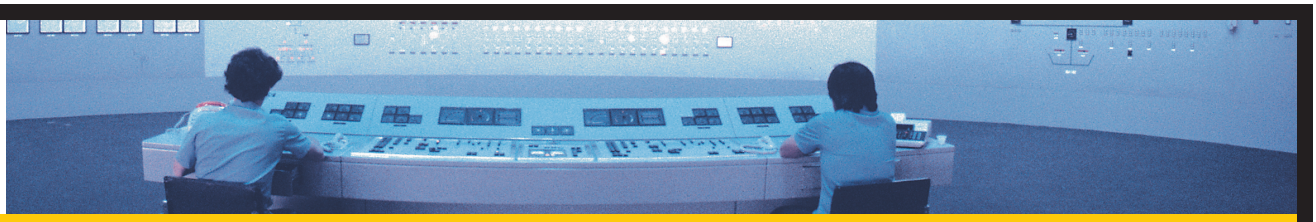
NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Partnering for Success



The Computer Emergency Notification System (CENS)

Saving lives and ensuring the safety of employees is crucial during crisis situations. It was recognized, especially after September 11, that a system was needed to communicate a crisis situation and the necessary action to be taken by personnel. The National Information Technology Center (NITC) is announcing the Computer Emergency Notification System (CENS) application to enhance existing procedures for emergency planning and notification. The CENS application utilizes the internet/intranet to notify personnel of emergencies, building-related alerts and messages in a designated environment.

CENS

The CENS application consists of a Message Generator, Database and Web Server services, and a Client that resides on individual workstations.

- The CENS Secured Message Generator and server is the interface used by authorized personnel to create messages.
- The CENS Server software provides connectivity and database transactions and it creates HTML messages.
- The CENS Client software resides on individual workstations as a small application. It polls the server at intervals and receives messages, as appropriate.

Benefits

CENS ensures that its user organizations are able to effectively and efficiently communicate with staff in the event of a crisis situation. The application requires no additional software other than the standard Windows environment.

- CENS delivers a consistent message to all personnel, specified groups, or areas via Specified Area Messaging (SAM).
- CENS indicates the specific problem and what action to take.
- CENS works continuously if a user is logged on to the system.

Key Features

- Effectively and efficiently communicates with staff.
- Capability to reach the greatest number of people in an affected area.
- Able to reach people inside closed dwellings with high ambient noise levels.
- Able to reach those in peripheral areas of a workplace.
- Authorized personnel perform administration and use of CENS.
- Complies with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Works in the Microsoft environment.
- Minimal impact to network performance.
- Utilizes security features.
- Flexible and adaptable.

SAVE LIVES and Ensure Personnel Safety!

888-USE-NITC **www.ocio.usda.gov/nitc**

Office of the Chief
Information Officer

The Computer Emergency Notification System (CENS)

NITC Services Offerings

NITC will:

- acquire and/or host a CENS server or utilize customer-owned Windows server.
- partner with the customer to provide technical project planning and coordination.
- provide applications development expertise to modify the most current USDA code and customize it to meet customer requirements.
- provide CENS application level support during the development, installation, and maintenance phases.
- coordinate with the customer's emergency command authority to create a database of message types and message content.
- provide application level technical assistance with systems setup, installation, testing, and deployment.
- provide application level Help Desk.
- provide application level web-base knowledge expertise for testing and deployment.
- provide application level CENS systems and end user CENS documentation.

NITC Services Pricing:	Fee based depending upon customization requirements.
CENS Application Pricing:	Available upon request.

"Partnering for Success"