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Description of document: Department of Transportation (DOT) internal agency memos, correspondence, documents that review or discuss the merits and/or disadvantages of iPads and/or similar pad/tablet computer devices for employee use, 2011

Requested date: 18-August-2011

Released date: 29-September-2011

Posted date: 18-January-2016

Source of document: FOIA Request
Department of Transportation
FOIA Requester Service Center
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20590
Fax: 202-366-1975 (Attn: FOIA Requester Service Center)
[Online FOIA Form](#)

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**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

GENERAL COUNSEL

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SEP 29 2011

File No.: FY 2011-235

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated August 18, 2011. You requested a copy of internal agency (DOT) memos or other correspondence or documents that review or discuss the merits and/or disadvantages of iPads and/or similar pad/tablet computer devices for employee use.

In accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, enclosed are responsive documents, dated during calendar year 2011 with the exception of the body of a draft document prepared by a DOT employee dated Wednesday, March 30, 2011. We are withholding the body of that document and certain information from internal email messages pursuant to FOIA exemptions 5 and 6.

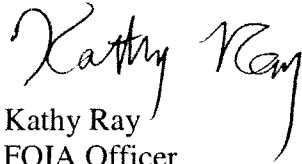
FOIA exemption 5 protects intra-agency / inter-agency predeliberative discussions. We have only withheld this type of information where we have determined that its release would have a chilling effect on the deliberative process. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) and 49 CFR 7.13(c)(5).

Exemption 6 protects against a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) and 49 CFR 7.13(c)(6).

I am the person responsible for this determination. If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may appeal to Rosalind A. Knapp, Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590. An appeal must be made in writing and be submitted within 30 days after you receive this determination. It should contain any information and arguments you wish to rely on, and the envelope in which the appeal is sent should be prominently marked "FOIA Appeal." The Deputy General Counsel's determination will be administratively final.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-5546 or Jeff Davis at (202) 366-5531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Ray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Kathy" is written with a large, looped 'K' and the last name "Ray" is written with a large, looped 'R'.

Kathy Ray
FOIA Officer

Enclosures

Slaughter, Larry (OST)

From: Schmidt, Tim (OST)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 4:17 PM
To: Burnham, Jonni (OST)
Cc: Reinoso, Francisco (OST); Baldwin, Kristen (OST); Varn, Richard (OST); Cross, Linda (OST); Carr, Annette (OST); Schwartz, Susan (OST); Varn, Richard (OST); Jones, Maureen (OST); Dowd, Everett (OST); Slaughter, Larry (OST); Schmidt, Tim (OST); Jackowski, Thomas(OST)
Subject: Re: Request to evaluate pilot equipment

Great questions Jonni. We would like to authorize the DRC to procure up to five Apple iPads and five iPhones to test core features and peripheral devices that may be considered assistive. This activity will be part of our overall iPad/iPhone pilot that will end on 30 Sep 2011. At that time, based on test results, we will consider making some components standard offerings. Please contact Rich Varn for details and participation expectations.

Regards, Tim

Tim Schmidt
Chief Technology Officer
U.S. Department of Transportation

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2011, at 4:04 PM, "Burnham, Jonni (OST)" <Jonni.Burnham@dot.gov> wrote:

Hello,

DRC would like to evaluate specific equipment for possible application as assistive technology. Please advise if this would be possible and if so, how to proceed.

- 1) Is iPad a suitable alternative as a notetaker for employees who are blind?
The iPad would need to interface with a Braille keyboard identified by DRC (designed to work with iPad). The iPad already has accessibility features that permit access by people who are blind. In this scenario, the cost of accommodation could be reduced from the current \$5000 option to about \$1500. And the equipment may be more straightforward for ITSS to support over the current Braille notetaker with activesynch.
- 2) Is iPad a suitable alternative as a notetaker for employees with low vision?
The iPad would need to interface with a physical keyboard (rather than the touch default), which are readily available and inexpensive. The iPad already has accessibility features that permit access for people with low vision. In this scenario, employees would have an alternative to carrying their laptop with limited battery life, and other potential barriers.

In both of these scenarios, the iPad would need to be able to share information with the employees computer for purposes of synchronizing notes and calendar information.

- 3) Is iPhone a suitable alternative for a Blackberry for employees with low vision? We do not have an accessible alternative for this group of employees. In this case, the iPhone provides accessibility features that permit access by employees who are blind or have low vision. To substitute for the Blackberry, the iPhone would need to provide email and calendar functions.

