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### **Few Federal Agencies Prepared for the Network Impact of the Big Five IT Solutions**

*Agencies Plan to Deploy the Big Five in the Next Two Years; 84 Percent See Major Network Bottlenecks Ahead*

**Alexandria, Va., September 9, 2013** – [MeriTalk](#), a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT, today announced the results of its new report, “The Net of Federal Networks: Will You Survive the Big Five?” The study, underwritten by [Brocade](#), examines how the implementation of the Big Five – data center consolidation, mobility, security, big data, and cloud computing – will affect Federal agency networks. According to the report, Federal agencies plan to fully deploy the Big Five in the next two years but their networks aren’t prepared for the additional capacity or complexity which will result in network bottlenecks.

Federal agencies are gearing up for an IT revolution – the majority are deploying or planning to deploy the Big Five by 2015. Implementing the Big Five will significantly impact agency network complexity and capacity requirements – especially cloud and big data. On average, network managers expect agency’s total network load to increase by 79 percent as a result of the Big Five. However, Federal network managers do not believe today’s networks are ready – 59 percent say that if the Big Five were fully deployed today they would be at or over their network’s capacity limits. In addition, four out of five – 84 percent – of network managers say if deployed today, the Big Five would put them at risk for a network bottleneck.

Crushing capacity limits is not the only challenge Federal network managers must overcome to embrace the Big Five. Just 12 percent of network managers say their agency is completely prepared for the infrastructure requirements of the Big Five. Network managers report that as a result of the Big Five their agency will face security risks (70 percent), bandwidth limitations (54 percent), network latency (46 percent), and storage limitations (42 percent).

To overcome these challenges, network managers expect to transform almost half of their agency's infrastructure between now and 2015. But this transformation may be easier said than done, as agencies fail to take important steps to coordinate Big Five efforts. Just 45 percent of agencies are using the budget process to prioritize and pace the implementation of each initiative and only 35 percent are rolling all five initiatives up to one senior executive. The majority of agencies also fail to follow a single, standardized process for the implementation of all five initiatives or have the leads for all five initiatives meet regularly to coordinate.

“With Federal initiatives like Cloud First, FISMA, and FDCCI, the Big Five are here to stay and they will vastly increase the traffic on legacy agency networks,” said Anthony Robbins, vice president Federal, Brocade. “Networks are the backbone of IT delivery in Federal agencies, just as they are in the enterprise. As such, agencies need to take steps to prepare for increased network demands now – this includes ensuring networks are modernized to open standards and robust enough to handle the traffic.”

While agencies have a long way to go in preparing their networks for the Big Five, some agencies are laying the groundwork for the Big Five now. Forty-three percent of network managers report that they have taken steps to improve security measures and 46 percent plan to do so. In addition, agencies have taken steps or plan to take steps to improve network policies, add bandwidth, increase openness and adherence to open standards, as well as reduce network latency.

To further prepare, network managers request clear prioritization from leadership (50 percent), standardized documentation of infrastructure requirements (47 percent), structured coordination across all initiatives (44 percent), consultation on all senior leaders' Big Five plans prior to implementation (40 percent), and total ownership so they can respond as needed (31 percent).

“The Net of Federal Networks: Will You Survive the Big Five?” is based on an online survey of 204 Federal network managers in July 2013. The report has a margin of error of +/- 6.83 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. To download the full study, please visit [www.meritalk.com/net-of-federal-networks.php](http://www.meritalk.com/net-of-federal-networks.php).

## About MeriTalk

The voice of tomorrow's government today, MeriTalk is a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT. Focusing on government's hot-button issues, MeriTalk hosts [Big Data Exchange](#), [Cloud Computing Exchange](#), [Cyber Security Exchange](#), and [Data Center Exchange](#) – platforms dedicated to supporting public-private dialogue and collaboration. MeriTalk connects with an audience of 85,000 government community contacts. For more information, visit [www.meritalk.com](http://www.meritalk.com) or follow us on Twitter, @meritalk. MeriTalk is a [300Brand organization](#).

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