

New Professional Group Addresses Municipal E-Gov Best Practices

Municipal Web Developers Group



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Societal Trends Necessitate E-Gov

The Growing Digital Majority

- According to the Center for Digital Government, 64% of U.S. households have Internet connectivity.
- Of those born from 1985 to 2000 (“millennials”)...
 - 87% use the Internet.
 - 44% are online every day.
- According to a recent survey in Oregon, 70% of citizens want to be active in their community and in the decisions of their government.

Governments Must Be Responsive

- The aforementioned statistical **percentages will increase**, not decrease, with time; therefore, there will be greater and greater demand for government information and services via the Internet.
- Municipal **governments must become proactive** in serving their citizenry online, 24/7 and 365.
- Beyond that, **local governments need** to begin taking on an **“e-government mindset”** in every phase of information and service delivery to successfully move forward in this day and age.

Background

- **Five years ago**, less than one third (18) of the state's 57 municipalities had launched a website.
- That number has **more than doubled (37) since then**, despite the typical barriers, particularly for smaller towns:
 - Lack of technology/Web staff
 - Lack of financial resources
 - Lack of technology/Web expertise
 - Security issues
- Knowing that **many towns still need help** either getting on board or learning and implementing best practices, IPA created the MWDG.



Mission of the Delaware MWDG



The mission of the MWDG is to effect **support**, **education**, and **networking** on issues relating to e-government for those in Delaware who either have oversight responsibility for or maintain a municipal/county website.

www.ipa.udel.edu/mwdg

Membership in Delaware MWDG

- This group is **open to all who are in roles as described in the mission statement** plus any municipal officials who are engaged in or are responsible for planning, development, or redevelopment of a municipal/county website.
- Currently, 26 municipalities and one county (Sussex) are currently represented in the membership.
- In addition, the state's Government Information Center's director is a member, as is a representative from OSPC.

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MWDG Meetings

The Delaware MWDG meets **quarterly in Dover** (January, April, July, October), generally **on Thursday afternoons**, at the University of Delaware **Paradee Center**. These meetings can be topical or deal with a variety of issues as the consensus directs and will usually feature a speaker who will address a specific e-government topic. So far speakers have addressed

- Obtaining government (.gov) domain names
- Using websites to improve financial management
- A recent national association (NAGW) conference

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Issues to be Addressed by MWDG

The consensus of the membership has identified several issues that it would like to address in upcoming meetings. **Among the most critical** mentioned were

- Website policy and procedures
- Website redesign (redevelopment/redeployment)
- Electronic payments
- E-mail databases
- Accessibility (Section 508 compliance)

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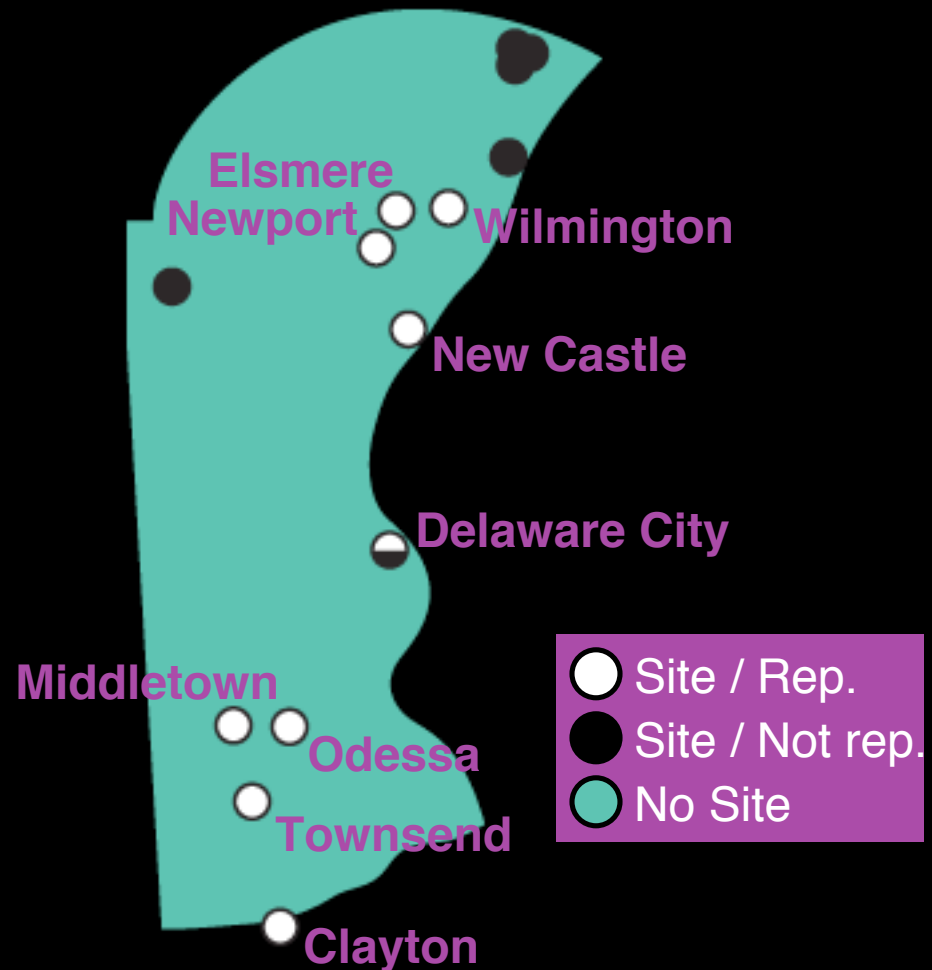
Current Statewide Website Status

