

Being on the Internet can mean many different things. For most government organizations, it means creating a World Wide Web site, but it might also entail email, gopher servers, news groups and a host of other ways to communicate, share information, and deliver services electronically. We've prepared this World Wide Web Starter Kit based on our experiences with a project we call the Internet Services Testbed. By working with seven state and local agencies to develop Web sites for their particular programs and customers, we've learned a lot about how to approach this fascinating, powerful, and ever-changing technology. Our starter kit won't put you in the WWW business overnight. In fact, it lacks many of the technical tools that you will need to accomplish that goal. What we think it does do is help you begin the process effectively, without false starts, without tackling technology before you answer more fundamental questions, and without reinventing the wheel more than once or twice.

The Starter Kit contains information and links to a few resources for WWW site beginners that we have found very helpful in getting off to a good start. They may or may not be the best in their classes (we haven't looked at everything or done a formal evaluation), but they are good, solid resources that you should find helpful in mastering the fundamentals. There is a listserv for government Web site developers, a style guide or two, on-line tutorials, even some books. From here, you still have a lot of work to do, but you should find that work more effective, efficient, and rewarding than you might otherwise. Good luck, and please let us know if you find our kit useful!