



Open Forum

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Innovations in information resource management to support government

Interview with Will Pelgrin, Director, NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination

In September 2002 Governor Pataki created the NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination with responsibility for leading and coordinating New York State's efforts regarding cyber readiness and resilience, leading and coordinating geographic information technologies, including in State-declared emergencies, and coordinating the process by which State critical infrastructure data is collected and maintained. Will Pelgrin was named Director of that office and we are grateful that Will has taken the time to participate in the following interview.

The Forum: *Surely 9/11 provided an important impetus for the creation of your new organization, but from your perspective can you provide what you feel is the relevant background to the establishment of your new organization and its responsibilities?*

Will Pelgrin: We are very fortunate in New York State to have a Governor who has clearly led the way

in security. Since the beginning of his administration, he has been proactive in recognizing the need for solid information security procedures and practices. In 1996, he directed me to establish a high-level Information Security Workgroup, comprised of agency executives. He established the Statewide Information Security Office, and appointed the Statewide Information Security Officer. Following the successful Y2K date change, as we moved into e-Commerce/e-Government, information security became one of the Governor's top priorities.

The events of September 11, 2001 tragically magnified that already-existing need for increased awareness and vigilance of our information and critical systems. In March 2002, the Governor established a Cyber Security Task Force, under the leadership of James Kallstrom, now the Governor's Senior Advisor for Counter Terrorism, to better prepare the State against any terrorist activities. As an outgrowth of this important Task Force, the Governor saw

the need to establish an entity with a single focus, and created this Office in September 2002.

The New York State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination (CSCIC) is responsible for leading and coordinating New York State's efforts regarding cyber readiness and resilience;

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Colleague:

On June 24th in collaboration with the Business Council of New York State, Inc., the Office of General Services Procurement Services Group and Baruch College Continuing and Professional Studies, the seminar entitled *Doing IT Business With NYS: Where Do I Begin?* was offered for the first time in New York City. The capacity attendance on June 24th and at previous offerings of this Seminar, attests to the optimism that the IT corporate sector has relative to continuing and growing IT development across NY state and local governments. The Forum expresses its thanks to our partners for making this Seminar a great success.



At its May meeting, in an effort to remain responsive to the needs of state and local government IT leadership and staff, The Forum's Executive Committee created the Project Management Community of Practice Committee. This Committee is co-chaired by Nancy Mullholland of the Workers' Compensation Board and Joann Dunham of Keane. This initiative has been developed to afford continuity to the important efforts originally undertaken by OFT. Also, The Forum, in collaboration with OFT, is co-hosting the Project Management Community of Practice Sharing Website which includes a calendar, a repository of documents, a message board and a relevant "links page," all of which represents a substantial contribution to affording continuity to and improving project management practice transfer. Information about this new committee is included in this issue.

As reported in the previous issue of *Open Forum*, we have been exploring a collaborative research effort in lieu of hosting an "e-Government: Opportunity for All Conference" that was originally planned for this summer. Last month, agreement was reached with The Benton Foundation and the Taubman Center for Public Policy at Brown University to develop and release a briefing paper this fall. This paper will build on and supplement the annual e-government research effort undertaken by the Taubman Center that commenced in June. Using the 2003 research findings as a base, the paper will examine implications for accessibility and equity in e-government. The agreement to develop this research paper has already spawned an interest in further collaboration with The Benton Foundation and Brown University and the tentative planning of a virtual conference to follow the release of the briefing paper.

Doing more with less has and will continue to place a significant burden on state and local governments and on constituents who surely recognize the effects of austerity budgets on the level and cost of public services. As an element central to the conduct of public service, state and local IT operations have been under significant pressure for some time. This issue of *Open Forum* marks the summer season, the traditional time to take some time with family and friends to relax from the extraordinarily hectic and demanding pace that NY's current fiscal environment has wrought. We want to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and relaxing summer season.

Sincerely,

Greg Benson



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We welcome editorial proposals and submissions.

leading and coordinating geographic information technologies, including in State-declared emergencies, where CSCIC is the single point-of-contact; coordinating the process by which State critical infrastructure data is collected and maintained; expanding the capabilities of the State's cyber incident response team; and monitoring the State's networks for malicious cyber activities.

