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Scope

The Statewide Information Security Policies are the foundation for information technology security in North Carolina. The policies set out the statewide information security standards required by N.C.G.S. §143B-1376, which directs the State Chief Information Officer (State CIO) to establish a statewide set of standards for information technology security to maximize the functionality, security, and interoperability of the State's distributed information technology assets, including, but not limited to, data classification and management, communications, and encryption technologies. These standards apply to all executive branch agencies, their agents or designees subject to Article 15 of N.C.G.S. §143B. Use by local governments, local education agencies (LEAs), community colleges, constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina (UNC) and other executive branch agencies is encouraged to the extent allowed by law.

Responsibilities


All covered personnel involved in the maintenance of information systems and supporting infrastructure are responsible for adhering to this policy and with any local maintenance requirements.

Role	Definition
Chief Information Security Officer	The Agency Head, the Chief Information Officer (CIO), the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), or other designated organizational officials at the senior leadership level are assigned the responsibility for supporting and promoting information system security maintenance throughout the agencies.
Agency Security Liaison	The Security liaison is responsible for ensuring that assigned information systems and supporting infrastructure are maintained in compliance with State requirements by collaborating with organizational entities. Liaisons are responsible for maintaining the appropriate operational security posture for agency controlled information system or program.
Information System Owner	The Information System Owner (SO) is responsible for the overall procurement, development, integration, modification, or operation and maintenance of an information system.
Third Parties	Third party service providers with systems interconnected to the State network are responsible for maintaining their systems in accordance with this policy.

MA-1 – Policy

All State agency information assets must meet the required security controls defined in the NIST SP 800-53, Revision 4, Security and Privacy Controls. This document addresses the requirements set forth by the State to implement the family of Maintenance controls.

The State has adopted the Maintenance principles established in NIST SP 800-53 Rev 4 "Maintenance" control guidelines as the official policy for this security domain. The "MA" designator identified in each

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control represents the NIST-specified identifier for the Maintenance control family. The following subsections in this document outline the Maintenance requirements that the State and each Agency must develop, or adhere to in order to be compliant with this policy.

To maintain the highest level of system availability and protect the agency's infrastructure, maintenance operations must be performed at predetermined, authorized times or on an approved, as-needed basis.


- a. Maintenance policies and procedures must be developed and maintained to facilitate the implementation of the information system security maintenance requirements and associated system information system security maintenance controls.
- b. The current information system security maintenance requirements and procedures must be reviewed and updated at least annually or when significant changes occur.

This policy shall be reviewed annually, at a minimum.


MA-2 - Controlled Maintenance

Agencies shall do the following:

- a. Establish normal change controls and maintenance cycles for resources.
- b. Perform maintenance of operating systems in accordance with approved agency information technology security requirements.
- c. Consider the following issues when supporting operating systems:
 - i. New security risks and vulnerabilities are discovered from time to time that may require the operating system configuration to be updated to mitigate the identified risks and vulnerabilities.
 - ii. Periodic maintenance improves the performance of operating systems (*e.g.*, hard drive defragmentation).
 - iii. The operating systems on servers, minicomputers and mainframes usually require daily maintenance tasks and routines that may be initiated manually as a result of an alert or logged event or may be scripted to run automatically when a certain threshold or limit is exceeded.
- d. Ensure that system administrators shall apply all current maintenance and security vulnerability patches and that only essential application services and ports are enabled and opened in the system's firewall.
- e. Logs of operating system maintenance should be regularly reviewed and compared to other system logs to ensure the following:
 - i. Maintenance tasks continue to function as expected.

