

STATE SERVICES COMMISSION
Te Kōmihana O Ngā Tari Kāwanatanga



**New Zealand E-government
Interoperability Framework
(NZ e-GIF)**

Version 3.1

INTRODUCTION

November 2006

State Services Commission

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Foreword

The E-government Interoperability Framework (e-GIF) was first issued in February 2002. This version (v3.1) is the eighth edition to be published.

In the three and a half years since the initial launch, we have seen tremendous change in New Zealand, both in the public sector and in wider society. Technology continues to advance and government agencies' business needs keep evolving in response to the changes in technology and society. The challenges and opportunities these changes present demand innovative and collaborative solutions from government agencies.

Since 2002, the e-GIF has proved to be a significant tool for enabling agencies to work together and for all-of-government initiatives. By promoting collaboration and the efficient use of resources, the e-GIF contributes to the State Services Development Goals of Networked, Coordinated and Accessible State Services.

The e-GIF has formed the foundation of a number of important e-government initiatives. The framework has helped collaboration between government agencies, resulting in more integrated services for New Zealanders. For example:

- Customers can now register for a company IRD number online when they incorporate a company. This service eliminates the need for new companies to deal with the Companies Office and Inland Revenue separately. It makes the registration process faster by eliminating duplication of information between agencies and the need to provide paper-based IRD number applications.
- SEEMail, the Secure Electronic Environment Mail standard, helps the secure exchange of email and attachments using the Internet. It is now used by 51 government agencies.
- www.govt.nz, the all-of-government web portal, uses e-GIF standards to collect information about government services from a wide range of government agencies. It provides an online single point of access for New Zealanders.

These online services and resources have been made possible by the e-GIF, and the people from across government who have worked together on this version, and all the earlier versions, of the framework.

Over the coming years standards will continue to be added to the e-GIF, and the framework will grow to accommodate them.

We welcome the publication of this latest version and acknowledge the collaborative effort that has achieved this. We are also confident this valuable resource will continue to provide the foundation for future e-government initiatives across the State Services.

Laurence Millar

Deputy Commissioner, Information and Communication Technologies Branch

Warren Tucker

Chairperson, e-GIF Management Committee

About the e-GIF documents

The E-government Interoperability Framework (e-GIF) Version 3.1, consists of three documents:

- Part 1: Standards
- Part 2: Policy
- Part 3: Resources

Below are short descriptions of each document and its intended audience.

Part 1: Standards

Part 1 focuses on the standards that make up the e-GIF. The intended audience for this section includes:

- State sector information technology (IT) strategists
- technical analysts
- programme and project managers
- anyone planning services requiring interoperability.

Part 1 includes the following sections:

- **How to read the standards:** Description of the layer model used to categorise the standards, what the status levels for each standard mean, links to related documentation, and changes from the last e-GIF.
- **e-GIF standards:** The standards listed by category.
- **E-government services:** Services that are part of the e-government programme, fully support interoperability, and are freely available to public sector agencies.

Part 2: Policy

Part 2 outlines the policy behind the e-GIF and its development. The intended audience for this section includes:

- policy analysts
- advisors
- business analysts
- anyone involved with interoperability strategy and projects.

Part 2 includes the following sections:

- **What is the e-GIF?** Short descriptions of e-government, interoperability, and the e-GIF, how the e-GIF will benefit New Zealand, and how the e-GIF is maintained.
- **Who must comply and when?** Who must comply with the e-GIF, how to transition to e-GIF compliance, exemptions and special provisions.
- **Principles:** Short descriptions of anticipated outcomes of the e-GIF, requirements for project and operational management, and governance principles.
- **Developing the e-GIF:** Outlines of procedures for extending the e-GIF, submitting a new standard, developing the framework, and issues under review or proposed for future working groups.

Part 3: Resources

Part 3 contains resources related to the e-GIF. The intended audience for this section is all readers of the e-GIF.

Part 3 includes the following sections:

- **History of the e-GIF:** Review of stages in the e-GIF's development, including a Change Log.
- **References and background information:** Descriptions and links to further information related to the e-GIF.
- **URLs referred to in the e-GIF:** Full URLs for all hyperlinks in the e-GIF documents.
- **Abbreviations:** Definitions of abbreviations and acronyms used in the e-GIF.