So What's a Portal Anyway

and

The Pros and Cons

What's a Portal?

A web site targeted to a **specific community**:

- to **aggregate** information ("content") relevant to the community
- to **collaborate** and build community
- to deliver **access to services** for the community — often offered in a personalized manner per individual.

Types of Portals

- **MegaPortal:** Focus on everything, such as Yahoo, America Online, MSN.com, etc.

- **Vertical Portals:** "Vortals" which are narrowly focused in a niche community of interest. What is vertical in the nongovernment world tends to be horizontal in the government world.

More Portal Types

- **B to B Portals:** Business to business sites which buy and sell with each other, as a marketplace. The government counterpart may be G to G.

-

- **Enterprise Portals:** A corporately-based portal; it may be either horizontal covering the breadth of information of the enterprise, or vertical covering a specific interest.

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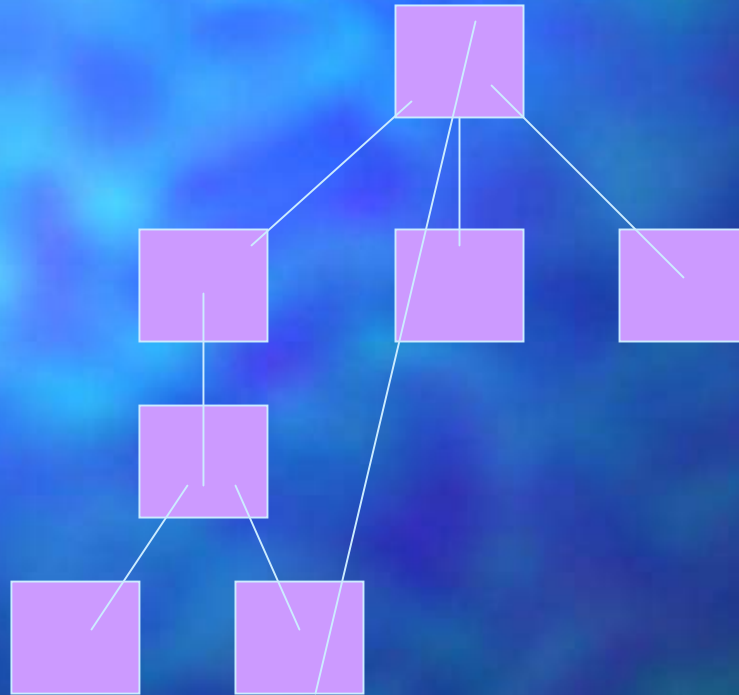
Traditional Web Pages
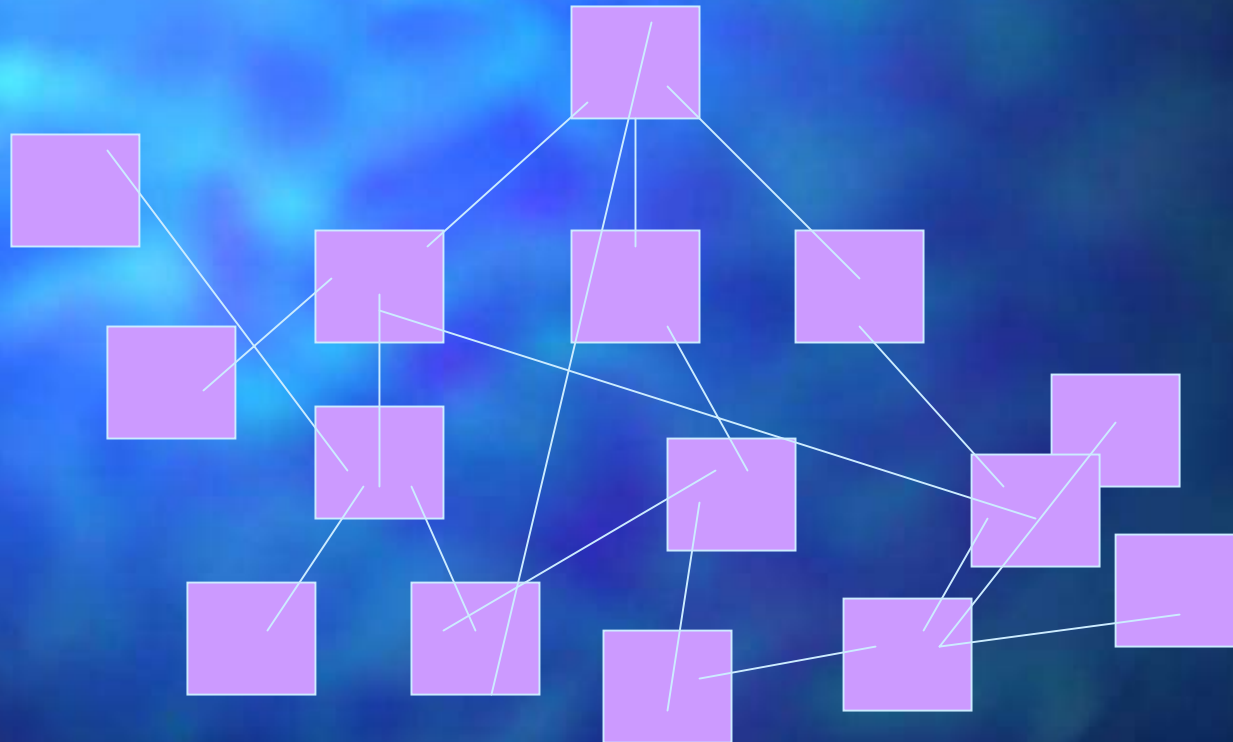
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Portal Advantages over a Traditional Web Site