Thank you,

Jonni Burnham

Disability Resource Center

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.

Washington, DC 20590

202-493-0625 Main

202-366-5273 TTY

202-366-3571 FAX

Jonni.Burnham@dot.gov

Slaughter, Larry (OST)

From: FCW Daily [fcw@1105Newsletters.com]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 8:41 AM
To: Slaughter, Larry (OST)
Subject: Why the iPad changes the rules | Fed workers: Complaining wastes time

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7/11/2011



Why the iPad changes the rules

Federal executives reveal their favorite, most effective ways to use Apple's popular tablet computer.

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By the numbers

[Comparing tablet PCs](#)



Feedback

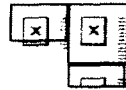
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The earthquake on March 11 near the northern city of Sendai, Japan, resulted in 6,000 hits per second on the U.S. Geological Survey's earthquake-related websites, which are delivered via a content delivery network (CDN) service.



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3141 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 777

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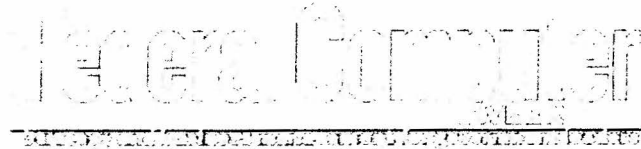
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This message was sent to: larry.slaughter@dot.gov





Why the iPad changes the rules

- By FCW Staff
- Jul 08, 2011

The U.S. Geological Survey reportedly has about 1,000 Apple iPad tablet computers on hand. The Army, NASA, State Department, Census Bureau and General Services Administration are among the many other agencies that have also acquired tablet PCs and are testing them for various field- and office-based work tasks.

It's clear that government IT officials are taking the portable wireless devices seriously and figuring out how they might fit into their future enterprise computing plans

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But even before official roles are assigned to them, plenty of tablet PCs are showing up at government offices — some as part of pilot tests and others as personal devices brought in by their enthusiastic owners. We talked to a few tablet-toting government executives to see what they like so much about their slick new devices. Here is what they said.

The jack-of-all-trades: Multitasking at work and play

Scott Williams, chief of the Telecommunications Office at the Census Bureau, has been using an Apple iPad that the agency bought as part of its pilot tests.

I've been using the iPad primarily for e-mail and Web browsing. It frees me up from the laptop and the BlackBerry.

In a meeting, you are more discreet with a [tablet's screen-based] soft keyboard than you are with a hard keyboard and clacking away. I sit at my desk and I clack during conference calls, so I have to put my cell phone on mute. But with the soft keyboard, it's not like that.

From an enterprise perspective, we're looking at a thin client to replace our heavy desktop [PCs]. We're looking at any device for any place, any time [access]. We see the iPad, or any of the pads, as one of those devices where you could access your desktop and the applications remotely.

We have all sorts of business uses we're conceiving. We can use it for monitoring and managing systems if we want. We have a permanent force of more than 5,000 field reps. They currently have laptops that they run surveys on and capture data. We're considering pads and other mobile devices for replacing those laptops.

The other thing I see from a business perspective is the ability to conduct a Skype session or FaceTime meeting. You can create an easy video teleconference.

We have been testing most of the tablets on the market, including the iPad. We are a BlackBerry shop, like most agencies, so we are looking at the BlackBerry PlayBook. We've got the Motorola Xooms in. We're looking at those for Honeycomb [Google's Android 3.0 tablet operating system]. We haven't picked anything yet.

I just got back from a college trip with my kid, and I used [the iPad] for everything. Mapping is great. You set the course, and using GPS, you can watch yourself going down the road. You can also do that on a [smart] phone, but this is a nice size screen and I don't have to wear glasses to see where I'm going. And then if I want to anticipate where I'm going to be next — if I'm in Nashville and I want to go to Memphis — I can stretch it out to see what [the route] looks like. The form factor is perfect for that.

The [stand-alone] GPS is a special-purpose device, [whereas] the iPad is a computer. You can start browsing, sending text and e-mails. You can do everything on it. I think that's the huge value.

The communicator: No-compromise portable e-mail

Mary Davie, assistant commissioner at the Office of Integrated Technology Services at the General Services Administration, has been using her personal iPad at work as part of GSA's experimentation with tablet applications.

