelligence proof of concepts with five moving to production.
- Increasing productivity and efficiency while attracting and retaining talent pool.

## Recognition

- Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence won State Scoop's Innovation of the Year award.



# The Four Pillars of Centers of Excellence (CoE)

The centers of excellences are built based on the four pillars identified below. The most significant of all was the opportunity to get quick hands-on experience, rapid prototyping and fast tracking PoC to production journey



ce: Gartner

# State of Texas Cloud-Smart Strategy and Alignment



According to the 2020 National Digital Survey, **Texas is one of the leading states in terms of fast-tracking cloud adoption** and is backed by strong legislative support, strategic direction and agency alignment.

## Government Code Section 2157.007

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State agency shall ensure, when making purchases for an automated information system or a major information resources project, that the system or project is capable of being deployed and run on cloud computing services.

## State Strategic Plan 2022-2026

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As the utilization of cloud services is becoming more prevalent, it is imperative for agencies to consider implementing cloud-based solutions for business continuity and disaster recovery planning.

## Agency Strategic Plan and LARs

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Once state agencies have developed a cloud strategy and are ready to move forward, DIR has several offerings available. Cloud services are available to state agencies through DIR Cooperative Contracts and Shared Services.

# Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence

- Educate and evangelize emerging AI technologies to deliver services to Texans faster.
- Leverage DIR services, customer experiences, vendor expertise to drive adoption through “hands on” training.
- Public, private partnership to collaborate, innovate, and implement.
- Open to state agencies, higher education, and local government.
- Focus on all branches of AI including:
  - Robotic Process Automation (RPA) ← Initial
  - Machine Learning (ML)
  - Natural Language Processing (NLP)
  - Computer Vision (CV)

**“By the end of 2024, 75% of enterprises will shift from piloting to operationalizing AI, driving 5X increase in streaming data and analytics infrastructures.”** -Gartner 10/2020