One of the most important aspects of this new Office is the building of strong relationships between and among the public (federal, state, and local) and the private sectors to best ensure our State's cyber readiness and critical infrastructure and geographic information systems coordination. The private sector must be strong partners with us, since more than 80% of our critical infrastructure is owned or controlled by the private sector.

The Forum: *Though it's early in the development of your programs, can you discuss some of your major initiatives and some of the early successes that you've had to-date?*

Will Pelgrin: We have been moving very quickly since our establishment in September 2002. As I like to say, we are truly building the plane in the sky as we go. The time for merely talking is over; it is now the time to do.

A key initiative is the establishment of a statewide cyber security and spatial analysis site. The site will be staffed 24 x 7, and will provide real time monitoring of cyber activity at the state, national, and global levels. Through the site, we will be developing advanced capabilities to monitor, detect and provide a coordinated response to cyber security incidents affecting New York State critical infrastructure assets.

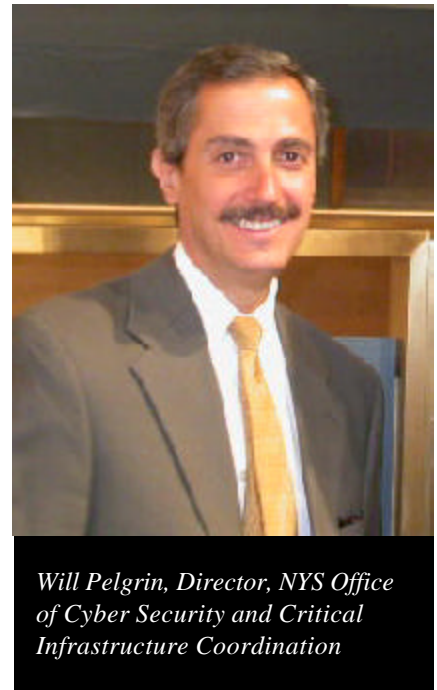
In addition to the cyber security aspects of the site, the site will also feature spatial analysis capabilities, which incorporate the "lessons

learned" from our response to 9/11. Utilizing the GIS infrastructure we've been developing over the last few years, this new critical infrastructure application will help respond to physical and cyber incidents. Coordinating and monitoring the State's critical infrastructure and critical human assets will be included within the site's capacity, to allow decision makers in New York State government to better respond to both natural and man-made disasters. Unique query tools built on spatial data warehouse technologies will provide graphical and textual outputs on infrastructure impacted by an incident, as well as assets available for appropriate response.

In order to be better prepared to respond to any event, one key element is practice, practice, practice. Since 9/11, we have conducted eight simulation exercises, including both cyber and physical components, to become more prepared to handle potential incidents. One of these exercises has included local government.

We have launched our public website, at www.cscic.state.ny.us. This website is a comprehensive, one-stop shopping source, which provides cyber alerts and advisories, calendar of events, and links to other resources. The website also features two reports that provide a wealth of information regarding the State's cyber security efforts, as well as best practices that each of us can employ.

The Forum: *How much coordination of your program development and implementation is in conjunction with the federal level and other entities, either within or external to New York State, in both the public and private sectors? Are there examples of how you are working with these entities that illustrate the benefits of these relationships?*



Will Pelgrin, Director, NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination

Will Pelgrin: In focusing on the State's cyber readiness and critical infrastructure coordination needs, it is important that we address issues from both a cyber and physical perspective. Being cognizant of the interdependencies between the two is crucial. To that end, my Office coordinates closely with James Natoli, State Director of Disaster Preparedness and Response, as well as John Scanlon, Director of the NYS Office of Public Security.

We work in collaboration with a number of other entities, across levels of government, and also with the private sector. We have developed a very strong relationship with the federal government, which has been extremely supportive of our efforts. We are working closely with the new Department of Homeland Security, along with the National Infrastructure Protection Center, the National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications, and other federal entities.

One of the most exciting, and I think unique, aspects of our organization is that we are fully engaging the private sector. As I mentioned, more than

80% of critical infrastructure is in the hands of the private sector, so to try to move forward without including them is foolish at best; disastrous at worst. I am fortunate to be able to serve as Chair of the Cyber Security Public/Private Sector Workgroup, which grew out of the Governor's Cyber Security Task Force.

