

Principles for Federal Engagement in Standards Activities to Address National Priorities

Mary Saunders

Director, Standards Coordination Office

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

November 8, 2012

Overview

Recap of Recent Developments
in Federal Standards Policy



Principles for Standards
Engagement



Uptake of Principles



Advice to Agencies

Standards

What

- Agreed upon documents/procedures that provide for repeatability, reliability and consistency
- Developed by consensus; reflect broad stakeholder agreement
- Necessary for wide interoperability

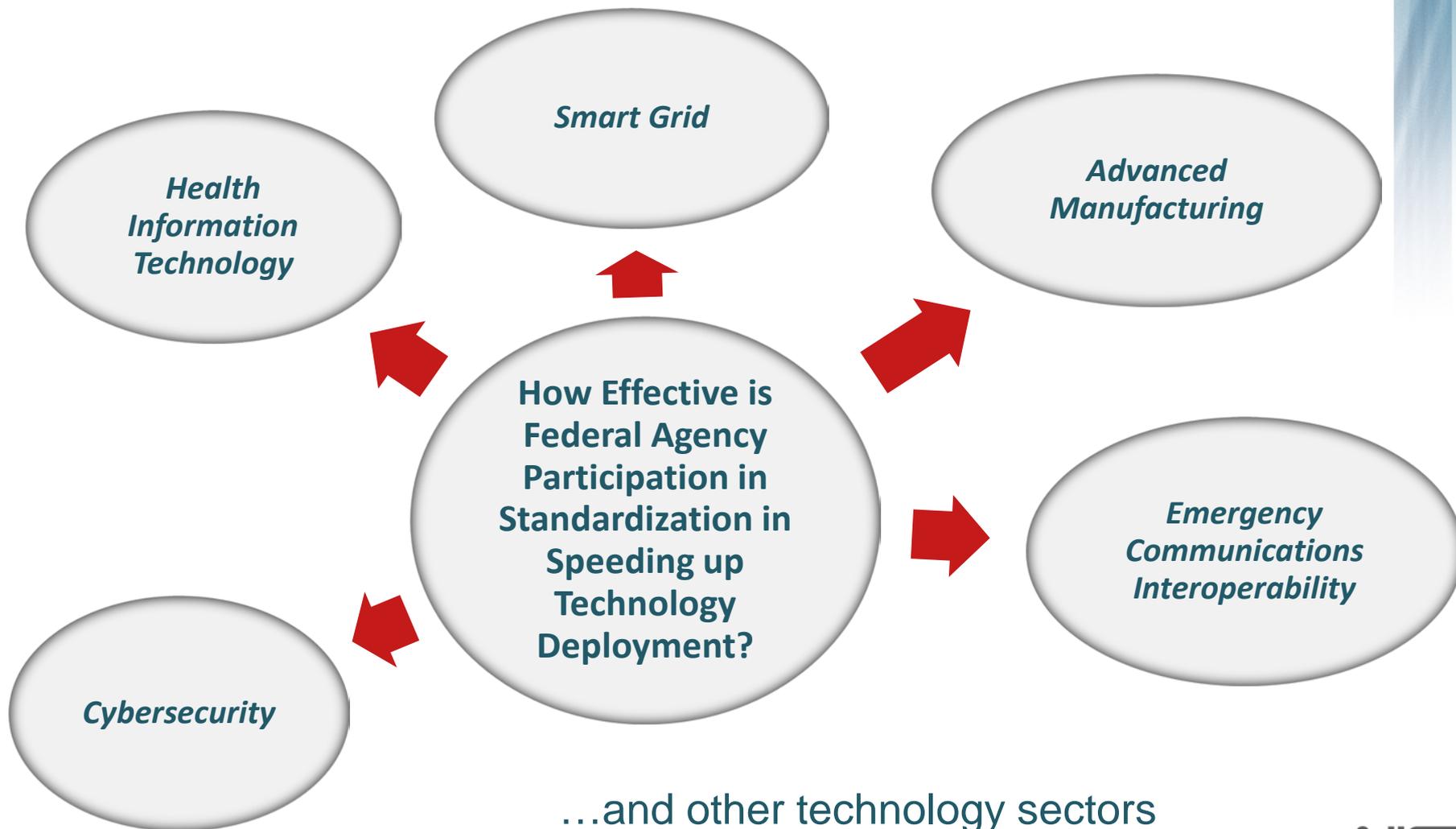
Why

- Significant private sector involvement in development means low burden on stakeholders for use
- Avoid re-inventing the wheel
- Support state-of-art solutions

