

# Information Technology Policy

## *Internet Browser Policy*

<b>ITP Number</b> ITP-SFT006	<b>Effective Date</b> November 20, 2009
<b>Category</b> Software	<b>Supersedes</b> None
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### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Information Technology Policy (ITP) is to establish enterprise-wide standards and policies for internet browser technology.

Setting and implementing internet browser technology standards benefits the commonwealth through increased enterprise security, streamlining patch management and ensuring compatibility with enterprise applications.

### 2. Background

An internet browser is a software application used for retrieving, presenting, and traversing information resources on the World Wide Web. The purpose of an internet browser is to bring information resources to the user. Internet browsers software provides the following capabilities to a user:

- Allows the user to open multiple information resources at the same time (in different browser windows or in different tabs of the same window)
- Includes pop-up blockers to prevent unwanted windows from appearing without the user's consent
- Displays bookmarked pages so users can return quickly to pages they already viewed (favorites)
- Features Web feed aggregator "live bookmarks" and behaves like a folder of bookmarks corresponding to recent entries in the feed
- Includes incremental find features to search within a Web page
- Supports HTTP Secure (HTTPS)
- Offers quick and easy ways to delete the Web cache, cookies, and browsing history
- Provides development features for creating, actively modifying and debugging code

### 3. Scope

This Information Technology Policy (ITP) applies to all departments, boards, commissions and councils under the Governor's jurisdiction. Agencies not under the Governor's jurisdiction are strongly encouraged to follow this ITP.

#### 4. Policy

Agencies are to refer to Management Directive 205.34 - *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy* for use of internet browsers.

All internet browser products are to be patched with service packs within six months of the release date in accordance with ITP-SYM006 - *Desktop and Server Software Patching Policy*.

Agencies are to ensure that all internet traffic will be directed through the CoPA Internet Access Control and Content Filtering implementation per ITP-SEC003 - *Enterprise Security Auditing and Monitoring - Internet Access Control and Content Filtering (IACCF) Standard*.

Agencies are responsible for testing and verifying that all line-of-business applications are compatible with the current internet browser standards before upgrading to new standards.

Agencies are to standardize on one or more of the following current internet browser standards. The current standards have been tested for compatibility with enterprise applications.

#### CURRENT STANDARDS

(These technologies are supported by the current standards and meet the requirements of the architecture. They are recommended for use.)

Technology	Products	Technology Classification
Internet Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer 11	Current

#### Notes Regarding Current Products:

While there are newer versions of Internet Explorer, the current technology classification applies only to the versions above. The versions above have been tested for compatibility with enterprise applications. Agencies that require newer versions of Internet Explorer are required to file a waiver per ITP-BUS004 – *IT Waiver Review Process* and are responsible for ensuring agency applications are compatible with the new version(s).

The following SAP Graphical User Interface (GUI) for Windows is required for:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 11 – SAP GUI release 7.30 patch 9 or higher

#### CONTAIN

(These technologies no longer meet the requirements of the current architecture and are not recommended for use. They are to be phased out over time.)

Technology	Products	Technology Classification
Internet Browser	N/A	Contain

#### Notes Regarding Contained Products:

- Technologies that are no longer the standard. They will be phased out over time.
- Extensive modifications to these systems require review to determine if newer technology is to be used.
- All products are to be patched with service packs within six months of the release date in accordance with ITP-SYM006.

- New deployments or installations of these products are not recommended.

### RETIRE

(These technologies are being phased out. Plans are to be developed for their replacement, especially if there is risk involved, such as lack of vendor support.)

Technology	Products	Technology Classification
Internet Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer versions 10 and below	Retire

### EMERGING/RESEARCH

(Have the potential to become current standards. At the present time, they are to be used only in pilot or test environments where they can be evaluated. Use of these technologies is restricted to a limited production mode, and requires approval of a waiver request. Research technologies are less widely accepted and time will determine if they become a standard.)

Technology	Products	Technology Classification
Internet Browser	N/A	Emerging

### AGENCY OPTIONAL

(Agency Optional identifies technology that OA/OIT has approved for use with certain restrictions. Use of these technologies is allowed with the understanding that it is the agency's responsibility to develop internal policy and procedures for the management of these technologies. It is at the discretion of the agencies to deploy these technologies on a case by case basis to meet business requirements. A COPPAR waiver is not required to deploy Agency Optional technologies.)

Technology	Products	Technology Classification
Internet Browser	Google Chrome	Agency Optional
Internet Browser	Mozilla Firefox	Agency Optional
Internet Browser	Microsoft Edge	Agency Optional

## 5. Responsibilities

Agencies are required to adhere to the policies presented in this ITP. Internet browsers listed in Agency Optional may be used by agencies to meet business requirements. If an agency chooses to deploy the browsers listed in Agency Optional, the agency assumes all risk and responsibility and will maintain and update the browser software patches to the current stable versions to protect from potential vulnerabilities. With the exception of the OA Consolidated Agencies, agency patch and security management for Agency Optional technologies will not be managed by OA/OIT. To stay up-to-date with security alerts, sign up for the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) email alerts:

<https://www.us-cert.gov/>.

Agencies are required to adhere to ITP-SYM006 *Desktop and Server Software Patching Policy* for guidance. Agencies should evaluate and test for both enterprise and agency application/service compatibility prior to deploying these technologies.

