

## **SURVEY OF IT GOVERNANCE IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **WHAT IS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) GOVERNANCE?**

The purpose of information technology (IT) governance is to ensure that IT programs are in line with business objectives and add value to the organization. The performance of IT departments should be measured; their resources properly allocated; and their inherent risks mitigated. In this way, IT initiatives can be managed and controlled in organizations to guarantee returns on investment and improvements in organizational processes. Appropriate information technology governance in the federal government fosters the protection of critical information and contributes to the attainment of organizations' institutional goals.

### **WHY DID THE TCU UNDERTAKE THIS SURVEY?**

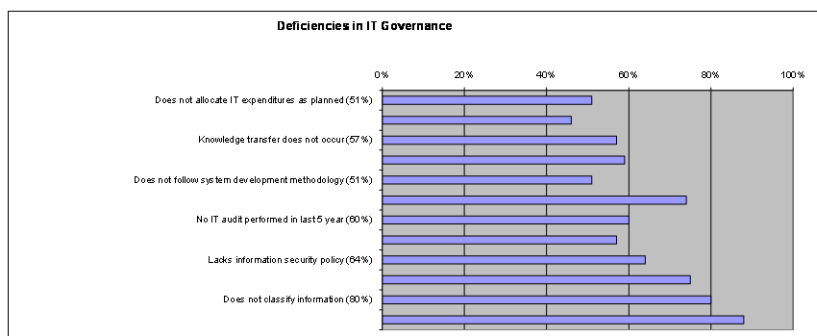
The strategic importance of information technology, the complexity of IT management, increasing government expenditures in the sector, and the growing number of denunciations and petitions about IT-related procurement led to the creation of the IT Audit Secretariat (*Secretaria de Fiscalização de TI, or Sefti*) in August 2006. Sefti's goal is to audit the use and management of IT resources in the federal government and to promote improvements in IT governance. To this end, it needs to obtain information on IT governance in the federal government to correctly identify what and how to audit, and to enhance the efficiency and efficacy of its actions.

### **SURVEY OBJECTIVE**

This survey was authorized by Sentence No. 435/2007-TCU-Plenário with the objective of "collecting information on procedures related to the procurement of IT products and services, information security, IT human resource management, and the main databases and systems in the federal government."

### **TCU'S MAIN FINDINGS**

The data that TCU collected made it clear that IT governance in the federal government is quite heterogeneous and a matter of concern. Aspects that, in one way or another, are regulated by law and standards (budget process and procurement and management of IT products and services), in addition to strategic planning, systems development, service-level management, and IT auditing, all evidence some advances, despite being far from ideal. IT personnel structures are highly disparate and are linked to the legal makeup of the organization. The aspect of IT governance whose current status is most critical situation is information security. (See graph below)



### **TCU RECOMMENDATIONS**

With a view to promoting general improvements in all aspects of IT governance, TCU addressed a series of recommendations to government agencies with regulatory authority in their spheres of activity, which potentially can affect the entire federal government. It recommended specific action aimed at improving and disseminating the importance of strategic planning, IT personnel structure, systems development, service-level management, procurement and management of IT products and services, the IT budget process, and IT audits. If these government agencies act resolutely and steadfastly, the results are promising, considering they are likely to reflect on public management as a whole and thus benefit the nation and its citizens.

### **TCU DELIBERATION**

Sentence No. 1.603/2008 - TCU - Plenário  
 Rapporteur: Minister Guilherme Palmeira

## **Business**

External auditing of information technology governance  
in the federal government.

## **Mission**

To ensure that information technology adds value to  
the business of the federal government for the benefit  
of society.

## **Vision**

To be a unit that achieves excellence in improving and  
auditing information technology governance.