The ITSLCM Framework Components

1. Need/Concept
   - Projects are submitted and guided through a structured IT Program Authorization Review to determine if it should be classified as a PO or if, so how it might impact PBGC’s IT Portfolio. The Enterprise Target Architecture (ETA) for current and planned systems and technologies in comparison to the planned projects is reviewed.

2. Planning
   - Unrelated program and project plans are conducted and documented.
   - Solution Implementation – The IT solution is developed, implemented, and deployed. Program and project performance is monitored and reported.


4. Disposition – Disposal of the IT program or solution.

5. Each phase incorporates tasks that satisfy applicable federal mandates and regulations related to enterprise architecture (EA), capital planning and investment control (CPIC), IT security, program and project management, and federal acquisition.

6. Step is moving 3 streams, which reflect the three levels of key roles and responsibilities associated with the ITSLCM.

7. Program Management – Related to determining defined benefits, aligning to the Corporate and IT Strategic Plan, and managing program resources.

8. Project and Technology Management – Focused on planning and implementing solutions.

9. Cybersecurity – Focused on ensuring security standards and requirements compliance.

Each stream contains a list of associated roles, in addition to IT standards and deliverables for each phase.

In addition to tasks, requirements, and deliverables, the ITSLCM phases incorporate governance, reviews, and processes to ensure the solution conforms to the aforementioned IT standards and federal/agency requirements.

For each phase, the ITSLCM also includes external processes critical to successful planning, development, and implementation.

The inset provides a snapshot of the ITSLCM Framework with these key components highlighted.

CIO Programs Integration

The following three Chief Information Officer (CIO) Programs’ requirements are integrated through the ITSLCM: Enterprise Architecture (EA), IT Portfolio Management (ITPM), and Program Management Office (PMO). Together and in coordination with other CIO Programs (Cybersecurity, EA, ITPM, and PMO), the OMB’s Architect, Invest, and Implement paradigm and provide the requirements that comprise the Information Technology Solutions Life Cycle Management (ITSLCM).

PBGC’s CIO Programs include the following:

- **EA**: A management discipline focused on performance improvement through the alignment of strategic objectives, business needs, and information technology capabilities. EA facilitates the consensus and definition of the organizational future architecture.

- **ITPM**: The centralized management of a collection of IT Programs to achieve strategic objectives. Portfolio management focuses on ensuring that programs and projects are reviewed to prioritize resource allocation, and that the management of the portfolio is consistent with and aligned to organizational strategies.

- **PMO**: Provides standardization, standardized practices, and best practices to both program and project managers to achieve more cost-effective, timely, and successful IT projects. With a focus on program management, the PMO supports and streamlines the activities in a complementary fashion to best utilize resources and take advantage of best practices, as well as cost and schedule efficiencies.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the role of the Program Management Office (PMO)?**
  PMO manages and facilitates changes to the ITSLCM Framework, offers advisory services through its membership on IT related governance boards, facilitates the IT Program Management Forum, and provides training to increase workforce knowledge of IT Project/program management as well as evolving IT requirements. PMO also serves as a subject matter expert to the ITPRR regarding program/project viability and performance.

- **Is there more to the ITSLCM than just the picture in this brochure?**
  The ITSLCM Intranet site (http://intranet/f/itslcm/) and ITSLCM Handbook contain more detailed information about the ITSLCM framework and associated processes/artifacts.

- **What are ITSLCM Reviews and Gov. Gates?**
  ITSLCM Reviews are internal assessments of deliverables by responsible business and IT organizations/divisions and if/wh, while Gov. reviews represent formal IT governance reviews and decisions.

- **What is the IT Program Plan?**
  The IT Program Plan is designed to eliminate the need for numerous artifacts that each require updating, and to consolidate project and program information needed for ongoing program review and management, within one tool. This tool serves as the central repository that tracks project and program performance with regard to cost, schedule and scope. Information such as points of contact, acquisition strategy, and relationships/dependencies to other IT Programs are available within this tool.

- **What do I do if I or someone in my area has an idea that requires IT?**
  The ITSLCM promotes the spirit of sharing business solutions across the organization. Since there may already be a solution in place in the Corporation, contact the PMO to facilitate analysis of business needs across enterprise program solutions. This process is outlined in the Need/Concept phase of the ITSLCM.

- **What happened to some of the ITSLCM documents, like the Project Charter?**
  The ITSLCM has matured to promote simplification of artifacts. Each Program’s IT Program Plan authorizes projects within the Program. Projects can leverage the IT Program Plan to eliminate redundancy of deliverables. Project Managers should work with the Program Managers to ensure their projects have been clearly identified and included in the IT Program Plan. The Program and Project Managers can decide to make collective decisions on what should be included in the IT Program Plan and what should be managed at the project level.

- **Do I have to produce all of the deliverables or can I “tailor” the ITSLCM?**
  While all ITSLCM tasks should be addressed, individual artifacts can be combined, removed, or evaluated based on program documentation, or designated as not applicable. ITG/ITP members such as the Chief Architect, Contracting Officer (CO), Information System Security Officer (ISSO), and Release Manager will provide guidance to ensure compliance with ITSLCM Standards and passage through the Reviews/Gates.

- **What should I do if I have a question about security?**
  Since the Enterprise Cybersecurity Division (ECD) has its own processes, ITSLCM users should contact the project contact person system Security Officer (ISSO) for assistance.

Additional Resources

- **For additional assistance, contact Project Managers (PMs) and Program Managers (PMs) to contact their federal PMs. Federal PMs should contact their respective IT and Business Program Managers. Federal PMs should contact the PMO.**

Key Definitions

- **‘Information Technology’** refers to any service, equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment that is used for automatic acquisition, storage, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of PBGC’s data or information, wherever located (internal or external).

- An **‘IT Portfolio’** is a collection of IT Programs managed as a group to achieve PBGC strategic goals and objectives. The IT Programs are not necessarily interdependent or directly related.

- An **‘IT Program’** uses information technology resources to achieve efficient and effective business operations to meet PBGC’s strategic goals, performance goals and priorities, and strategies. IT Programs include planning, development, modernization, enhancements, operations and maintenance, and managed services.

- An **‘IT Project’** is a temporary endeavor, with defined start and end dates, to develop, modernize, and/or enhance an IT solution that contributes to the IT Program’s measurable benefits. An IT project may be delivered in one or more releases using various development approaches enabling modular development.