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C-Suite Collaboration Starts with Breaking Down Silos in Federal IT

Video Transcript

Michael Lumb: That's one of the things we saw in the study this year is really breaking down those silos. Do you have any tips or tricks that you use?

Scott Quehl: Well, the, it is easy to say we are going to break down those silos but the fact that we have a law FITARA suggests that those silos aren't so easy to break down. So, let's first begin with those human nature. If we have a CFO who is accountable for certain things, the Chief Acquisition Officer accountable for certain things, a CIO accountable for certain things, a program executive accountable for certain

things, it is very easy to create these kind of cocoons of control. Control is part of human nature. Wanting control. It is inconceivable that we can be successful from a program perspective, a financial perspective, an acquisition or a technology perspective without having all elements working together. So, we can begin not just saying we are working together, actually working together. Formulating the budget, is the CIO at the table. In running those strategic sourcing, are there other types of acquisition efficiencies? Is the CIO at the table? Likewise, are we creating accidentally this notion of an IT

empire where other folks from mission, from program, from HR, from finance, from acquisitions, are somehow feeling excluded? This simply cannot work. So from a C-Suite perspective, how do we work together if you were the CIO and I am the CFO and over here is the Chief of Acquisition. How do we work together? What kind of culture and values are we expecting from our staffs? How do we know, not just in feeling good rah rah talk, but when it comes to how do we actually formulate budgets? How do we define requirements for major IT programs? How are we structuring our IT acquisition? How are we

finding IT savings? Do we invest in additional IT to deliver a greater mission? How are we doing it? Let's write it down, let's map it out and then let's execute. Again with some quick wins and then build up to the tough stuff.