

Kansas House of Representatives



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Envisioning Future Features for KLISS A glimpse into the future of eDemocracy

Chairman Petersen and members of the Joint Committee on Information Technology:

I'd like to think Rep. Jim Morrison would be beaming at the fact we are having this discussion today. Some of you never had the privilege of knowing Jim, but he was one heck of a brilliant technologist who was way ahead of his time. He helped demonstrate we could function with a paperless committee 10 years ago.

Sometimes the stars align perfectly. We have a unique opportunity to take several steps forward in the pursuit of tools and a process that will unlock significant value to the members of the Kansas Legislature.

I hope to blow your mind using a combination of things that are technologically possible today. Of course it will take work to pull them all together. If we (the members of the legislature) never understand what is possible and where we are heading, it will be significantly harder to get there. We are also uniquely positioned to reallocate existing resources (existing budget for laptops and existing legislative developer resources) as well as a few existing expenses such as printing that can be reduced if we implement some of these technologies in a meaningful way.

Timing

We are at an interesting point right now. Many things have come together very recently including the following:

- New network in the Capitol – invested at the right time when plaster was off the walls of our historic building
- New application with several components (Chamber, Lawmaking, and Decision Support) that are delivered using modern web services
- Highly skilled development team right here in Computer Services, with experienced project team leadership
- Lease of State-issued laptops expiring this year

While there are examples of other legislatures that have gone paperless, many have just taken all of the paper and created a bunch of pdfs. We have a huge opportunity to go way beyond that in ways that will not only benefit members, but others who are not using technology. Don't let me forget to tell you how the "little old lady" who doesn't use a computer or cell phone can even benefit from some of these technologies.

Attachment 3
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External Validation

Why are Esri, Microsoft, and EMC interested in what we are doing and willing to invest time, staff resources and even cash into some of our projects? We are poised to do some truly innovative things. We have the opportunity to not only do things other states are not doing, but to implement (in a very user friendly way) things other states haven't even thought of.

KLISS Future Features Demonstration Project Goals

1. Take advantage of the unique opportunity where members have lots of unstructured time during the wrap-up session.
2. Begin to help members envision the future features of KLISS, what they would look like, etc.
3. Do these demonstrations without adding stress to the existing Computer Services staff as they help us get through the remainder of the session.
4. Make this a realistic experience to the members, where they can see themselves using these technologies.

The Demonstrations

I have several demonstrations to briefly show you today. We actually have more than 19, but I'll briefly focus on six main areas.

- GeoNotes
- Bill Deltas
- Push Technologies
- Member Interface Features
- Mobile Features
- Handwritten Notes

GeoNotes

There is a better way to discuss school finance proposals than the "state of the art" way of killing trees we use today. What if you could see the proposal on a map? You would see more in 30 seconds than you could see if you spent several minutes with a printout of the proposal.

What If Analysis/Needs Maps – We also have tools to assist as we look at two or more datasets to either compare them or explore correlations between those datasets.

The Kansas OneMap Strategy – It all starts when we build up from a common base map. What does the future hold as we add more and more ingredients to the GIS pantry?

Bill Deltas

These had been offered previously in my committees, but never caught on. Speed, access and cost of color prints were a limiting factor in the past. In a tablet environment, amendments in context using multiple colors make perfect sense.

Push Technologies

Although RSS/Atom feeds have been around for years, they offer a tremendous opportunity to help push status updates to an Email client (such as Microsoft Outlook, Mozilla Thunderbird, or Apple Mail), Web browser (Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Thunderbird, Google Chrome, or Apple Safari), your mobile device, or even to the Member Interface.

If you have been to Don Kossler's KLISS training, you already know you can access an RSS feed today for any bill. We could also add feeds based on a bill topic such as the categories from the Bill Subject Index. This would be one opportunity where we seek to leverage things we are already doing to unlock additional value to members, staff, and the public.

Member Interface Features

My Dashboard – my bills, my committees, my preferences

Chamber – a richer interface that could show both upcoming and just happened actions in the chamber. This has a tremendous potential to save us a ton of time and help us to have access to the information we need as we need it in the chamber.

Mobile

Mobile applications have the potential to make us even less reliant on paper copies of House and Senate Calendars.

The RESTian API for KLISS also gives 3rd party developers an opportunity to add value. Through an App Store, we have an opportunity to help showcase both internally and externally developed applications.

Even More Benefits

Phone calls, Braille readers, etc. become new options and also enhance accessibility for Kansans do not use technology or who may have a disability that makes traditional technology a challenge. Remember the “little old lady” who does not own a computer or cell phone? We can pair KLISS with a service such as Twilio (www.twilio.com) to turn XML from an RSS feed into a phone call to the “little old lady” when a hearing is scheduled on a bill she is interested in.

Handwritten Notes

How would you like to have the ability to easily find your notes on testimony from a hearing in one of your committees? This is possible using technology that exists today. Yes, you can have the ability to find any note you’ve made on a bill, testimony, fiscal note, supplemental notes, etc.

Conclusion

I have done somewhere between 75 and 100 demonstrations so far to members of the legislature, House and Senate staff, KLRD staff, county commissioners and other county staff, lobbyists, and members of the public.

It has been a blast showing people some of what the vision for KLISS really is. I’ve also enjoyed showing off many of the features that were already on the list to be developed, but making them real for members who might have had a difficult time visualizing without the context of these demonstrations and devices.

What I’ve shown you today were not my ideas. These are not features I had anything to do with. They are the result of the efforts of many people. I made a few phone calls that brought together a few folks who managed to turn many previous ideas into these demonstrations on cool devices that help make it much easier to envision how we would use them.

Thank You

I would like to thank a number of folks that worked very hard (and in a very short time) to make these demonstrations happen.

Legislative Computer Services – Laying all of the ground work that got us where we are today

Propylon – www.propylon.com – Developing and supporting all of these demos on very short notice

Esri – www.esri.com – Access to some of their top GIS and mapping expertise

Microsoft – www.microsoft.com – Loaning us the Samsung tablets and a development team

DASC – www.kansasgis.org – Ken Nelson – GIS & Mapping Expertise

Kansas GIS Coordinator Ivan Weichert – GIS & Mapping Expertise

AT&T – www.att.com – Loaning us the Nokia Lumia 900 Windows phone

Special Thanks

Don Heiman – retired Legislative CITO – During his tenure shared his vision of eDemocracy

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