

Press Release – 15 June, 2009

Unlocking the value of good information management

An innovative tool which quantifies the significant cost savings, and other benefits, of good information management is to be made freely available to the public sector by The National Archives.

The Information Management Value Model (IMVM) has been developed by Bramble.cc on behalf of The National Archives' Digital Continuity Project. The tool will ensure best practice in information management throughout the public sector.

Time wasted by staff hunting for information and the unnecessary duplication of effort are just two ways in which poor information management can be costly to an organisation.

"The information an organisation holds is often of great value, not only for it to function in the short term, but also for legal compliance and, in the longer term, for its wider historical value," says David Thomas, Chief Information Officer at The National Archives.

"However, information which is managed poorly tends to lose availability, integrity and usability, and can therefore lose value over time. You need to know what information you have, where it is and how to access and use it. If your information is not managed properly in this way you'll waste a great deal of time, which is costly."

Improvements in information management will directly drive an increase in the value of information itself. The IMVM calculates a number of benefits, from efficiencies and effectiveness to better customer service and risk reduction. It works by quantifying the value of a proposed improvement in information management, rather than attempting to directly measure the value of the information.

"We hope the public sector will find this model a fantastic resource for improving the return on the value of its information," says David Thomas.

The National Archives and Bramble.cc are currently testing and refining the model within central government. It will then be made available for free to all government departments and the wider public sector on the Digital Continuity pages of The National Archives' website, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/digitalcontinuity

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About The National Archives

The National Archives – www.nationalarchives.gov.uk – is a government department and an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As the official archives of the UK government, it cares for, makes available and 'brings alive' a vast collection of over 1000 years of historical records, including the treasured Domesday Book.

Not only safeguarding historical information, The National Archives also manages current digital information and devises new technological solutions for keeping government records usable now and in the future. It provides world class research facilities and expert advice, publishes all UK legislation and official publications, and is a leading advocate for the archive sector.

At the heart of information policy, The National Archives sets standards of best practice that actively promotes and encourages public access to, and the re-use of information, both online or onsite at Kew. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensures that they become tomorrow's permanent record.

The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also www.opsi.gov.uk

About The Digital Continuity project

The Digital Continuity project – www.nationalarchives.org.uk/digitalcontinuity – is managed by The National Archives and funded by central government departments. It is developing a service that will enable government to use its digital information for as long as it needs to. It's just one of the ways The National Archives is helping government to manage its information better, to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and to maximise accountability.

About Bramble cc

Bramble.cc – www.bramble.cc – is the UK's leading independent, specialist consultancy and solution provider for information management. Bramble.cc transforms organisations to focus properly on their information, providing significant benefits, improvements, return on investment and competitive advantage. This transformation begins by re-designing and improving the structure of a client's information. Bramble.cc then implements a programme of change to realign the business with its information, taking its people on the journey to better information management, together with introducing appropriate technology such as an EDRM document repository or SharePoint. This approach, with a focus on business change and benefits realisation, results in consistency, standardisation, control and integration of information and working practices. Bramble.cc is a prime contractor on the EDRM Specialist Solutions framework, previously known as Catalyst, from Buying Solutions.