National IT Strategy

Oman’s Economic Vision 2020, set the directions for the formation of the Sultanate’s National IT Strategy in November, 2002. This Digital Oman strategy which is the nation’s IT strategy, sets goals for the creation of a knowledge society and a road map to implement it.
The Royal Decree No. 52/2006 issued on the 31st May 2006, created the Information Technology Authority (ITA) of the Sultanate as a public, autonomous organisation responsible for the implementation of the Digital Oman strategy. ITA is responsible for the execution of all national e-government projects to create the required national infrastructure systems and build human resource capacity within the community.
Transforming Oman into a knowledge society by harnessing Information and Communication Technologies to enhance government services, enrich the business sector and enable individuals further improve their lives.
Knowledge is a key driver for social development, and the eOman initiative aims at making knowledge a basic element of all programs and activities that are carried out within Oman either at an individual or institutional level. The aim is to create a knowledge economy nurtured by a digital environment, which creates new scientific and professional opportunities to Omani youth.
In order to achieve its vision, ITA is executing a number of infrastructure projects such as the government network, data center, payment gateway and the e-service projects that work upon them. This is supplemented by electronic laws, standards and frameworks which increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the governmental services. Several capacity building projects are in progress to provide public sector and the community the knowledge and the skills necessary for interaction with such e-services.
The implementation of the Digital Oman strategy seeks to achieve its three major objectives:

- Establish basic infrastructure including integrated networks, electronic gateways and secured data centers.
- Provide technical support and consultancy services to governmental institutions to offer electronic services.
- Empower the community to develop and deliver e-services and enable users to make use of such services to better their lives.
Digital Oman Initiative

- Technical support to Government Institutions
- Infrastructure Projects
- Social development

- Government network, electronic gateway and data center
- Electronic laws, standards and integrated frameworks

- Technical Consultancy
- Digital literacy and specialized IT training
- Innovation and Support Center

- Community Knowledge Centers
- Enhance PC penetration and use

- Better service to citizens and residents
- Integrated government eServices
- Knowledge Economy based on IT

Knowledge Society of Oman
Information Technology Authority is executing a number of infrastructure projects related to eOman briefed as follows:
Convergent Government Network

It provides an infrastructure that connects various governmental institutions to help the flow of data among them in a seamless manner.
Government eServices Portal

It is the gateway for obtaining information and e-services from the government sector and it allows individuals and business sector complete their transactions electronically.
Electronic Payment Gateway

It provides individuals and businesses within Oman, the ability of paying service charges through the Internet in a secure and timely manner.
The national data center maintains all systems and data related to government institutions in a secure manner and provides continuity of business operations even during emergency situations.
ITA develops frameworks and standards for the government institutions to work as integrated communities of interest and share citizen related information. It helps government institutions to join the government network and establish several IT related standards to create a digital environment of high quality.
The Information Security Centre of the Sultanate aims to protect systems and information from unauthorised access and therefore create a trustworthy environment for e-government electronic transactions.
The electronic transactions law legalises all electronic transaction in Oman and ensure that all parties in such e-transactions are well protected to enhance the confidence the community in using electronic transactions.
ITA provides support to the government institutions, to deliver e-services to citizens and further provides training and certification programs.
ITA provides technical consultations to the governmental institutions on their IT projects, and continues to support the delivery of e-services through a common framework in an integrated manner.
The Innovation and Support Center located at ITA’s premises houses international and local technical experts and offers innovative solutions to the government electronic projects while developing trained Omani IT experts.
This project is implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Civil Services and it aims to train around 93,000 civil staff members of government institutions to qualify with international certifications in IT literacy.
Creating the knowledge Society in the Sultanate, requires a comprehensive awareness of eOman and empowering all segments of the society with ICT skills. Therefore, the ITA has launched several projects and awareness programs to raise the awareness, train and qualify all segments of the society as follows:
This is an integrated ongoing eOman awareness campaign consisting of seminars, presentations and other contact programs conducted across the Sultanate. ITA targets all segments of the society to enhance awareness of government eServices, the importance of IT, opportunities to benefit from IT and encourage individuals to gain digital literacy skills. Face to face interaction with the community is possible by participating in public events such as the Muscat Festival, Khareef Salalah Festival and Comex.
These are centers established in the different governorate and regions of the Sultanate, with computers, digital literacy programs, Internet service and other training programs. These centers are responsible for providing different segments of the society with the required ICT training, with the aim of eliminating digital illiteracy and empowering all members of the society to communicate and interact electronically.
In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, ITA aims to connect all schools through the Internet and the Education e-Portal. It aims to facilitate 24/7 accessibility to information, minimizing the digital divide in Omani Society.
ITA emphasises and encourages Omani talent in IT field and encourages them to be creative in IT industry innovation. In addition to the role of Innovation and Support Center in developing the IT capabilities of talented Omanis, the ITA sponsors and supports several ambitious competitions.
In cooperation with other public and private entities, ITA supports talented Omanis in the IT field by providing them with support and incentives to innovate and create new ICT-based industries. Through incubation such industry measures encourage the local IT industry to become one of the vital contributors to the economy.
Oman Web Awards

This annual web design competition of Oman supported by ITA, encourages creativity and highlights the talents and innovation in web design. It promotes the online presence of Omani websites and rewards excellence in design and content. ITA specially awards the top three winners’ in the Ministries and Government entities’ category to promote the public sector excellence online.
ITA in partnership with Microsoft organizes the Imagine Cup competition in Oman. Student teams of Oman compete globally in a range of categories like Software Design, Game Development, Short Film, Photography, Interface Design, etc. ITA supports many other IT competitions like the IT Quiz, Cyber Quest and IT Vision to provide opportunities for Omani students to showcase their talents.
International Relations

ITA is the focal point for all IT related matters with International organizations and takes action to position the Sultanate as an advanced nation in the ICT field. ‘Towards Oman Digital Society’ is a comprehensive report published by ITA. It keeps up-to-date with World Summit for Information Society (WSIS-under the patronage of the United Nations) meetings, regional and international ICT newsletters and reports. ITA periodically updates the worldwide database of IT related projects with Omani ICT projects and compiles ESCWA national profile for Oman.
The presence of an advanced digital environment is considered as one of the main factors in attracting investment. So, ITA in cooperation with various public and private entities in the Sultanate, undertakes activities in order to enhance the ICT investment climate. ITA hopes to nourish the ICT industry sector further to become a key contributor to the knowledge-based national economy.
**ITA office contacts**

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