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- ii. Operating systems continue to operate within accepted thresholds.
 - iii. System security is not being compromised by maintenance tasks.
 - iv. Maintenance tasks do not adversely affect computer capacity or performance.
- f. Each agency shall ensure that software faults or bugs are formally recorded and reported to those responsible for software support and maintenance.
 - g. Restrict physical access to systems (e.g. by locating them in protected data center or dedicated, locked storage rooms).
 - h. Apply a comprehensive set of management tools (e.g. maintenance utilities, remote support, enterprise management tools and backup software) in order to keep them up-to-date (e.g. by applying approved change management and patch management processes).
 - i. Monitor information systems (e.g. using Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)) so that events such as hardware failure and attacks against them can be detected and responded to effectively. For public networks, management software tools that communicate with devices shall use SNMP version 3 for network management. For private networks, management software tools that communicate with devices may use SNMP version 2 or version 3 for network management.
 - j. Review maintenance records on a regular basis to verify configuration settings, evaluate password strengths and assess activities performed on the server (e.g. by inspecting logs).
 - k. Provide or arrange maintenance support for all equipment that is owned, leased or licensed by the agency.
 - l. Arrange support services through appropriate maintenance agreements or with qualified technical support staff.
 - m. When maintenance support is provided by a third party, nondisclosure statements shall be signed by authorized representatives of the third party before any maintenance support is performed.
 - n. Schedule, perform, document, and review records of information system security maintenance and repairs on information system components in accordance with manufacturer or vendor specifications and organizational requirements.
 - o. Maintain records of all maintenance activities.
 - p. Approve and monitor all maintenance activities to include routine scheduled information system security maintenance and repairs, whether the equipment is serviced onsite, remotely, or moved to another location.
 - q. Ensure removal of the information system or any of its components from the facility for repair is first approved by an appropriate official.


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- r. Sanitize equipment to remove all FTI and other restricted or highly restricted information from associated media, following proper procedure, when the information system or any of its components require offsite information system security maintenance or repairs.
- s. Verify proper functionality of all potentially impacted security controls after information system security maintenance is performed.
- t. Restrict the use of root/administrator privilege to only when required to perform duties
- u. Establish normal change controls and maintenance cycles for resources.
- v. Maintain information system security maintenance records for the information system to include the following:
 - i. Date and time of information system security maintenance
 - ii. Name of the individual performing the information system security maintenance
 - iii. Name of escort, if necessary
 - iv. Description of the information system security maintenance performed; and
 - v. List of equipment removed or replaced (including identification numbers, if applicable).
- w. Employ automated mechanisms to schedule and conduct the information system security maintenance as required, to create up-to-date, accurate, complete, and available records of all information system security maintenance actions. This requirement is only applicable for information systems with a "HIGH" security categorization based on its impact on critical business processes and the sensitivity of the data contained within the system. The categorization of "HIGH," "MEDIUM" or "LOW" is defined in <http://it.nc.gov/document/statewide-data-classification-and-handling-policy>

MA-3 – Maintenance Tools

Agencies shall observe the following requirements for the use of information system security maintenance tools:

- a. Approve, control, and monitor the use of information system security maintenance tools and maintain these tools on an ongoing basis.
- b. Prevent the unauthorized removal of maintenance equipment which can include, for example, hardware/software diagnostic test equipment and hardware/software packet sniffers as follows:
 - i. Verify that there is no State or agency data contained on the equipment;
 - ii. Sanitize or destroy the equipment;
 - iii. Retain the equipment within the facility; or

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- iv. Release to the State Office of Surplus Property or a third party disposal facility upon management approval explicitly authorizing the removal of the equipment from the facility.
- c. This control is optional for LOW risk information systems.

MA-3 (1) – Maintenance Tools - Inspect Tools (Moderate Control)

Inspect all maintenance tools carried into a facility by information system security personnel for unauthorized modifications or contain malicious code and handle the incident consistent with State and agency incident response policies and procedures.

MA-3 (2) – Maintenance Tools - Inspect Media (Moderate Control)

Check all media containing diagnostic and test programs for malicious code before they are used in the information system; If, upon inspection of media containing maintenance diagnostic and test programs, organizations determine that the media contain malicious code, the incident is handled consistent with State and agency incident handling policies and procedures.


MA-4 - Nonlocal Maintenance

Agencies shall ensure that all nonlocal (remote access) maintenance and diagnostic activities of information systems conducted by individuals through either internal or external network observe the following requirements:

- a. Approve and monitor nonlocal maintenance and diagnostic activities.
- b. Employ multi-factor authentication that combines at least two mutually-independent factors such as challenge / response answers, biometrics, and tokens, for nonlocal maintenance and diagnostic sessions to protect the integrity and confidentiality of communications.
- c. Maintain records for nonlocal maintenance and diagnostic activities.
- d. Terminate session and network connections when nonlocal maintenance is completed.

MA-4 (2) - Nonlocal Maintenance – Document Nonlocal Maintenance (Moderate Control)

Allow the use of nonlocal maintenance and diagnostic tools only as consistent with State policy and documented in the security plan for the information system.

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MA-5 - Maintenance Personnel

Agencies shall ensure that all individuals performing hardware or software maintenance on State or agency information systems have the proper access authorizations needed to connect to networks in order to perform maintenance activities.

