

IT Industry Gets First Look at NGEN Planning

Representatives from the Information Technology industry got their first look at the Department of the Navy's way ahead for the follow-on to the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI).

During an industry day in Washington, D.C., in September, senior Navy and Marine Corps leaders outlined their objectives for the Next Generation Enterprise Network (NGEN) and the segmentation strategy that could define how the Department of the Navy (DON) builds the new network.

NGEN Program Manager Capt. Timothy Holland presented a proposed segmentation strategy that breaks existing network functions into groups and divides services by ones that will be run by the DON and ones that could be provided by outside contractors.

Under the current NMCI contract, all network service is provided by a single prime contractor.

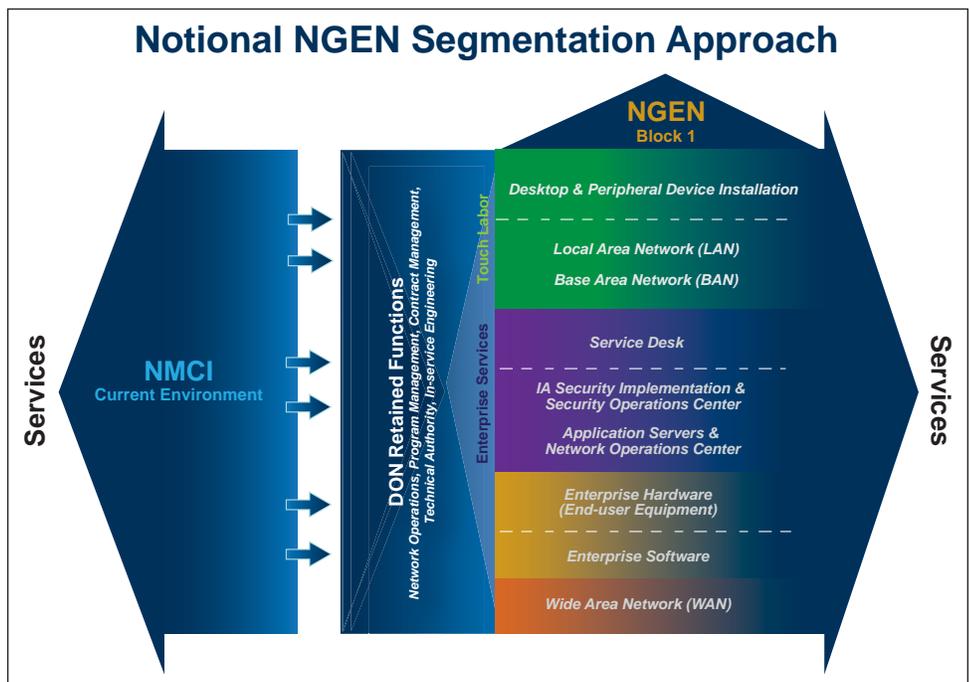
"As we reviewed the NGEN requirements, it became increasingly clear to us that simply repeating NMCI was not going to be the solution we were looking for and would not necessarily meet all the objectives we named," Holland told an audience of more than 380 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Segmentation of Services

Under the notional segmentation approach, the DON would retain the following network functions: network operations, program and contract management, technical authority and in-service engineering. NGEN would rely on the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) for wide-area network (WAN) services. The remaining segments reflect the services that the DON could buy from outside vendor(s).

"The eight segments may represent a significant challenge to the DON to execute as described here because of the significant number of interfaces and seams that have to be managed," Holland said. "So we grouped them logically [to ease the management]."

The eight services segments were created using Information Technology Service Management (ITSM) and Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) as



frameworks for describing the services.

While no questions or discussion about the notional segmentation approach were entertained during the industry day, participants were invited to submit white papers, critiquing the strategy. The request for information soliciting the white papers is posted on www.fbo.gov. Responses to questions submitted in writing will also be posted on the website.

More Government Control

Other presentations at the industry day included an explanation of the DON's Naval Networking Environment (NNE) and the Navy and the Marine Corps' objectives for NGEN.

Speakers emphasized that while NGEN will build on the successes of NMCI, it will also reassert government control over key network operations.

"When we say [command and control], we mean a network that is flexible and can allow us to make changes as the command requires," said Rob Carey, DON chief

information officer (DON CIO). "NGEN will allow the government to make those decisions without consideration of what effect they will have on the contracts."

Other highlights from the NGEN Industry Day:

- USMC is actively looking for early transition opportunities to ease the change to NGEN from NMCI, said James Craft, deputy director, USMC Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4), and deputy CIO, USMC.
- The DON will continue to reduce the number of legacy networks operating on the naval networks, said Rear Adm. David G. Simpson, director of Navy Networks, in OPNAV N6.
- Security will continue to be at the forefront of network operations, said Mr. Terry Halvorsen, deputy commander, Naval Network Warfare Command (NNWC).