My main use for work is to access e-mail, calendar, documents and presentations. Those folks with GSA-issued tablets are able to access network drives and files. My iPad lets me really respond to an e-mail, unlike my BlackBerry. I can download attachments from e-mail using my iPad and really see what it is, if it's a PDF [file]. It also allows me to download my presentations and put my talking points into the notes of my speech. I downloaded a keynote presentation app for my tablet.

I would like to be able to access internal systems, such as [human resources] and financial management, and also provide customers access to business transaction systems, such as GSA Advantage and eBuy.

Our CIO, Casey Coleman, has been working on a pilot project that has GSA using at least three different types of tablets, such as the Xoom.

I use my iPad at home for e-books. I never thought I'd become an e-book reader.

I'm also able to download things really quickly, especially at an airport. My iPad syncs with my BlackBerry, so I can read on the airplane without pulling out my iPad.

The collaborator: Meet, listen, share

Andrew Weber, a legislative information systems manager at the Law Library of Congress, describes some of the uses he's found for his personal iPad. He shared his insights as an individual, not as a Library of Congress employee.

My two primary work-related tasks are tweeting and taking notes on the iPad. My favorite Twitter app for the iPad is the official Twitter app. My favorite program for taking notes is Pages. I love being able to go to an event or conference and then quickly share my notes with others. I also use the browser, Safari, for checking and responding to work e-mail. I do a lot of Web-related work and occasionally show sites during a meeting on it.

My tablet is incredibly portable. It's easy to bring along almost anywhere, including slipping it into a meeting where a laptop might not be appropriate. It's also nice that it saves a step at airport security since it doesn't need to be removed from a bag.

Our IT department has a couple of iPads for use, in part, when our network is down and we are still open to the public. But there is no support for iPhones or iPads through our system. There isn't the possibility of synchronizing a calendar or mail with it either.

I use my tablet at home, too. I love the Kindle app for reading books and keeping my place across all devices. I also like streaming [movies] from the Netflix app. I have a few apps for news, such as the Washington Post, New York Times, USA Today and The Economist. Then there is the assortment of apps on there for my 2-year-old daughter, who loves reading books and learning about the alphabet on the iPad.

Some early official tablet apps

Now that agencies have had some time to play around with the Apple iPad and other tablet PCs, reports are popping up about some of the ways that government employees are putting the portable computers into official service. Here are a few examples.

- Aviators in the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing are using iPads to load, store and view their navigation documents rather than carry paper copies in the cockpits of their helicopters and other aircraft, reports DOD Buzz.
- Agents at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are watching surveillance video on iPads in the agency's Washington, D.C., headquarters, according to the Washington Post.
- Managers at Salt Lake City's building services department are using a custom iPad application from Accela to track inspections, field inspector schedules, and license and permit applications.
- Clinicians at the Veterans Affairs Department medical center in Washington, D.C., are testing an iPad application developed by Agilex Technologies that gives them access to patients' medical histories, including laboratory test results, medications, allergies, appointments and problem lists. It also integrates clinical calendars and secure messaging to streamline scheduling and information exchange.

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Federal Computer Week

Comparing tablet PCs

- By John Breeden II
- Jul 08, 2011

What makes a tablet PC a good fit for government work might be quite different from what makes it an irresistible toy at home. Federal Computer Week's sister publication, Government Computer News, recently evaluated a handful of new tablet PCs for a variety of government work-related characteristics, including security, performance and ease of use. Here are some of the highlights.

Source: Government Computer News

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Manufacturer and product name	Price	Pros	Cons
Apple's iPad 2 (Wi-Fi) 16G	\$499	Simple to operate, but those used to PC-based applications will need some retraining	Quite fragile, but an optional Apple Smart Cover case can compensate
Samsung's Galaxy Tab 10.2	\$499	Multitasking powerhouse with a huge screen and full support of Flash apps	No extra security and not very rugged
Motion Computing's J3500 Tablet PC	\$3,000+	Security features include biometric fingerprint scanner; rugged up to Mil-Std 810G specifications	Very expensive
Hewlett-Packard's TouchPad	\$499	Powerful dual-core processor and standard security features, such as full-device encryption	Not particularly rugged
Motorola's Xoom	\$799	Runs Google's elegant and fast Honeycomb operating system	Expensive
Research in Motion's BlackBerry PlayBook	\$499	Excellent browser for Web apps; offers top-notch security when linked with your BlackBerry smart phone	Requires a companion BlackBerry device for the best — and most secure — experience

About the Author

John Breeden II directs the GCN Lab.

