

**CHAPTER 6**  
**AGENCY HARDWARE INVENTORY**  
**SECTION 6.1**  
**ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

**6.1.1 OVERVIEW**

The State of Louisiana is in the process of developing and implementing a new Human Resource and Payroll system utilizing SAP R/3. The system will be developed, operated, managed, and centrally hosted on RS-6000 servers at the Division of Administration (DOA) in Baton Rouge. The users of the system reside in approximately 764 different agency-location sites across the state. It is estimated that these 764 distinct agency-location sites are physically located in approximately 184 different facilities throughout the state. In other words, at most of the facilities there are several agencies that reside and work in the same building. Currently, there are no statewide standards for networking components, protocols, equipment, or interoperability. Each state organization is currently responsible for its own LAN and network environment. While some state organizations have an above average network system infrastructure, the majority of the state organizations have evolved technologically through the years on a separate and individual basis. Consequently, the overall state network system environments are technically heterogeneous with minimum documentation and little consistency with regards to equipment currently deployed, topologies, protocols, operating systems, and network system utilities. As the State embarks upon deployment of a statewide ISIS HR SAP R/3 application, minimum standards of equipment, protocols, operating systems and infrastructure are required in order for the system to operate successfully. Rather than each state organization undertaking its own ISIS HR assessment for SAP R/3 network system readiness, the DOA sponsored this project as a consistent statewide assessment of the current infrastructure for most state organizations. This assessment resulted in documenting and baselining the current environment, as well as determining the minimum computing level required to make all participating users operational with the new ISIS HR system. It is hoped that the ISIS HR system will leverage the Louisiana statewide Wide Area Network (LANET) as well as existing local infrastructures as much as possible.

**6.1.2 PURPOSE AND GOALS**

The purpose of the network assessment was to assess the current network and computer infrastructure of Louisiana State Government with regard to the ISIS HR project needs.

The goals of this Network Assessment were:

1. To establish a documented baseline of the existing network infrastructure that currently supports the designated ISIS HR users.
2. To determine the minimum recommended network enhancements required for the successful operation of the new ISIS HR system at each of the facilities.
3. To recommend a plan of action to ensure optimum near & long-term network access to the ISIS HR applications.

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**6.1.3 APPROACH TO AGENCY INVENTORY**

This project focused on assessing the current network system architecture, technologies and capabilities, defining and evaluating needs, and analyzing current and expected traffic. Upon completion of the data collection, assessment, and analysis work, recommendations were included in the final report for improving the overall network. Included with this was a summary of the current network architecture, existing workstation configurations, SAP network requirements, and an overview of any applicable new technologies that would address State of Louisiana requirements.

The following tasks were performed:

- Project Initiation meeting to review scope and plan project tasks
- Assimilated user and agency data from a wide variety of sources
- Conducted interviews with the primary points of contact for the ISIS HR project
- Reviewed Agency LAN/WAN architectures
- Interviewed end users
- Surveyed workstations
- Surveyed various wiring/network closets
- Recorded the inventory information in a data base
- Validated the site survey data within the data base
- Identified agencies and specific end users which would not meet the IT requirements for ISIS HR access
- Created minimum and recommended ISIS HR desktop/network recommendations by agency

On-site and remote data collection techniques were used in accumulating the inventory information.



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**6.1.5 PRINTING REQUIREMENTS**

Printer suggestions for ISIS HR

The ISIS HR system will support a multitude of output devices. The selection of an output device requires analysis of several variables. These include:

- Size of department
- Number of pages to be printed
- Rate of printed pages
- Other special requirements (graphics, logos, etc)

The printer should support PCL4 or PCL5 printer language and be capable of printing nominal graphics. A suggested printer might be an HP LaserJet 4000 for a smaller department with light printing requirements or an HP LaserJet 8000 for larger departments with demanding print requirements. 16MB-32MB of printer RAM is typically enough for ISIS HR output, but output from other applications should be considered when evaluating a printer.

Network connectivity should support TCP/IP (i.e. Jet Direct cards or devices) for large volume printing. Printers connected to workstations can be used, but page formatting is handled using the workstations' default printer driver. Therefore, actual output may vary according to print device.

**6.1.6 HARDWARE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION PHASE**

This phase encompasses all activities to purchase the ISIS HR end user hardware and network components and to install and test connectivity of the end user hardware and network components. Individual agencies are responsible for ordering and installing the equipment and training the users on its use.

**6.1.7 SOFTWARE INSTALLATION PHASE**

The ISIS HR client (users) software (SAP R/3) distribution strategy is under development. It will cover server-based installation and local workstation installation (via Web, LAN Server or CD). It is at the agencies discretion what method of installation is best suited for their agency(s).

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**6.1.8 AGENCY SYSTEM TEST AND CERTIFICATION**

The ISIS HR agency system test and user certification strategy is under development. Agencies that currently meet the minimum requirements for the SAP GUI will be targeted first. Other agencies that require upgrades will be certified after the beginning of FY01. This should give those agencies time to procure equipment and deploy it to the necessary users.

**6.1.9 BUDGET-COST BREAKDOWN**

The budget cost breakdown is outlined below:

- Workstation Replacement - \$1800.00 per workstation
- Memory upgrade (to 64MB) - \$200.00 per workstation
- Software replacement (i.e. OS/2 to Win98) - \$200.00 per workstation
- Modem upgrade - \$100.00
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Network firewall installation or upgrade – will be based on distance from the closest Point of Presence. All costs include estimated installation charges.

**6.1.10 CONCLUSION**

The overall ISIS HR project is a strategic and important initiative for the Louisiana State Government. The network system assessment was a small investment to help insure the success of the overall ISIS HR effort and verify that the designated end users will experience timely access and response from the future ISIS HR system.