This group comprises a talented cadre of high-level representatives from government, academia and the private sector. One of the initial tasks of this Workgroup was to prioritize a list of critical industry sectors to determine which would be the immediate focus of the Workgroup. The Workgroup identified 13 critical sectors, using the federal government model, and we prioritized those sectors to initially focus our efforts: Financial and Economic, Food/Agriculture, Health, Telecommunications,

I want to point out that the participation in this Workgroup, from the State agencies, local entities, academia and the private sector has been phenomenal. I can't say enough about how hard all of the members are working to make this a success.

Utilities, Education and Awareness and Public Safety. We ensure that for each sector there is a co-chair from the private, as well as the public sector.

As we continue to get the rest of the sectors up and running, we are also aware of the need for local government involvement. New York is a home rule state, meaning first responders to most emergencies will be local. We need and want local government as vested partners as we move forward. We are establishing a local government committee to ensure that there is appropriate local government involvement in this effort.

The Sector Leads are conducting outreach to the entities within their sector regarding critical infrastructure asset inventory and vulnerability assessments. One of the guiding principles of our Workgroup is that we will not duplicate efforts, so if a credible entity has done, or is doing, such an outreach, we will not duplicate this effort, as long as we are able to receive the necessary information from the other entity.

The full Workgroup meets in person on a quarterly basis. We also conduct monthly teleconferences with the Sector Leads. Additionally, the Sector Leads on the public side report to me on a weekly basis as to the status of their Sector—any major issues occurring, status of outreach to entities, any other areas of concern.

I want to point out that the participation in this Workgroup, from the

State agencies, local entities, academia and the private sector has been phenomenal. I can't say enough about how hard all of the members are working to make this a success. I think everyone really shares the sense of importance that this type of information sharing has. It's truly a collaborative process, and we make decisions as a group. By having so many varied entities represented, we are truly getting the full picture, across sectors, and between public and private entities.

And, our Office is also focusing on building strong relationships across other States. As we know, cyber space knows no geographic bound-

aries, so by having information and knowledge about what may be happening in another State, we can better prepare and protect New York State. In that regard, I chair a Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, an ISAC – in collaboration with Director Scanlon of the Office of Public Security – focusing on facilitating communication among States regarding cyber and/or critical infrastructure readiness and response efforts. This ISAC is an outgrowth of a Northeast State Homeland Security Directors' Consortium, established by James Kallstrom.

The ISAC has only been up and running since January 2003, but already we have more than 30 states participating, with more coming on board each day. We meet by conference call each month to discuss where the States are in terms of both cyber and physical readiness. States are able to obtain valuable information which they might not otherwise have been able to get. There is no cost for a state to join. Again, this ISAC is a collaborative approach, which has been lauded by Howard Schmidt, former Cyber Security Advisor to President Bush, and others in the federal government. It is envisioned that this ISAC will eventually include all 50 states, providing a valuable centrally-coordinated mechanism for sharing important security intelligence and information between the States.

Additionally, we have begun dialogue with Australia to establish communication and information sharing. Australia is the farthest time zone which would see potentially harmful activities before we would, so by building a strong relationship with them, we can help to better ascertain what may be occurring in time to take proactive steps. We are also reaching out to our northern neighbors – Canada – to establish information sharing. And while the entities report

into our Office, we also report out to them as well. We've sent a number of advisories regarding some of the recent cyber activity, such as Slammer, Sendmail and Bugbear. In many cases, the entities had not seen any notification prior to ours. It's really a value-add to the organizations. Over the President's Day Weekend in February, we conducted our first test reporting exercise with the Public/Private Sector Workgroup and the Multi State ISAC members. Each entity reported into CSCIC on a daily basis as to the status of their state, from both a cyber and physical perspective. That information was then cleansed, if necessary, and transmitted back out to everyone. The reporting went extremely well. We had 100% compliance. It was a great trial run, and helped identify some areas for improvement, too.