Industry and government attendees check in at the NGEN Industry Day held September 8, 2008, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

DON Creates New Organizational Structure for NGEN

The Department of the Navy has approved a new organization structure for NGEN, aimed at ensuring an enterprise-wide approach for seamless oversight, responsibility and accountability for the new network.

The NGEN System Program Office (SPO) will be comprised of membership from all of the DON NGEN functional areas: requirements, resources, policy, operations, fleet readiness support and acquisition.

Created by the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), the system program office will be led by a two-star admiral as director and a Marine colonel as deputy director.

The director will serve as the primary touch point for SECNAV/CNO/CMC engagement.

Rear Adm. David G. Simpson, director of Navy Networks, OPNAV N6, has been named the interim director. Col. David M. Hagopian, USMC, will serve as the deputy director.

The NGEN SPO will include all of the functions of the existing NGEN Program Office which has been in place since summer 2007 as well as the NMCI Program Office to ensure a seamless transition.

It will also expand existing operations to cover other critical development functions.

The NGEN SPO will have three division heads who will oversee the following areas:

- acquisition;
- operations and integration;
- programming, planning, and policy.

The acquisition division head will report directly to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RDA) on all acquisition matters and to the SPO director for all non-acquisition matters. The other division heads will report to the SPO director.

The charter for the NGEN SPO has been signed by the SECNAV, the CNO and the CMC. It further defines the key operational relationships and functions of the organization.

The NGEN SPO will exist through the transition from NMCI to NGEN and will be reevaluated after that time.

The NGEN SPO is expected to be operational by the end of the year. ➤

SPOTLIGHT NGEN: Interacting with the IT Industry

The Industry Day held in September is just another step in the DON's effort to engage the IT community in the development of NGEN.

While the Industry Day was the first chance for business representatives to hear the Navy and the Marine Corps' expectations for NGEN, the DON has been seeking industry input since 2007.

The DON issued three requests for information last summer – one to address technology innovations, a second to address NGEN acquisition issues, and a

third to address command and control (C2) network capabilities.

More than a dozen companies responded to the requests. The companies that responded included: Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, BEA Systems (now part of Oracle), Computer Sciences Corporation, Lockheed Martin, IBM, Accenture, Harris Corporation, Northrup Grumman, Nortel Networks, Verizon, SRA International, and current NMCI contractor, EDS.

Suggestions included that the infrastructure be government owned, the architecture should be carefully defined, and the government should implement a services management framework and incorporate a multi-contract acquisition strategy.

The NGEN Acquisition Strategy is still being determined; it is unclear which, if any, of the industry recommendations will be incorporated.

Additional industry days may be held in December and/or January as new developments warrant. ➤



Rear Adm. Tim Flynn, PEO (EIS), welcomes participants to the NGEN Industry Day.

Frequently Asked Questions: NGEN and the Naval Networking Environment (NNE)

1. What is the Naval Networking Environment?

The NNE is the Department of the Navy's future vision of a net-centric enterprise environment that will connect both afloat and ashore, and CONUS and OCONUS, networks. The NNE will provide highly secure and reliable enterprise-wide voice, video and data networks, providing access to data, services and applications for all naval users from anywhere in the world.

2. What networks will be included in the NNE?

At its future state, the NNE will include NGEN as well as:

- the Navy's shipboard environment, CANES (Consolidated Afloat Network Enterprise Services), which replaces IT-21;
- Tactical Switching, which connects the Navy's ashore and afloat networks;
- the Marine Corps' CONUS and OCONUS operations through MCEITS (Marine Corps Enterprise IT Services) and other components of the MCEN

- (Marine Corps Enterprise Network);
- a limited number of excepted networks such as the RDT&E (Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation) systems.

3. So how does NGEN fit into the NNE?

NGEN is expected to be the foundation of the NNE and will be developed and acquired in such a way that it seamlessly matches the capabilities being developed for the above networks. NGEN will continue the effort to reduce the number of legacy IT applications used within the DON.

4. How does the NNE fit into overall Department of Defense IT strategy?

The NNE will be an interoperable, Joint enterprise environment guided by common enterprise architecture and standards. It will operate with common governance and operational constructs. ➤

Upcoming Information Technology Events

The following events are not sponsored by PM NGEN but may be of interest to the Information Technology community.

November

17 -19

MILCOM 2008: Assuring Mission Success,

San Diego, Calif.

<http://www.milcom.org/2008/>

December

1 - 3

Defense Network Centric Operations 2008: Effectively Managing Defense Networks to Ensure Secure and Appropriate Information Sharing,

Arlington, Va.

http://www.wbresearch.com/DNCO/?cm_mmc=affiliate_-_listing_-_11357.002_-_MIT

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The NGEN program office is committed to keeping leaders, CTRS and users informed. Send questions to: ngen_public_affairs@navy.mil.

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