

The State of Mississippi Logs On

Get ready to click and point your way to easy access to state websites in Mississippi. By October 2001, Mississippians will be able to perform a variety of task without having to pick up the phone or know which agency handles their request. You will be able to obtain hunting and fishing licenses, pay your taxes, file statements of incorporation and even receive your payment of tax refunds online.

Currently 26% of the people of Mississippi have access to the Internet. This number is growing each day. As this number increases, the need to provide efficient, effective and accountable government services over the World Wide Web becomes more important. We plan to make this service available so citizens can better interact with their government agencies.

In month of this year, a commission was appointed to make a recommendation regarding e-Government. The commission is charged with advising the Governor regarding technology infrastructure and propose recommendations to ensure increased efficiency and effectiveness of electronic government. The Commission's goal is to expand the World Wide Web to include Mississippi government and to provide accessible and responsive public services.

Implementing e-Government strategies will improve public services for all Mississippians by reducing the use of paper and cutting processing times and costs. The federal government estimates that it will save \$0.40 for every paper check converted to an electronic payment, amounting to an average annual cost savings of \$100 million. Alaska and Pennsylvania have already experienced cost savings and efficiencies after implementing similar websites.

E-Government will provide a single point-of-entry to government's online services and information. It will be more than just a website; it will be a web portal, offering an entrance into Mississippi's public sector. Through a well-designed, interactive portal, people and businesses can obtain services without knowing specifics about Mississippi government. The forms will be online and can be accessed readily. Your information will be secure and can now be processed quickly and accurately.

E-Government will provide access, information and efficiencies that are not being fully enjoyed today by all people across our state, nation and world. As Mississippi becomes a competitor in education, in the economy and on the Internet, e-Government is the next logical advancement for our state. By providing government services through e-Government, we are making government more consumer friendly, customer oriented, efficient and effective for all of our people.

Electronic government offers an opportunity for Mississippi to take full advantage of the Internet. The opportunities made available by e-Government emphasize the purpose of state government to be viewed as one entity with the common goal of delivering services to our people conveniently, economically and without violating their trust. With the implementation of this web service in Mississippi, we are keeping up with today's technology. Mississippi is on the way to accomplishing all our goals and becoming America's State of Promise.