

BOP Brings Decades Old Systems Into a Modern Era

A Major Technology Upgrade Supporting Safer and Consistent Operations Across Facilities



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(BOP) For more than 40 years, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) relied on aging computer systems to manage essential inmate records. In August 2026, BOP successfully moved those systems onto a secure, modern cloud platform, completing one of the largest technology upgrades in its history.

Why this matters

When outdated systems slow down case updates, program access, or release calculations, families feel the effects immediately. With this modernization, the BOP can process information faster and more accurately, leading to fewer delays, fewer errors, and clearer communication. Case managers can update records more quickly, and eligibility for rehabilitative programs can be confirmed sooner. Leadership can pull accurate information in minutes instead of waiting on manual processes, improving transparency and accountability for families, advocates, and the public.

What changed

Over a single weekend, BOP moved its core inmate systems to a modern, secure, federally approved cloud platform without major interruptions to daily operations. This upgrade strengthens the systems correctional staff rely on every day and supports safer, more consistent operations across facilities. BOP also used existing federal cost-saving programs to make the modernization more efficient, allowing the agency to stretch taxpayer dollars and redirect legacy IT spending toward programs that support incarcerated individuals and their families. As Acting CIO Christopher D. Satterwhite explained, this effort "modernized a technology foundation that had served the Bureau since 1978 into a secure, cloud-based platform, proof that even long-standing systems can evolve with the right support, funding, technology and partners." Under the leadership of Director William K. Marshall, III, the migration was completed with a strong focus on continuity, safety, and service to the public.

What it means for incarcerated individuals

The systems that moved to the cloud directly support custody classification, medical information, and access to rehabilitative programs. With modern infrastructure, BOP can respond more quickly to legislative changes, including updates under the First Step Act. This helps ensure benefits reach individuals sooner and more consistently, supporting rehabilitation, reentry preparation, and family stability.

What it means for the public

Reliable, connected data strengthens accountability. BOP can now better track progress toward reducing recidivism and improving reentry outcomes by using accurate information rather than siloed, manual processes. This supports the shared goals held by families, advocates, and the BOP, including improved transparency and measurable progress in rehabilitation.

Looking ahead

This migration is part of a broader modernization plan. BOP is expanding self-service analytics tools and continuing to upgrade remaining legacy applications to build a secure, connected foundation that improves outcomes for people in custody and strengthens public trust in the correctional system.

As BOP moves forward, this modernization serves as a foundation for continued improvements in transparency, safety, and service to the public. It reflects the BOP's commitment to using modern tools to support incarcerated individuals, strengthen family connections, and meet the expectations of a correctional system built on accountability and trust.