New Castle County

- Each municipality has some web presence.*
- Nine of the 14 municipalities are represented in MWDG.
- New Castle Co. *is not* represented in MWDG.

*Delaware City will have a government site up by year's end.

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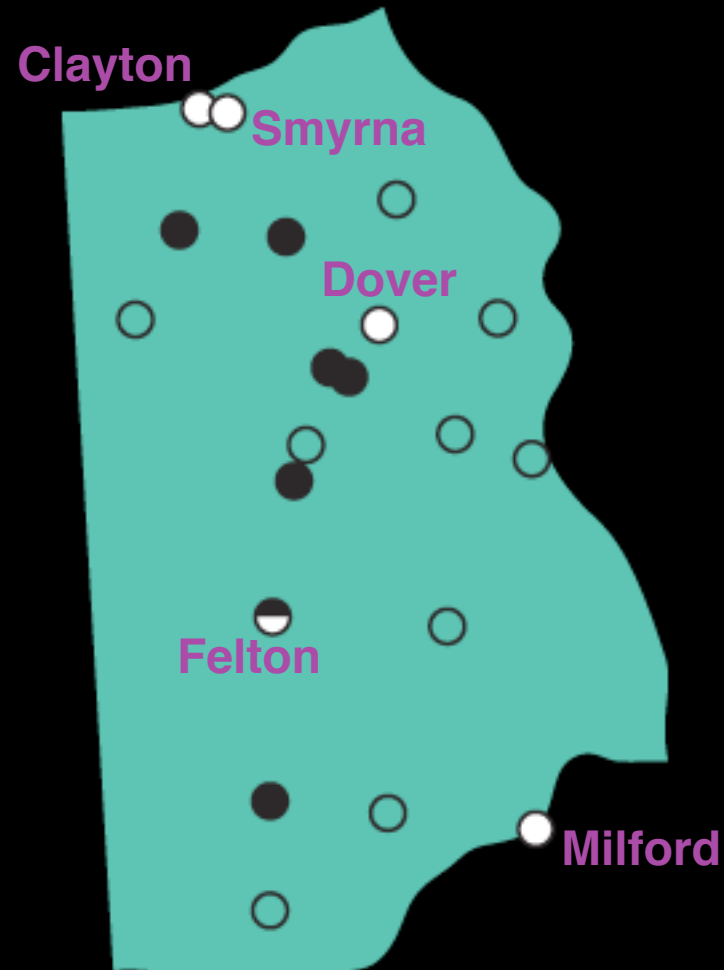
Current Statewide Website Status

Kent County

- Ten municipalities have some web presence.
- Five of the 20 municipalities are represented in MWDG.
- Kent County *is not* represented in MWDG.

Felton is currently in developing a site.

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Current Statewide Website Status

Sussex County

- Seventeen municipalities have some web presence.
- Fourteen of the 25 municipalities are represented in MWDG.
- Sussex County *is* represented in MWDG.

Three towns are planning websites.

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Delaware MWDG Website

- Meetings and agendas
- Current constituents
- Municipal website status
- Resources and links

Hosted by IPA and maintained by Mark Deshon

www.ipa.udel.edu/mwdg

Delaware Municipal Web Developers Group site hosted by IPA

Meetings and Agendae

The MWDG meets quarterly (January, April, July, October) in Dover, generally on Thursdays, usually at the University of Delaware Paradee Center. These meetings can be topical or deal with a variety of issues as the consensus directs and will usually feature a speaker who will address a specific e-government topic.

NEXT MEETING:
specific date in January TBA
University of Delaware [Paradee Center](#)
Dover, Delaware
1:00-3:30 p.m.

October 19, 2006
MEETING SUMMARY ([HTML](#) | [PDF](#))

July 13, 2006
MEETING SUMMARY ([HTML](#) | [PDF](#))

March 23, 2006 (Initial Meeting)
MEETING SUMMARY ([HTML](#) | [PDF](#))

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Get Involved in the Delaware MWDG

- Contact Mark Deshon at IPA (*deshon@udel.edu* or **302-831-4954**) to get your municipality involved in the MWDG.
- Support your staff person who is responsible for your municipal or county website; encourage their attendance at MWDG's meetings.
- Talk with other municipalities about this group and its benefits.
- Help promote web best practices to better serve your citizens.

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