Agency Optional browsers' licenses are to be reviewed along with the intended purpose of the software product. This review must be accomplished internally at each agency. Obtaining legal counsel is necessary to assess the impact of the license provisions and the means by which the agency may enter into the licensing agreement. Agencies are responsible to ensure that adequate legal review has been performed prior to clicking through or otherwise agreeing to any license agreement. This ensures the proper license risks have been assessed, and any distribution or other substantive licensing conditions have been, and can continue to be, met.

Where any Agency Optional browser is freeware, agencies need not seek a waiver under ITP-SFT001 *Software Licensing*, but agencies are nonetheless solely responsible to review, assess risks in accordance with, and comply with ITP-APP033, including but not limited to the following requirements:

Agencies are solely responsible to ensure that the use of freeware will not invalidate the terms as specified in the end-user agreement and that the product does not conflict with existing support agreements. Agencies granted approval to use a freeware application are to have their appropriate legal office review the terms of the product agreement to ensure they are acceptable to the commonwealth.

Agencies are responsible for support and inventory control of freeware products. Freeware products to be used in production are to be tested and validated in a development environment to ensure security and quality control.

Where any Agency Optional browser is Open Source Software (OSS), agencies need not seek a waiver under ITP-SFT001 *Software Licensing*, but agencies are nonetheless solely responsible to review, assess risks in accordance with, and comply with ITP-APP033, including but not limited to the following requirements:

Agencies desiring to install OSS to either a desktop or server platform are to coordinate with their respective support organizations for the management of those platforms. Agencies are responsible for support and inventory control of OSS. Agencies planning to use OSS in production are to test and validate the OSS in a development environment to ensure security and quality control.

Agencies are to adhere to Commonwealth standards for applying security related patches to OSS products. See ITP-SYM006 - *Desktop and Server Software Patching Policy*, for detailed information.

Agencies are to consult with their legal office regarding the rights and responsibilities conferred by the particular OSS license associated with the solution.

Agencies are responsible to ensure that adequate legal review has been performed prior to distributing any source code. This ensures the proper license agreement has been obtained, any distribution conditions have been met, and that indemnification risks associated with use and distribution have been addressed.

Agencies are responsible to continually keep informed of as well as alert their legal offices to the most up-to-date terms of agreements and other associated policies provided by licensors of Agency Optional products.

## 6. Related ITPs/Other References

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 - *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy*
- ITP-SFT001 - *Software Licensing*
- ITP-BUS004 – *IT Waiver Review Process*
- ITP-PLT017 – *Desktop and Laptop Operating System Standards*
- OPD-PLIT017A – *Windows 10 Configuration Requirements*
- ITP-SEC003 - *Enterprise Security Auditing and Monitoring - Internet Access Control and Content Filtering (IACCF) Standard*
- ITP-SYM006 - *Desktop and Server Software Patching Policy*
- Microsoft Support Lifecycle - <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/lifecycle>
- United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) - <https://www.us-cert.gov/>

## 7. Authority

Executive Order 2016-06, Enterprise Information Technology Governance

## 8. Publication Version Control

It is the 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](mailto:RA-ITCentral@pa.gov).

## 9. Exemption

In the event an agency chooses to seek an exemption, for reasons such as the need to comply with requirements for a federally mandated system, a request for waiver may be submitted via the Commonwealth of PA Procurement and Architectural Review (COPPAR) process. Requests are to be entered into the COPPAR Tool located at <http://coppar.oa.pa.gov/>. Agency CIO approval is required.

This chart contains a history of this publication’s revisions:

Version	Date	Purpose of Revision
Original	11/20/2009	Base Document
Revision	10/25/2010	Refresh
Revision	2/11/2014	Refresh

Revision	10/09/2015	<p>Updated Internet Explorer Technology statuses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet Explorer 11 – added to Current</li> <li>• Internet Explorer 9 &amp; 10 – added to Contain</li> <li>• Internet Explorer 8 – added to Retire</li> <li>• Removed Internet Explorer 11 &amp; 12 from Emerging/Research</li> <li>• Removed Opera from Emerging/Research</li> </ul> <p>Removed SAP GUI version requirement for IE 8  Added SAP GUI version requirement for IE 11  Removed Objectives section (redundant)  Added language detailing Internet Explorer 9 &amp; 10 will move to Retire status after January 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.</p>
Revision	01/12/2015	Removed Internet Explorer 9, 10 from Contain, moved to Retire status
Revision	02/26/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add Microsoft Edge browser to the “Emerging” classification</li> <li>• Added language notifying agencies must submit and receive an ITP waiver prior to deployment</li> </ul>
Revision	08/09/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed Firefox, Chrome from Emerging/Research Technology status</li> <li>• Added new Technology Status “Agency Optional” category and added Firefox, Chrome, Edge browsers</li> <li>• Added additional language on Agency responsibilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Licensing guidance</li> <li>○ No waiver required for ITP-APP020/APP033 to deploy freeware, open source software (OSS) Agency Optional browsers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Added additional references</li> <li>• Added Exemption section</li> <li>• Revised “Internet” to “internet” to reflect new AP Style standard</li> </ul>
Revision	02/22/2017	<p>Moved to Software domain from Application, including ITP number change  Revised references to ITP-APP domain to reflect new SFT domain ITPs  Replaces ITP-APP035 <i>Internet Browser Policy</i></p>
Review	06/16/2017	No changes