The Forum: *Are there things that State entities should or can be doing now to be more aligned with where you know we all have to go?*

Will Pelgrin: In terms of looking at the statewide perspective, we all have to do our part in ensuring the State's readiness and response. CSCIC is working collaboratively with all of the agencies. We are conducting cyber security inventory and vulnerability assessments with all State entities to better determine the current status of the State's critical infrastructure assets. Those assessments are currently being analyzed by a third party. Once we have analyzed those results, we'll have a clearer picture of where we need to best focus our efforts in terms of mitigation. We will then move forward with the agencies to help them through that process. It's not enough for us to merely identify areas of vulnerability; we also need to construct sound plans for mitigating those.

In terms of statewide policies and procedures, we just completed a

statewide Incident Reporting Policy for all State entities. This Policy defines a reportable cyber incident, including details on the types of cyber incidents that should be reported, who should be reporting, and how those incidents get reported. By coordinating and sharing information, we will be better able to efficiently address any incidents, and analyze potential

By working together, across levels of government, across industry sectors, and across states, I think we can truly achieve our mission, and make New York State as ready and resilient as it can be for whatever we may face.

trends to help mitigate future events.

Under the sponsorship of the State's Chief Information Officer, James Dillon, we worked with agencies to develop a baseline security procedures policy, which outlines the minimum requirements agencies must meet regarding information security.

The Forum: *What do you view as your most daunting challenges as you move your initiatives forward?*

Will Pelgrin: I think one of the most challenging aspects is in changing people's perspectives. Beyond dealing with the ever-changing technology, and ever-growing expertise of terrorists, cyber criminals, and others, we are really dealing with a change of culture. Getting people to fully understand the issues, and be concerned about them – them – without overreacting – is – a delicate balancing act.

And, getting people to become comfortable in sharing information is a challenge. There has been a major concern regarding confidentiality of information, and a strong trust needs to be fostered to help facilitate that information flow. But, I think that we

are making some real "in-roads" into changing that. In fact, one of the co-chairs for the Financial Sector in our Public/Private Sector Workgroup is also the chair of the national Financial Sector ISAC.

The Forum: *What do you see the State and the efforts of your organization focusing on in the near future?*

Will Pelgrin: We have many efforts currently underway, and we'll be focusing on moving those forward, such as continuing to enhance the cyber and spatial analysis site, building out the Public/Private Sector Workgroup and the Multi-State ISAC, and improving upon our GIS emergency response capabilities. These are just a few of the initiatives on our agenda.

In terms of cyber security, one of the fundamental truths is that you are never done. Period. There will never be a time where we can sit back and say, OK, we've done all we need to do. It's an on-going, evolving process that requires constant dedication, cooperation and innovation.

We know that 100% security does not exist, therefore, to quote Vince Lombardi, "It's not whether you get knocked down. It's whether you get up again."

By working together, across levels of government, across industry sectors, and across states, I think we can truly achieve our mission, and make New York State as ready and resilient as it can be for whatever we may face.

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Forum Creates NYS Project Management Community of Practice

The New York State Project Management Community of Practice (PM Community of Practice), and associated work groups, was approved for creation by The Forum's Executive Committee at its April monthly meeting to support government entities, and government project managers, as they implement project management standards and practices, project management offices, and portfolio management within their organizations. The PM Community of Practice complements and extends the efforts initiated by the NYS Office for Technology's Project Management Office, and is co-chaired by Nancy Mulholland from the Worker's Compensation Board and Joann Dunham from Keane, a Forum IT Corporate Roundtable member. At this time, the PM Community of Practice offers two special interest groups: the PMO Roundtable and the NYS PM Community of Practice.

NYS PM Community of Practice

The NYS PM Community of Practice provides a forum for an interactive exchange of ideas, practices, lessons learned, etc. between project managers in New York government. The group meets on a quarterly basis and is open to all interested in learning more about PM topics.

In support of the PM Community of Practice, an information repository, developed and co-hosted by OFT and The Forum will be made available to share assets across the State. This

repository will provide members of the PM Community of Practice the ability to submit and search for PM artifacts, as well as access to a message board, PM calendar, FAQ's, and a place to post notes of relevant PM meetings. Examples of artifacts include successful deliverables, tools, templates, lessons learned and best practices.

