



Suzette Kent
Administrator, Office of Electronic Government
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

March 15, 2018

Dear Ms. Kent:

Internet Association (IA) represents over 40 of the world's leading internet companies and supports policies that promote and enable internet innovation, including via cloud computing. Our members are global leaders in the drive to develop lower cost, more secure, and resilient cloud services offering the latest innovations for customers in both the public and private sectors.

IA commends you for answering the call to public service by becoming the U.S. Government's Chief Information Officer. You assume this role at a critical juncture for federal IT modernization. The recent passage of the Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act coupled with the White House's ambitious agenda in this area hold the potential to drive lasting progress. You bring the transformational leadership needed to make that vision real, particularly through continued and accelerated adoption of commercial cloud solutions.

The single most impactful way federal agencies can enhance cybersecurity and provide better value to the taxpayer is by leveraging commercial cloud. Already in wide use throughout the economy, these services allow agencies to harness private sector innovation, remove barriers to their own experimentation, and erase constraints around limited or inflexible technical capacity. Only the economies of scale that typify commercial clouds can fully deliver such benefits. As the Office of American Innovation (OAI) has noted, "Major commercial cloud infrastructure providers offer excellent levels of functionality, cost effectiveness, and security because of their ability to aggregate demand across a broad range of customers."

A key advantage of commercial clouds is the unparalleled security their providers bring to the table. Effective online security has been fundamental to these innovators' success since day one. Their security practices, teams, and investments have come to set the global standard. Today, leading commercial cloud providers like those IA represents offer cutting-edge protections to keep data safe from a wider array of threats than ever before, and constantly update these capabilities to stay ahead of tomorrow's attacks. Put simply, there is no safer place to host sensitive data or applications than a properly-configured commercial cloud environment.

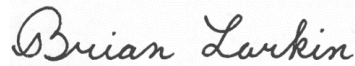
Another advantage of commercial clouds is the wide variety of services available beyond simple backup and recovery, such as team collaboration and mobility applications, Internet of Things support, big data and analytics, high performance computing, and cognitive services including artificial intelligence. Through the adoption of commercial cloud, agencies can leverage the best of American innovation, representing billions of dollars in R&D investment, to deploy services that improve agency workplace efficiency and citizen services, advancing agency missions.

IA appreciates the valuable contributions the Office of Management and Budget has made in accelerating commercial cloud adoption across federal agencies. OMB is currently engaged in a



variety of important efforts in this regard, including your leadership on the Technology Modernization Fund Board. Your team is also advancing many of the workstreams central to OAI's modernization drive. The key to success on these fronts will be a sustained focus on enabling commercial cloud uptake. IA and its members look forward to partnering with you in support of this important goal.

Sincerely,



Brian Larkin
Director, Cloud Policy
Internet Association