

In the fall of 2002, the Center for Technology in Government (CTG) at the University at Albany conducted current practice research to identify and examine existing government to government (G2G) portal projects. The purpose of this research was to determine if single sign-on intergovernmental portals, that channel business functions across programmatic areas and levels of government, exist in New York State or in other states. And, if they do exist, what are the policy, management, technological, financial, and other factors that influenced their development.

The main purpose of the research was to help inform the development of an intergovernmental prototype project at CTG. The **New York State–Local Internet Gateway Prototype** project (known hereafter as the Prototype) sought to address the problems created by the large and growing number of multiple, single function, stand-alone information systems connecting state and local governments. This multiplicity of systems has created a significant impediment to efficient work, as well as a financial strain, because many applications require their own hardware, software, security, office space, and business rules.

In our current practice research, we did not find a G2G portal that allows state and local governments to find information and transact business across a range of programmatic areas through a single sign-on mechanism. However, we did find G2G initiatives that are targeting more limited goals and each of these efforts exhibited common characteristics that we believe could be useful in intergovernmental work.