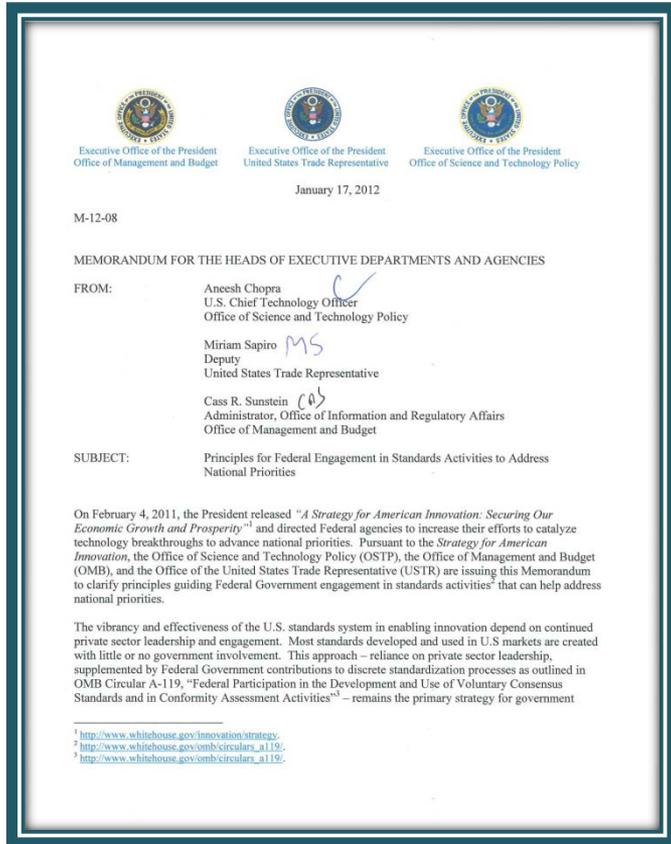
Benefits

- Flexible
- Lower life-cycle costs than govt. unique requirements
- Spur innovation

Technology Challenges



White House Memorandum for Heads of Agencies

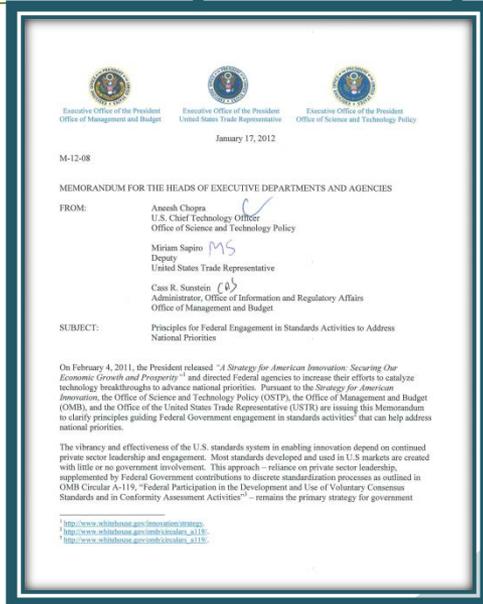


- Establishes principles for federal engagement in standards activities to address national priorities
- Reinforces innovation focus and private sector role in the standardization system
- Outlines strategic objectives for federal agencies
- Recognizes the growth of ICT technologies and changes in the standardization system in the past decade
- Emphasizes the global nature and broad impact of standardization and standards policy

Strategic Objectives

- Produce timely, effective standards and efficient conformity assessment schemes that are essential to addressing an identified need
- Achieve cost-efficient, timely and effective solutions to legitimate regulatory, procurement and policy objectives
- Promote standards and standardization systems that promote and sustain innovation and foster competition
- Enhance U.S. growth and competitiveness and ensure non-discrimination, consistent with international obligations
- Facilitate international trade and avoid the creation of unnecessary obstacles to trade

Principles Impact



Provides the private sector greater clarity and certainty about federal government engagement

Conveys the U.S. government's continuing commitment to the public-private partnership that is the foundation of the U.S. standards system

Sends an important message to both domestic and international audiences

Establishes a framework for policy makers (Administration and Congress) to use while defining their standards needs

Provides clear direction to agency staff and leadership in their efforts to catalyze technology breakthroughs to drive U.S. innovation and competitiveness

Uptake of White House Principles

- Global Supply Chain Security
 - Standards as a key element
- Global Internet Governance
 - World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) prep
- Information Sharing Across the Government
 - National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) and alternatives
- Smart Disclosure
 - Federal models (the buttons)
 - Use of existing data standards
- Financial Data Sharing
 - Federated models

Advice to agencies on developing standards based solutions:

Challenge

- Articulate the standards gap in unambiguous terms
- What is needed to close the standards gap?

End goal

- Clearly define your agency's objectives and expectations
- Decide what role your agency will play to help achieve the end-goal

Engage

- Develop and implement plans for private sector engagement as early in the process as possible
- Maintain flexibility with respect to models for engagement

Formalize

- Consider a formal public-private partnership
- Can sustain effort over a longer term

Support

- Clearly communicate resources that you will bring to support the effort
- Lay out your expectations of stakeholder commitment of resources