PMO Roundtable

The PMO Roundtable was originally established by a handful of agencies as a grass roots effort to support each other in their project management implementation efforts. These efforts include project management office implementation, project management methodology implementation across a division/bureau/agency, as well as management of agency project portfolios. The members recognized the organizational and cultural diversity among NYS agencies, which necessitated a variety of approaches in implementing the NYS project management methodology. The roundtable also recognized the resource challenges faced by the State, which necessitated a higher degree of economy and effectiveness of all new initiatives. In the belief that implementation of project management disciplines will promote and sustain project success across the State, the PMO Roundtable has now been formally established, as a workgroup (Special Interest Group, "SIG") of the NYS PM Community of Practice to:

- **Share** best practices in implementing NYS Project Management methodology;
- **Promote** cross-fertilization of ideas on methodology implementation;
- **Facilitate** practical applications of The Guidebook; and
- **Assist** each other in discovering and perfecting approaches for establishing, operating and monitoring a Project Management Office.

Transcending the immediate challenges of promoting project success, the PMO Roundtable members also share a vision of accomplishing the following:

- Promoting alliances among the agencies;
- Facilitating knowledge transfer among the agencies;
- Providing additional avenues of professional growth;
- Advocating for Project Management implementation by demonstrating its value;
- Advancing each agency's PM agenda; and
- Having fun in the process.

Anyone interested in more information, or in becoming a member of this new Forum group should contact Nancy Mulholland at nancy.mulholland@wcb.state.ny.us or Joann Dunham at joann_s_dunham@keane.com or The Forum at info@nysfirm.org or (518) 443-5001.



State-Local Prototype Teams Test G2G Internet Gateway Concept

By Mark LaVigne, Center for Technology in Government, University at Albany/SUNY

Many government services provided by towns, villages, cities, and counties require interaction with a state agency. From dog licenses to property transfers and keeping a roster of locally elected officials, each of these operations prompts some type of transaction or communication with the state.

Over the past decade state and local governments have increasingly used information technology to support various government operations. Many have developed intergovernmental information systems that perform only one business function or satisfy one program need. The result is a growing number of individual stand-alone systems for government to government (G2G) business relationships between the state and local levels.

A growing number of government officials and organizations are asking whether it might be easier for county and municipal governments to do business with the State through one Internet gateway rather than through the multiple connections that exist now. Some think so, while others are not so sure.

In response to these questions, the Center for Technology in Government (CTG) is working with teams of state and local government representatives to develop, test, and evaluate an Internet Gateway Prototype for G2G business relationships.

“Ten years ago I didn’t have a single computer in my office. Now I have four, each connected to a different state agency,” said Town of Binghamton Clerk Judy Zurenda. “This Internet gateway may help to get everything integrated into one computer and save me time searching for information.”

The idea for the state-local gateway project emerged from conversations at the New York State Office for Technology’s Local Government Advisory Committee, where state and local government representatives were discussing the idea for a “single point of contact” to transact business with each other. Over this past fall,

“Ten years ago I didn’t have a single computer in my office. Now I have four, each connected to a different state agency,” said Town of Binghamton Clerk Judy Zurenda.

CTG volunteered to lead a prototyping project to further explore this concept.

“The prototyping process provides the opportunity to open up a dialogue and improve communications between a state agency and their data trading partners,” said Wendy Scheening, Manager of Information Systems at the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. “That’s happening already with the people who are part of the prototyping teams.”

What is the State-Local Internet Gateway Prototype?

A prototype is a system built for a proof of concept, to test whether or not the idea for a system would reach its objectives. It identifies, demonstrates, and evaluates the key factors associated with designing and developing a system. It also explores what each of the participants expects from the system, and whether their expectations will be realized. It is not a full-scale system or a pilot.

The State-Local Internet Gateway Prototype will be designed to provide

participating state and local governments with a common technology that allows them to find information, conduct business processes, and form strategic working relationships. “From a technology perspective, a state-local Internet gateway will offer another means of sharing information,” said Scheening.

The prototype will test whether such a gateway would provide state, county, and municipal governments

with greater efficiency, higher quality data, and more consistent and coordinated services. Throughout the project, CTG will examine the policy, management, technology, and financial factors that influence the development of the prototype and that have implications for eventually developing a real system.

The gateway prototype will channel three separate G2G operations or transactions through one Web portal. The three operations include dog licensing, the development of a local government contact repository, and real property transfer reporting.