- More *robust* content because it's drawn from *across* organizational boundaries

- *Faster tools* to locate information and services *relevant* to the user (search engine, taxonomy-based directory, personalization to the user, organizational directory, etc.)

- Greater currency on the *freshest* content (news services, dynamic

More Advantages

- Much more organization, methodical, **controlled** and process based.

- For the user, a portal provides **many paths to the same information** versus having to know a single "right" path to the same information.

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Strategic and Tactical Advocates for Results

Today's work environment is ***significantly changed***. Operational work is outsourced. More partners are "at the table." "Stovepipes" are being replaced by cooperative partnerships. Strategic thinking and mission delivery is the responsibility of all. Information technology is changing at an ***even more*** rapid pace. Organizational boundaries are fading. Customers' expectations (i.e. demands) for information are immediate and broad. Security threats are ever present and rising in sophistication. Meanwhile, the government official still faces the usual challenges of tight budgets, reduced resources, competing priorities, and political influences. New knowledge, skills, and abilities are essential for today's government executive and manager to be effective into the next millennium. The STAR Program addresses these new skill requirements.

TRAIL BOSS

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While the Trail Boss (TB) Seminars have ended, annual Roundup conferences continue as a vital source of Trail Boss graduates' educational development.

The Trail Boss Interagency Committee (TBIC) remains a prominent force in Federal information technology policy formulation and implementation. For information about the Trail Boss Interagency Committee Management Council, contact the **TBIC Management Council Chair**.

Trail Bosses may be interested in our other educational programs:

