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DATE: April 18, 2024

TO: Agency Heads and CIOs

FROM: Daniel Urquhart
          Alabama Office of Information Technology

SUBJECT: Statewide Information Technology (IT) Policy and Adoption of NIST Frameworks

This memorandum informs you of updates to IT Policy creation and adoption of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publications and Frameworks. Statewide IT Policy will align to NIST Frameworks and best practices. The baseline security and privacy controls apply to all State of Alabama Executive Branch departments, agencies, offices, boards, commissions, bureaus, authorities (agency or agencies) and authorized individuals engaged in State IT responsible for the management, operation, or use of IT resources, including contractors and retired state employees. Vendors, suppliers, resellers, or any entity conducting IT work or business with the State will follow IT Policy.

The State adopts and adheres to IT Policy the following as statewide IT security frameworks:

1. <u>NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-37 Rev. 2 – Risk Management Framework (RMF) for Information Systems and Organizations</u> or its latest version as the standard for managing State information security risk and maximizes the State's functionality, security, and interoperability of distributed IT assets, including data classification and management, communications, and encryption technologies.

2. <u>NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 – Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations</u> or its latest version as the framework for the Statewide Risk Management Program and alignment of its IT security policies. The State may modify certain controls from NIST 800-53 requirements when deemed necessary. NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5 provides a solid risk management foundation for organizations to secure their information systems.

3. <u>NIST Artificial Intelligence (AI RMF 1.0)</u> or its latest version as the applicable standard risk-based approach to control selection and specification of new or legacy systems or technologies (e.g., IoT, control systems) and integrate security, privacy, and supply chain risk management activities into system development life cycles. Agencies accept all risks associated with their use of AI, including AI use that results in negative financial impacts involving data loss, improper data usage, unintended changes to existing processes and code, or security vulnerabilities.

The statewide IT security frameworks provide a structured path to categorize systems, select and implement security and privacy controls that meet mission and business needs, track control effectiveness, and authorize and monitor systems for operation. Implementing trustworthy, robust, and comprehensive information security and privacy risk management programs facilitates compliance with applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, and governmentwide policies. The adoption of NIST frameworks also allows for a controls-based mapping crosswalk to common security frameworks as may be required by State, Federal, and industry partners.

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NIST SPs are available here: https://csrc.nist.gov/publications. OIT encourages awareness of the following list of guides and best practices for use in policy creation and IT operations:

NIST SP 800 -				NIST Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS)
12	94	113	124	197
46	97	114	164	199
48	100	121	207	
77				

This memorandum supersedes previous policy guidance issued by OIT (https://oit.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OIT-ISD-Governance-Memo.pdf). Additionally, this memorandum expands upon advisory guidance shared previously regarding the acceptable use of AI platforms and restrictions on data uploads.

As OIT works to improve overall State IT security posture and better prepare for cyber threats and attack vectors of tomorrow, our IT Policy will continue to mature and incorporate the latest NIST guidance. Revisions to IT Policy will require collaboration, support, and feedback from State executive branch agencies.

All system owners, business owners, security liaisons and other responsible agents, including contractors and vendors, are required to implement and comply with IT Policy immediately. Agencies must ensure that all internal security documentation is updated to reflect current IT Policy. IT Policy is available at the following link: https://oit.alabama.gov/governance-library/

All IT Policy is effective on the date of my signature.

This memorandum is published pursuant to provisions from OIT's Administrative Rules and the Secretary's authority under Ala. Code § 41-28-4.

If you have questions, please submit via a ticket to Service.Desk@oit.alabama.gov or call 334-242-2222.

Thank you,

Daniel Urquhart
Secretary and Chief Information Officer