- a. Establish a process for information system security maintenance personnel authorization and maintain a current list of authorized information system security maintenance organizations or personnel.
- b. Ensure non-escorted personnel performing information system security maintenance locally or remotely have appropriate access authorizations to the information system allowing access to State data. Inappropriate access would result in a compromise of confidentiality, integrity, or availability.
- c. Designate personnel with required access authorizations and technical competence to supervise the information system security maintenance activities of personnel who do not possess the required access authorizations.

MA-6 - Timely Maintenance


Agencies shall perform preventative information system security maintenance support for the purpose of maintaining equipment and facilities in satisfactory operating conditions.

- a. Predictive maintenance, or condition-based maintenance shall be performed by conducting periodic or continuous (online) equipment condition monitoring.
- b. Where feasible, automated mechanisms should be used to transfer predictive maintenance data to a computerized maintenance management system.
- c. This control is optional for LOW risk information systems.

Support for Operating Systems

Agencies shall ensure that the operating systems used to run the production environment are regularly monitored for security risks and maintained in approved secure configurations to support business operations. Agencies should consider the following issues when supporting operating systems:

- a. New security risks and vulnerabilities are discovered from time to time that may require the operating system configuration to be updated to mitigate the identified risks and vulnerabilities.
- b. Periodic maintenance improves the performance of operating systems (e.g., hard drive defragmentation).

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- c. The operating systems on servers, minicomputers and mainframes usually require daily maintenance tasks and routines that may be initiated manually as a result of an alert or logged event or may be scripted to run automatically when a certain threshold or limit is exceeded.
- d. Logs of operating system maintenance should be regularly reviewed and compared to other system logs to ensure that the following:
 - i. Maintenance tasks continue to function as expected.
 - ii. Operating systems continue to operate within accepted thresholds.
 - iii. System security is not being compromised by maintenance tasks.
 - iv. Maintenance tasks do not adversely affect computer capacity or performance.

Operating System Software Upgrades

Operating system (OS) upgrades shall be carefully planned, executed and documented as a project. Agencies involved in operating system software upgrades to systems shall perform the following steps before commencement of the upgrade project:

- a. Document that system security controls will remain effective or will be modified to appropriately respond to the OS upgrade.
- b. Locate change control processes and procedures.
- c. Document agreement of technical staff and management to acceptance criteria.
- d. Document that qualified personnel have certified the upgrade and that it has passed user acceptance testing.
- e. Establish a rollback plan in the event the upgrade has unacceptable ramifications.


GUIDELINES

Agencies should consider the following security issues when upgrading an OS:

- a. An OS failure can have a cascading adverse effect on other systems and perhaps even the network.
- b. System documentation and business continuity plans should be amended to reflect the OS upgrade.
- c. Since OS upgrades typically affect many systems within an agency, such upgrades should be part of the annual maintenance plan/budget. OS upgrade testing and review cycles should also be included in this budget.

Managing System Operations and System Administration

Agency systems shall be operated and administered using documented procedures

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that are efficient and effective in protecting the agency's data.

- a. For IT transaction records, which include access and audit logs related to the activities of IT systems, agencies must establish and maintain an adequate system of controls.
- b. For financial transactions and accounting records, the standard is addressed by the North Carolina Office of the State Controller.
- c. Agencies shall employ and document controls to provide for the management of system operations and system administration. To minimize the risk of corruption to operating systems or integrated applications, the controls shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:
 - i. Develop and document daily operational security procedures.
 - ii. Assigned staff shall perform the updating of the operating systems and program/application backups.
 - iii. Operating system software patches shall be applied only after reasonable testing verifies full functionality.
 - iv. Physical or logical access shall be given to suppliers for support purposes only when necessary and with documented management approval. The suppliers' activities shall be continuously monitored.
 - v. Vendor-supplied software used in operating systems shall be maintained at a level supported by the vendor.
- d. Agencies must clearly define security responsibilities for system administrators, who shall protect their assigned information technology resources and the information contained on those resources.
- e. Agencies must also provide appropriate training for their system administrators.
- f. System administrators shall do the following:
 - i. Ensure that user access rights and privileges are clearly defined, documented and reviewed for appropriateness.
 - ii. Consider the risk of exposure when administering system resources.
 - iii. Take reasonable actions to ensure the authorized and acceptable use of data, networks and communications transiting the system or network.