Dog Licensing

The gateway will provide the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and local licensing agencies (town, city, and village clerks) with a common web interface and database of new dog licenses. The goal of conducting this transaction through the gateway is to simplify the dog licensing process and provide better quality data more quickly to users on the state and local levels.

Contact Repository

The contact repository aspect of the gateway will be an expansion of the New York State Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC's) Multi-purpose Access for Customer Relations and Operational Support program, which tracks contacts between the office and local governments across the state. Having the contact repository as part of the gateway prototype will test the feasibility of expanding it to be a single authoritative source of contact information for state agencies and local governments.

Real Property Parcel Transfer Reporting

Every time a land parcel changes hands the details must be reported to various government offices at the state, county, and local level for purposes of ownership records and taxation. The gateway prototype will attempt to streamline this process through the use of a common Web interface that will record and provide access to parcel transfer data to the New York State Office of Real Property Services and all other parties involved at the local and county levels.

Mapping the Business Processes and Building the Prototype

The state-local project teams for each of the above operations mapped out and analyzed their specific business processes so that each could be conducted electronically through the gateway prototype.

The prototyping process will accomplish two critical goals if this system is ever to be deployed on a full-scale, according to Bruce Sauter, Chief Information Officer of the New York State Office of Real Property Services (ORPS). The first goal is fleshing out the viability of the intergovernmental infrastructure to do this through the Web. The second goal of the prototype project is to put the pieces in place that will help garner the support and funding needed to turn the prototype into a full system.

"This prototype will help us identify key components of a business case more accurately in the event that we develop a pilot then implement it as a full-scale system. After this prototype we'll have a lot better idea of what we're getting ourselves into," said

Sauter. "Without a prototype our business case is by guess or by golly."

During the next phase of the project, corporate partners CGI Information Systems & Management Consultants, Keane, and Microsoft will provide the technology and services for developing the prototype infrastructure.

The system will then be field-tested among a wide group of counties and municipalities. The field test will allow the participants to evaluate a range of factors including readiness, costs, policy and data considerations, technical requirements, security, and ease of use.

For more information about this project visit the Center's Web site at www.ctg.albany.edu/projects/lg2.

*A version of this article was first printed in the March/April 2003 edition of **Talk of the Towns**, published by the Association of Towns of the State of New York.* ☞

News from NYS Archives

Following are recent press releases from the New York State Archives.

Presidential Historian Speaks in Albany

On May 7, the State Archives began a year-long celebration of its 25th anniversary with a special lecture by historian Michael Beschloss on presidential leadership. The event was sponsored by the Archives Partnership Trust and drew a capacity crowd.

Described by *Newsweek* as “the nation’s leading presidential historian,” Beschloss is the author of eight books, among them the New York Times bestseller, *The Conquerors, Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler’s Germany, 1941 – 1945*. His most recent book is *The Presidents*. A familiar face to millions of television viewers, he is a regular commentator on “The News House with Jim Lehrer” and a contributor to ABC News, where he shares his knowledge of history and political events.

Origins of Baseball’s Enduring Myth Revealed in Archives Magazine

The letter that helped to create one of baseball’s most enduring myths – that Abner Doubleday invented the game in Cooperstown, New York – was written in 1905 by a mining engineer from Colorado, according to an article by Mark McGuire in the Spring issue of *New York Archives* magazine. The letter was discovered

by Jim Gates, library director at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, in the bottom of a trunk.

Graves addressed his letter to the Mills Commission, created by sporting goods magnate Albert Spalding to investigate the claim made by Henry Chadwick, and English-born New York City newspaperman, that baseball had evolved from the British game of crickets and rounders.

On December 30, 1907, the Abner Doubleday/Cooperstown myth became official when the commission declared: “The first scheme for playing baseball, according to the best evidence obtainable to date, was devised by Abner Doubleday at Cooperstown, New York, in 1839.

Since the time of the Commission’s findings, several pieces of evidence have been put forth to debunk the Doubleday myth:

- Cadet Abner Doubleday spent the summer of 1839 at West Point, a time when students were not allowed off campus. The decorated Civil War Major General Doubleday made no mention of baseball in the 20 journals he left behind after his death.
- Graves was five years old at the time he claimed to have witnessed Doubleday’s invention of the game. Graves was later declared criminally insane and died in a sanitarium after fatally shooting his wife.
- Most historians agree that Alexander Cartwright played a key role in formalizing the first published rules of the game and

he is often referred to as “The Father of Modern Baseball.”

