Face the future with confidence

Build government resiliency with strategic foresight

What is strategic foresight?

A holistic and rigorous approach for envisioning future scenarios to better anticipate new obstacles and steer toward safety.

Strategic foresight has two key benefits:

01 **Building enterprise resiliency** by visualizing, exploring and preparing for obstacles ahead.

02 **Fostering greater innovation** by considering and evaluating unique, new approaches.

Why is strategic foresight increasingly necessary for federal agencies?

In our always-on, constantly connected society, agencies must react to events and obstacles quickly.

Our world is growing more complex due to the greater interdependence of systems.

Crises like climate change are increasing the frequency of seemingly random, disruptive "black swan" events.

Long-anticipated trends are happening sooner and faster.

How to start:

01 **Embrace uncertainty**

You must embrace uncertainty as a fact of life, instead of something that should be avoided at all costs. By adopting this thinking, and evangelizing it across the organization, leaders can create a culture that values exploring and preparing for diverse future scenarios.

02 **Start small to test, but scale for success**

Small-scale strategic foresight can help an organization strengthen this skill and make the business case as to why it's valuable. Ultimately, though, the goal should be to embed strategic foresight into how your organization operates in a continuous and organic way.

03 **Translate your preferred futures into action**

Exploring diverse futures can create rich insight—but without subsequent action, it remains just a thought exercise, not an integral part of your business strategy. Once you've generated possible outcomes, decide which is your preferred future and begin laying out, prototyping and testing ideas to work toward that future.

04 **Document, assess, and track value**

Organizations should consistently evaluate and optimize their strategic foresight efforts. You can do so by asking questions like: What signals of change did we notice that might have previously gone unnoticed? What new actions did we take based on those signals? What signals did we miss and why?

Read the full report at Accenture.com/GovernmentForesight