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Topic: Return on Investment for Human Language Technology in the U.S. Government

Government agencies are investing in MT to boost production, but the future funding picture is uncertain. Decision makers (Congress, OMB, IC leadership) want evidence (quantitative/qualitative) of value for investments. Agencies can use positive ROIs to defend MT investment budgets, plans, and programs, but the information needs to be more than anecdotal.

Some questions/comments to be discussed include:
    1. What determines the set of objective measures for quantifying the impact of MT?
    2. What set of rules are used for calculating costs? (i.e. word counts, accuracy metrics, etc.) (not looking for BLU or WER)
    3. How is data gathered? Can this be accomplished via the MT system employed without significant user manipulation? (i.e. Automated)
    4. How can ROI be computed in a consistent way across the IC and commercial space? Is there already a standard?
    5. Identify any lessons learned for capturing metrics that could be shared with the group.
    6. Personal thoughts or observations on ROI that would help in assessing value (not specific to a particular tool or capability).