Archives Publication Wins Award

The New York State Archives publication, *Managing E-Mail Effectively* discusses how to manage e-mail messages just as you manage other records, and how to identify, retain, and make them accessible as long as necessary.

The problem of managing e-mail is one of the most visible and problematic issues in electronic records management. What sets e-mail apart is its huge bulk, its constant presence in people’s lives, and the difficulty it presents to those trying to identify the records hidden within it. According to Huth’s publication, the goal of any program to manage e-mail should be to integrate e-mail into a total records management program, one that covers all records – paper, electronic or otherwise.

The book can be obtained via the New York State Archives web site at www.archives.nysed.gov or by calling (518) 474-6926.

Archives Partnership Trust Received \$10,000 Grant

The Archives Partnership Trust has received a \$10,000 grant from the New York Council for the Humanities (NYCH) to help support the “Archives at 25” lecture series. The lectures are part of the New York State Archives’ 25th Anniversary celebration.

The NYCH grant allowed the Archives Partnership Trust to bring award-winning Presidential historian Michael Beschloss to Albany on May 7th for a lecture entitled “Presidential Leadership,” free-of-charge to the general public.

NYCH grants support public humanities projects designed and run by not-for-profit organizations such as museums, libraries, historical societies, and other cultural institutions throughout New York State. Grants are awarded to organizations on a competitive proposal basis, requiring an in-kind or cash match for funds requested. A humanities focus and participation by humanities scholars, in the planning and/or execution of projects, and accessibility to the general public are important criteria by which grant applicants are selected for funding.

Magazine Wins Three Awards in One Week

New York Archives magazine has garnered three awards in one week: a coveted Nori from the Albany Ad Club Association of Communications Professionals, the prestigious Hamer-Kegan Award from the Society of American Archivists, and a second prize in the publications design competition from the American Association of Museums.

2K Design, a design firm from Clifton Park, NY, received the Nori for the design of the magazine. The Archives Partnership Trust, publisher of the magazine, was awarded the Hamer-Kegan Award for increasing public awareness of manuscripts and archives. The American Association of Museums’ national competition, which drew more than a thousand entries this year, awarded the Trust a second prize for magazine graphic design.

New York Archives, entering its third year of publication, is a unique magazine about New York State’s history told in brief feature articles for a popular audience. Each feature is well illustrated and includes a sidebar about the archival foundation of each article. Recent features have included the history of baseball, the 1920 bomb explosion on Wall Street, author William Kennedy’s use of archives for his novels, floating swimming pools in

The goals of the Trust are to increase citizen awareness of New York State’s archival heritage, and raise private funds to preserve these unique collections and make them accessible to the public.

the East River, and the careers of New York governors Al Smith and Thomas E. Dewey.

“*[New York Archives]* offers a visually appealing introduction to the archival world,” wrote Peter J. Blodgett, Chair of the 2003 Hamer-Kegan Award Committee, in his award letter. “Its articles are uniformly well written and amply reflect the diversity of peoples and experiences that comprise the history of New York State. The committee congratulates you...for developing a model publication from conception to design to execution.”

“What an extraordinary week! Three awards added to the four already received. Yet the archives magazine is only two years old!” said John Hanna, chair of the Archives

Partnership Trust. Hanna is also a principal in the law firm of Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna headquartered in Albany. “The readers are blessed in the remarkable staff that puts out the magazine. With each issue they show us the value of archives in our daily lives.”

In its brief history, *New York Archives* received a Nori in 2002, first prize in last year’s publications design competition from the American Association of Museums, a Gold Accolade Award from CASE District II (Council for Advancement and Support of Education), and an Honorable Mention from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference.

The Archives Partnership Trust, a not-for-profit organization, was established by the State Legislature in 1992 to support the program of the State Archives. Those programs extend to every local government and historical organization in the state. The goals of the Trust are to increase citizen awareness of New York State’s archival heritage, and raise private funds to preserve these unique collections and make them accessible to the public.