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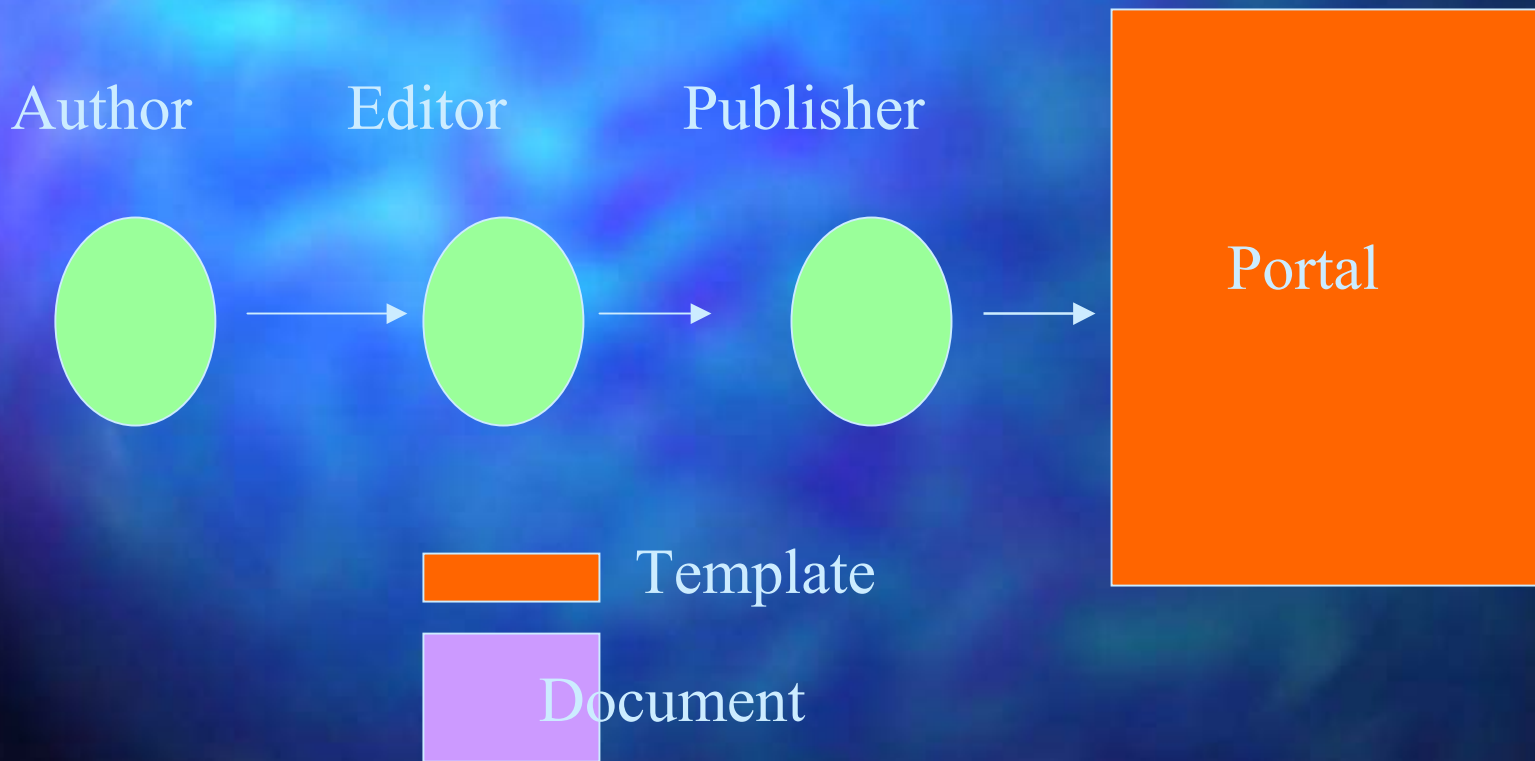
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• GSA Advantage! - GSA Advantage! offers the convenience of purchasing more than one million products and services with the click of a button.

• GSA Office of Inspector General - The mission of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness within

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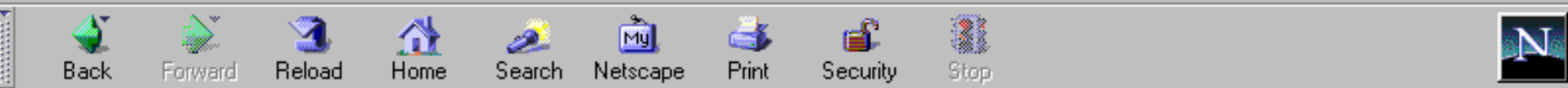
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Office of Information Technology

1800 F Street, N.W.   Dr. Joan Steyaert
Washington, DC 20405   Deputy Associate Administrator
(202) 501-0202

Description

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Computer Security In The Federal Government: Protecting Personal Information

Publication Document (HTML)

John Ray
john.ray@gsa.gov, (202) 501-3473

Description

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee (SGAC) held a hearing on September 23, 1998 on Computer Security in the Federal Government, Protecting Personal Information.

Organizations   (2 of 3)

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SENATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 23, 1998 HEARING

COMPUTER SECURITY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: PROTECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee (SGAC) held a hearing on September 23, 1998 on Computer Security in the Federal Government, Protecting Personal Information. Prior security hearings by the Committee on May 19 and June 15, 1998 were on terrorist/information warfare threats to our national information infrastructure.

The September 23, 1998 hearing on personal information included a focus on computer security vulnerabilities at the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

To emphasize the importance of the topic, SGAC Chairman Fred Thompson referred to GAO's addition of information security to GAO's High Risk List in 1997 (High Risk Series: Information Management and Technology--GAO/HR-97-9, February 1997). Chairman Thompson noted that billions of dollars of Government financial assets are at risk.

Chairman Thompson also referred to two GAO reports that were released on September 23, 1998:

· Information Security--Serious Weaknesses Place Critical Federal Operations and Assets at Risk;

So What's a Portal Anyway

Keith Thurston - GSA
Bob Maslyn - GSA