Scheduling System Operations

State agencies shall ensure that modifications to information system operations are implemented and maintained properly.

- a. Documented operational procedures must be created, implemented and maintained during system operations and take into consideration the following:

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- i. Computer start up, shutdown, and recovery procedures
 - ii. Scheduling requirements (length, time frame, etc.)
 - iii. Processes for handling errors and unforeseen issues that may arise during job execution
 - iv. Contact lists
 - v. System restrictions
 - vi. Instructions for handling output, including failed jobs
 - vii. Proper media handling and storage
 - viii. Incident handling and escalation procedures
 - ix. Configuration management
 - x. Patch management
 - xi. General system hardware and software maintenance
- b. All documentation of operational procedures must be approved by management and reviewed at least annually for accuracy and relevancy.
 - c. When special or emergency situations make it necessary to perform maintenance operations outside of the normal system operations schedule, these situations must be documented, management must be notified, and the operation processes used must be recorded.
 - d. Agencies shall develop change control procedures to accommodate resources or events that require changes to system operations.
 - e. Changes to system baselines require effective communication to ensure that information systems maintain secure operations and avoid lag due to processing consumption and to minimize downtime due to unforeseen problems during such changes.
 - f. Change control procedures must be documented and followed during the scheduled maintenance windows and take into consideration the following:
 - i. Periods of maximum and minimum workflow.
 - ii. The approval and notification process.
 - iii. Interfaces with other applications, systems or processes.
 - iv. External agency and departmental interdependencies.
 - v. Change categories, risk and type.
 - vi. The change request process.
 - vii. Rollback plans and the point of no return.
 - viii. Modifications to change control procedures for special or emergency circumstances.

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- g. All documentation shall be approved by management and reviewed on an annual basis for accuracy and relevancy.
- h. Upon the completion of a baseline change, the audit change logs must be retained in accordance with the General Schedule for State Agency Records, Information Technology Records as established by the Government Records Section of the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources.

Managing and Maintaining Backup Power Generators


Agencies with business requirements that demand uninterrupted information processing during power outages shall deploy backup power generators. When a backup generator is employed, agencies shall observe the following requirements:

- a. Regularly inspect the generator to ensure it remains compliant with both safety and manufacturer maintenance requirements and has an adequate supply of fuel.
- b. Ensure the generator has the capacity to sustain the power load required by supported equipment for a prolonged period of time.
- c. Ensure the generator is tested according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- d. Backup generators are usually combined with an uninterruptible power supply to protect critical information technology systems that demand high availability. Such a combination both supports an orderly shutdown if the generator fails, minimizing potential for equipment damage or data loss, and can also provide continuous business operations if the cutover to the generator is too slow to provide power immediately with no interruption.
- e. Contingency plans should include procedures to be followed in the event the backup generator fails.

Managing and Using Hardware Documentation

Agencies shall develop and maintain additional documentation that details hardware placement and configuration, provides flowcharts, etc. in order to effectively manage their information assets

- a. Agencies shall retain user documentation and technical specifications of information technology hardware.
- b. Documentation shall be secured from unauthorized use and made readily available to support system maintenance and system support staff. Each agency shall identify and record its information technology (IT) hardware assets in a formal hardware inventory/register.
- c. Each agency shall develop a process to ensure that IT hardware is identified with agency-unique physical asset tags and that the inventory/register is kept up to date.

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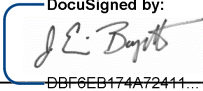
- d. The formal hardware inventory should include only information that is available for public inspection.

Maintaining Hardware (On-Site or Off-Site Support)

- a. Each agency shall provide or arrange maintenance support for all equipment that is owned, leased or licensed by the agency.
- b. The agency must arrange support services through appropriate maintenance agreements or with qualified technical support staff.
- c. When maintenance support is provided by a third party, nondisclosure statements shall be signed by authorized representatives of the third party before any maintenance support is performed.
- d. Records of all maintenance activities shall be maintained.
- e. To maintain the reliability of databases, maintenance must be performed on the operating system of the system that hosts the databases, or there is a greater possibility that the database itself will fail.

Enforcement

Violations of this policy or failure to implement provisions of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination, civil litigation, and/or criminal prosecution.

Approved: 
1/30/2018 | 8:25 PM EST

Secretary of Department of Information Technology (DIT)

Policy Approval and Review		
Name	Reason	Date