A subscription to *New York Archives* is a benefit of membership in the Archives Partnership Trust. Information about how to join the Trust and a sampling of articles that have appeared in the magazine are available at www.nysarchivestrust.org or by calling (518) 473-7091 or email at aptrust@mail.nysed.gov. ☞

Forum 17th Annual Meeting Preparations Underway

Plans are underway for The Forum's 17th Annual Meeting which will be held on Friday, September 12th. As we reflect on the year past, it is customary to recognize individuals and organizations who have contributed to the effective and efficient use of information technology. As in previous years, we are accepting nominations for the **2003 New York State Best of the Web Award**, **2003 Award for Excellence in Government Information Services** and the **8th Annual 2002-2003 Best Practices Awards**. All awards will be announced at The Forum's annual meeting on September 12th. Please review the criteria below and submit your nominations by July 25, 2003.

2003 New York State Best of the Web Awards

The Forum would like to recognize the outstanding work done with the innovative use of web technology by state and local government in two categories: 1) those developed by state agencies, and 2) those developed by local government entities. To be eligible, sites must be up and functioning at the time of nomination. Agency Intranet and other internal sites are eligible for this award but judges must be able to access and review the sites. Sites nominated must be in compliance with NYS Office for Technology Technical Policies 96-13 and 99-3 for accessibility. Evaluation criteria includes: innovative use of tech-

nology, value to the client, and cost efficiency to the agency.

Recipients of last year's awards were: **Suffolk County Division of IS** – <https://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/PoliceApp/>; **Insurance Department** – <http://www.ins.state.ny.us>; **Department of Motor Vehicles** – http://fornax.dmv.state.ny.us/scripts/rightnow.cfg/php.exe/enduser/std_alp.php.

Evaluation criteria and nomination forms are available at www.nysfirm.org or call (518) 443-5001 to request a form.

2003 Award for Excellence in Government IS

A sustained spirit of collaboration and volunteerism underlies the success of the New York State Forum for Information Resource Management. Each year, The Forum Executive Committee recognizes the essential value of volunteer effort with an Award for Excellence in Government Information Services given at the Annual Meeting.

Last year's recipient was **Linda Curley**, Information Systems Planning Manager of the Monroe County Information Services Department and President of NYSLGITDA (NYS Local Government Information Technology Director's Association) for leadership of NYSLGITDA.

Any Forum member may be nominated. Evaluation criteria and nomination forms are available at www.nysfirm.org or call (518) 443-5001 to request a form.

8th Annual 2002-2003 Best Practices Award

The Forum would like to recognize the outstanding work done during the past year in the area of information resource management by New York state and local government organizations. The categories are as follows: Policy, Management, and Technical Implementation.

Last year awards were presented to the **Office of General Service Procurement Services Group** and the **Department of Taxation and Finance** for *Electronic Value Transfer*, **Workers' Compensation Board** for *The MIRROR*, the **Division of Criminal Justice Services** for *TEAM YC*, the **Office of General Services Procurement Services Group** for *Aggregated Telecommunications Services*, the **Division of Housing and Community Renewal** for *The Statewide Housing Choice Voucher System*, the **Office of the State Comptroller** and **Office for Technology** for *e-Grants Project*, the **Office of the State Comptroller** for *MACROS*, the **Department of Taxation and Finance** for *Image Archive and Retrieval System*.

Additional information about this award process is available at www.nysfirm.org or call (518) 443-5001. ♀



IT Procurement Seminar Held in NYC

The Forum, in collaboration with the Business Council of NYS, Inc., the NYS Office of General Services and Baruch College Continuing and Professional Studies, held an IT procurement seminar entitled *Doing IT Business With New York State: Where Do I Begin?* on June 24th at Baruch College. Attended by a capacity audience of IT corporate representatives from 15 states and Canada, the session provided an overview of the IT procurement process in New York State and in New York City.

This seminar was held in New York City in response to many requests received by the co-hosts from greater NYC-based IT corporations to move the seminar from its usual Albany, New York location to a downstate site convenient to metro-New York City companies.

The Forum, and its co-hosts, has initiated plans to offer another general session on September 16, 2003 in conjunction with the GTC in Albany, NY and a more in-depth series of seminars as follow-up to the five seminars that will have been held previously. Information on the September and in-depth IT procurement series will be made available soon.