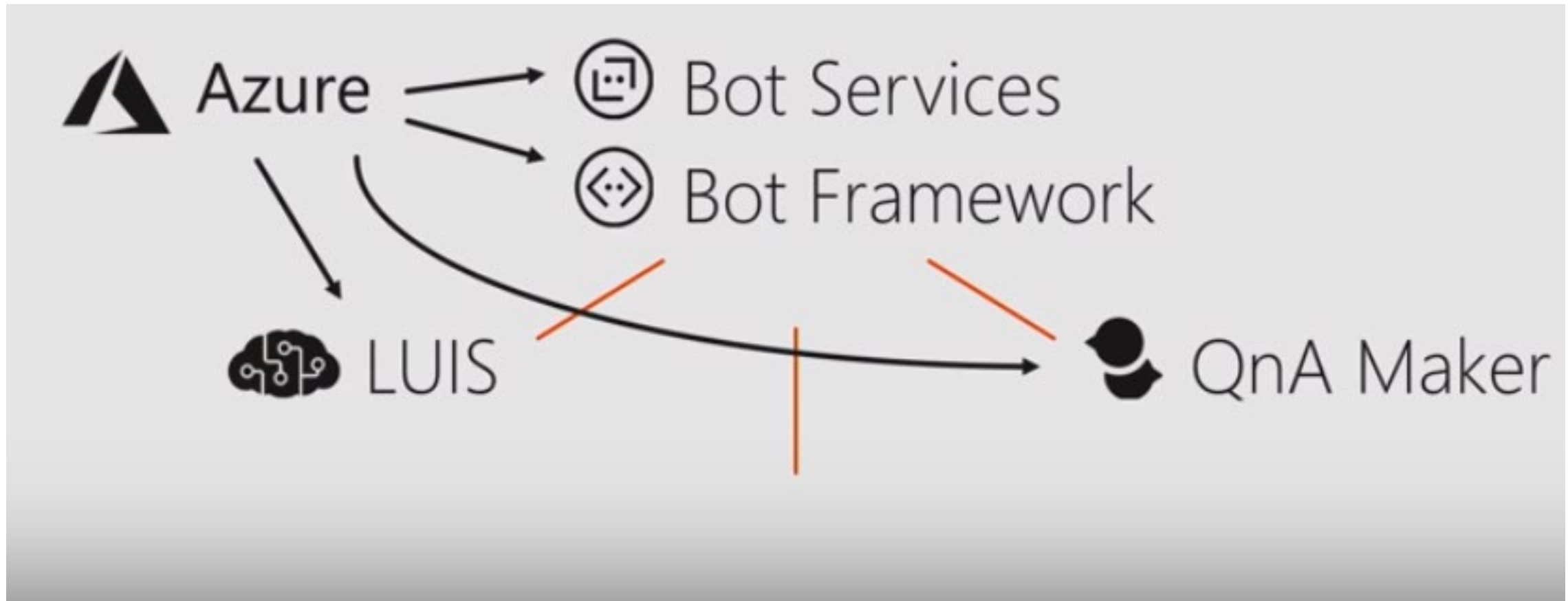
**31%**

of agencies are interested in AI training

**60%**

of agencies do not currently “align” to AI Goals in State Strategic Plan

# Azure – QnA Bot





# Virtual Assistant

## Citizen engagement and self-service - use cases



### Virtual agents

24/7/365 presence to respond to calls and questions with human-like virtual agents and IVRs

### Intelligent routing

Identify callers' intent and route calls to the correct agent

### Information capture

Collect key information to assist agents in resolving questions efficiently

# Larry the Chatbot

The screenshot shows the Texas Workforce Commission website with a chatbot overlay titled "CHAT WITH US". The website header includes navigation links: "About Us", "Contact Us", "Find Locations", "FAQ", "En Español", and "Tiếng Việt". Below the header, there are sections for "Employers | Job Seekers | Child Care", "Report ID Theft | How to Complete Work Search Requirements | Report Vaccine Job Loss", and "Hiring Events: Mar 15: Denison Lufkin Center San Antonio | Mar 16: Nacogdoches Bryan Rural Capital Center San Antonio | Mar 17: Denison Nacogdoches Southeast Texas San Antonio | Mar 18: Sherman | More Job Fairs". A large blue banner features the Texas Workforce Commission logo and the text: "Welcome, we're here to help. Resources, tips and tools to build a stronger Texas workforce." Below this banner are several category tiles: "JOB SEEKERS & EMPLOYEES", "PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES", "BUSINESS", "COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE PARTNERS", "STUDENTS, PARENTS & EDUCATORS", "TWC AGEN", "NEWS", and "EVENTS". A "Spotlight" section is also visible. The chatbot overlay contains the Texas Workforce Commission logo and the text: "Hi, I'm Larry, the Texas Workforce Commission's Virtual Assistant. I can speak both English and Spanish. Which would you prefer?" Below this text are two buttons: "English" and "Español". The chatbot also displays the date and time: "15 Mar - 7:09 PM". At the bottom of the chatbot, there is a sign-up form: "Sign up to receive you can use. Enter your email address". The website footer includes the text: "to search".



DESIGN

DEVELOP

REVIEW &  
TESTING

USER  
ACCESSIBILITY  
TESTING

DEPLOYMENT

SUPPORT

## Week 1

- Brainstorm and synthesize ideas
- Formulate a Proof of Concept

## Week 1-5

- Develop and train Virtual Agent using GCP constituents
- Trained on 40 FAQs

## Week 2-5

- Foolproof the solution through extensive testing

## Week 5

- Perform User accessibility testing

## Week 5

- Deploy the solution in the client environment

## Week 6-10

- Provide 75 hours of support post one month of deployment



# Contact Us!

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# Thank You



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Transforming How  
Texas Government  
Serves Texans

Texas Department of Information Resources