

NEWS RELEASE

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Val Oveson Appointed as Chief Information Officer  
Top Priority is Progress in Online Government

Governor Mike Leavitt today appointed W. Val Oveson as the state's chief information officer. Oveson replaces Phil Windley, who resigned in December after offering a roadmap to keep Utah among the top performing information technology states in the country.

"I selected Val because of his experience in successfully addressing complex challenges in large organizations," said Leavitt. "His private sector experience and rich public sector background make him a perfect candidate for implementing my vision for online government."

Leavitt made the appointment with an emphasis on improving the cohesion of the state's information technology community. Oveson has a stellar record of public service, and has managed large information technology projects in the public and private sector. His technology credentials include leadership in the creation of a web-based marketing application for a big six accounting firm, revisions to the case tracking system for the Internal Revenue Service, redesign of the computer systems and processes for the Utah State Tax Commission, and creation of the Utah Tax Law Library on CD-ROM.

The governor has charged Oveson to follow-up on the recommendations of his predecessor for improving the state's information technology structure and operation. He will work with the legislature to improve information technology governance, reduce fragmentation of the state's technical infrastructure, build common data storage and exchange standards, and develop budgeting and funding models that reward and encourage joint applications development.

"I look forward to continuing the momentum begun under Phil's tenure for fast-tracking Utah's information technology services," says Oveson. "The many talented individuals on the state technology team will help accomplish our goals."

Oveson comes to the CIO position from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, where

he was a managing director and lead of the knowledge management function for the state and local tax group. He joined the firm in 2000, and his responsibilities included research and development, communications, national organization relations, and learning and education for the practice of 900 professionals.

In 1998, Oveson was appointed by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to serve as the National Taxpayer Advocate for the Internal Revenue Service. He was responsible for the leadership of 2,300 employees in 74 locations across the U.S., reported independently to Congress on problems facing America's taxpayers, and recommended administrative and legislative solutions to stop the problems from recurring. Oveson reorganized and consolidated the Taxpayer Advocate program across the nation, managed the selection of 2,300 employees and led the training in the new program.

In addition to his national roles, Oveson has held prominent positions in Utah government for many years. From 1993-1998, he served as the chairman of the Utah State Tax Commission. He was elected Utah's Lieutenant Governor for two terms, from 1984-1993, and served as Utah State Auditor from 1981-1985.

Oveson has an accounting degree from Brigham Young University and is a certified public accountant.

The appointment is subject to senate confirmation.

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