

Information Technology Policy

Geospatial Information Systems (GIS)

ITP Number ITP-SFT004	Effective Date February 22, 2017
Category Software	Supersedes None
Contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov	Scheduled Review November 2022

1. Purpose

This Information Technology Policy (ITP) establishes a primary Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) software standard. Computer Aided Design (CAD) software and Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment are not covered by this policy.

2. Scope

This ITP applies to all departments, offices, boards, commissions, and councils under the Governor's jurisdiction (hereinafter referred to as "agencies"). Agencies not under the Governor's jurisdiction are strongly encouraged to follow this ITP.

Third-party vendors, licensors, contractors, or suppliers shall meet the policy requirements of this ITP that are applicable to the products and services provided to the Commonwealth.

3. Background

GIS software provides a means for the Commonwealth to perform its core functions and line of business where location and spatial analysis is a key factor. Locational based problems require spatial thinking, and it is difficult to visualize latitude and longitude coordinates from a spreadsheet. GIS software provides the Commonwealth with the ability to visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends.

Furthermore, locational, and spatial capabilities rapidly evolved into the hands of citizens through commercial propagation as standard built-in functionality within tools used by individuals on a daily basis, such as the cell phone and in-car navigational and automated emergency response features.

4. Definitions

4.1 Geographic Information System or Geospatial Information System (GIS): a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

- o GIS is a broad term that can refer to a number of different technologies, processes, and methods. It is attached to many operations and has many applications related to engineering, planning, management, transport/logistics, insurance, telecommunications, and business. For this

reason, GIS and location intelligence applications can be the foundation for many location-enabled services that rely on analysis and visualization.

5. **Objective**

To maintain product quality and performance, measurement, collating knowledge, assuring compatibility, and articulating a vision of the industry.

6. **Policy**

Agencies requiring geospatial software are to use the current standards as defined within STD-SFT004A *Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) Standards*.

7. **Responsibilities**

7.1 Agencies shall adhere to the requirements outlined in this ITP. An agency that desires to have a product or service added as an approved standard shall make a request to the Geospatial Center of Excellence for review and approval.

7.2 Third-party vendors, licensors, contractors, or supplier shall adhere to the requirements outlined in this ITP.

8. **Related ITPs/Other References**

Definitions of associated terms of this policy are published on the Office of Administration's public portal: <http://www.oa.pa.gov/Policies/Pages/Glossary.aspx>

Commonwealth policies, including Executive Orders, Management Directives, and IT Policies are published on the Office of Administration's public portal:

<http://www.oa.pa.gov/Policies/Pages/default.aspx>

- [Management Directive 205.34](#) Amended *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy*
- [ITP-SFT000](#) *Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) Policy*

9. **Authority**

[Executive Order 2016-06](#) *Enterprise Information Technology Governance*

10. **Publication Version Control**

It is the [Authorized User](#)'s responsibility to ensure they have the latest version of this publication, which appears on <https://itcentral.pa.gov> for Commonwealth personnel and on the Office of Administration public portal:

<http://www.oa.pa.gov/Policies/Pages/default.aspx>.

Questions regarding this publication are to be directed to RA-ITCentral@pa.gov.

11. **Exemption from This Policy**

In the event an agency chooses to seek an exemption from the guidance within this ITP, a request for a policy waiver is to be submitted via the enterprise IT policy waiver process. Refer to [ITP-BUS004 IT Policy Waiver Review Process](#) for guidance.

This chart contains a history of this publication's revisions. Redline documents detail the revisions and are available to CWOPA users only.

Version	Date	Purpose of Revision	Redline Link
Original	02/22/2017	Base Document Moved to Software domain from Infrastructure, including ITP number change Replaces ITP-INFGT001 <i>Geospatial Information Systems (GIS)</i>	
Revision	11/19/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ITP Refresh• Third-party vendors added to Scope and Responsibilities Sections• Added links throughout• Updated Responsibilities and Exemption Sections• Created supplemental document to outline current, contain, emerging and retired GIS software standards	Revised IT Policy Redline <11/19/2021>