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Kansas Unemployment Insurance Modernization and State Data Exchange/ ICON (Interstate Connection Network)

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Kansas Department of Labor


KANSAS
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UI Modernization in Kansas: Background

- Entire system, including Benefits, Tax & Appeals
- Business transformation and new technology
- Funding
- Planning/Business process reengineering
- Request for Proposal and vendor selected
- Design and development underway



Two overriding goals

- Customer focused assisted self-service
- Integrated operations



Big challenge

- Divorcing our operations from Cobol mainframe support - but still must interact with Cobol mainframe system (ICON)
- Challenge - building bridge/interface between new technology system and old mainframe system (time consuming, risky and ripe for problems)



Interface options considered by Kansas

- Screen scrapes
- Maintain two separate systems (run model code ICON stand alone as separate system from new UI system)
- Directly send and receive data to ICON hub via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) (bypassing model code)



What has been accomplished (so far)

- Very positive working experience with ACS
- Agreed upon protocol for exchanging data via ICON hub
- Mapped out all ICON transactions into the design of Kansas UIM Seibel solutions (goal real time/transparent for users)
- Access to ICON hub for testing (limited and constraints)
- Using other states' experiences to validate our solution (Minnesota and Utah)



Real need for ICON modernization

- Eliminate major challenge in modernization projects
- Support new technology systems implemented by states
- Real time transactions (fraud prevention)
- Kansas is excited about efforts by ITSC and ACS toward modernization of ICON