 NASA SEWP IV
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Slaughter, Larry (OST)

From: Orndorff, Andrew (OST)
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 5:52 AM
To: Slaughter, Larry (OST)
Cc: Schmidt, Tim (OST); Dowd, Everett (OST); Varn, Richard (OST)
Subject: FW: Blackberry Playbook

Heads-up

My expectation - consistent with DHS metrics - is that no playbooks will be authorized or connected to DOT networks or systems except as part of an approved pilot, or once (if) approved for use, with an approved baseline configuration and controls.

If the technical controls to prevent this are lacking, then it is our obligation to reinforce the policy controls through communications to Departmental personnel.

Drew

CISO
U.S. Department of Transportation

Phone numbers:
202.366.7111 (office)
[REDACTED] Ex. 6
202.366.7373 (fax)
[REDACTED] Ex. 6

E-mail: andrew.orndorff@dot.gov

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law.

From: Orndorff, Andrew (OST)
Sent: Wed 8/3/2011 5:48 AM
To: Dilullo, Domenic (NHTSA)
Cc: Orndorff, Andrew (OST)
Subject: RE: Blackberry Playbook

Domenic,

All new technologies must be run through the DOT Technology Control Board (TCB) for vetting and approval.

Please contact Larry Slaughter to arrange this.

As an aside, I'm sure that you'll understand that organizations make decisions on what they can support in part driven by requirements from the business, and balanced by a need to control costs and maintain security. The Playbook would have to fit into those constraints and the future technical architecture for DOT.

Drew

CISO
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Ex. 6

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From: Dilullo, Domenic (NHTSA)
Sent: Tue 8/2/2011 9:48 PM
To: Orndorff, Andrew (OST)
Cc: Dilullo, Domenic (NHTSA)
Subject: Blackberry Playbook

Good Evening Andrew,

I am writing too you for a request was made to made today within NPO-420 for the piloting/evaluating of the new BlackBerry Playbook. I am aware that DOT has made the decision to move forward with piloting Ipad's for DOT users (i.e. FAA currently testing over 800) as well as working on establishing a series of security configuration baselines.

While part of our job is to evaluate new technologies, and before moving forward, I am seeking to gauge if or would OST possibly prohibit NHTSA in piloting/evaluating the Blackberry PlayBook or not?

Please let me know your thoughts and or views or if you need any additional information.

V/r
Domenic

PS

Some additional information for you. Currently, the BlackBerry Playbook is the only approved Federal Notebook to be approved for Gov't workers. RIM on JULY 21, 2011 recieved its FIPS 140-2 compliance (See links below)

<http://press.rim.com/release.jsp?id=5069>;
<http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20110721-909629.html>

The FIPS designation is a nice feather in the cap, but Apple IOS and Google Android are in the process of being FIPS 140-2 compliant. Apple's IOS as of today is still in IUT phase for FIPS 140-2.

<http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/STM/cmvp/documents/140-1/140InProcess.pdf>

In addition, DOD/DISA has developed a series of STIGS for Ipad's and Iphone. Those STIGS are dated as of June 8th, 2011. How are the security settings being established for the Ipad's?

Slaughter, Larry (OST)

From: Slaughter, Larry (OST)
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 2:47 PM
To: Orndorff, Andrew (OST)
Subject: Blackberry Playbook receives C&A from NIST

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/mobile/231002423>

Larry Slaughter
Director, Technology Strategy and Solutions Management
Office of CIO
202 366--0132

**U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Chief Information Officer**

**iPad
T²E² Test Evaluation Summary
Report**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011

PREPARED BY: RICH VARN

Slaughter, Larry (OST)

From: Schmidt, Tim (OST)
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2011 12:46 PM
To: Orndorff, Andrew (OST); Slaughter, Larry (OST)
Cc: Dowd, Everett (OST); Varn, Richard (OST)
Subject: RE: Blackberry Playbook

Ex. 5

Thanks, Tim

Tim Schmidt

Chief Technology Officer
U.S. Department of Transportation
Telephone: 202.366.2840
Cellular: [REDACTED]

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From: Orndorff, Andrew (OST)
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Cc: Schmidt, Tim (OST); Dowd, Everett (OST); Varn, Richard (OST)
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Domenic

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