

Information Technology Policy

Enterprise Policy for Agency Firewalls

Number

ITP-SEC011

Effective Date

January 31, 2002

Category

Security

Supersedes

None

Contact

RA-ITCentral@pa.gov

Scheduled Review

July 2024

1. Purpose

This Information Technology Policy (ITP) establishes an enterprise-wide security policy designed to augment privacy, authentication, and security via deployment of network firewalls. The purpose of this policy is to help ensure the security of Commonwealth information technology (IT) assets, and to allow the Commonwealth to meet and fully comply with federal regulations such as, but not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

2. Scope

This ITP applies to all offices, departments, boards, commissions and councils under the Governor's jurisdiction and any other entity connecting to the Commonwealth Network (hereinafter referred to as "agencies").

3. Objective

The objective of this policy is to establish policy for network firewalls.

4. Policy

This ITP establishes an enterprise-wide policy for agency Municipal Area Network (MAN) gateway firewalls.

- All agencies connected to the Commonwealth MAN are required to implement a firewall at the gateway to their networks.
- At a minimum, agencies shall adhere to the baseline firewall policy rule set as identified in [ITP-SEC034, Enterprise Firewall Rule Set](#).
- Additional rules and permissible accesses may be added to the baseline firewall policy rule set and implemented to provide network accessibility to meet the requirements of the agency.

- The agency's firewall will work in conjunction with the Commonwealth enterprise firewalls, Network Intrusion Prevention Systems (NIPS), Network Intrusion Detection Systems (NIDS), and Host Intrusion Prevention System (HIPS) to provide the necessary security for the agency network.
- Existing non-standard and stand-alone firewalls still may be utilized, but if replaced, new firewalls shall comply with the firewall standards defined in this ITP.

The Office of Administration/Office for Information Technology (OA/IT) will function as the coordination point for all firewalls that agencies wish to establish between the agency's Local Area Networks (LANs) and the Commonwealth MAN (including wide area connections). Agencies shall contact the OA, Enterprise Security Operations Section (oa-security@pa.gov) prior to purchasing and installing firewalls.

Agencies shall coordinate all firewall implementations with the Enterprise Security Operations section to ensure that the appropriate rule sets are in place to maintain the highest level of security and to support interoperability between multiple firewalls. This policy does not preclude any agency from utilizing router filters in conjunction with firewalls to enhance network security.

Agencies shall refer to [STD-SEC011A, Enterprise Standards for Agency Firewalls](#) (Authorized CWOPA user access only) for direction on product standards for Agency firewalls.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 Agencies shall:

Comply with the requirements as outlined in this ITP.

5.2 Office of Administration, Office for Information Technology shall:

Comply with the requirements as outlined in this ITP.

6. 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](#)
- [STD-SEC011A, Enterprise Standards for Agency Firewalls](#) (Authorized CWOPA user access only)
- [ITP-SEC034, Enterprise Firewall Rule Set](#)

7. Authority

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

8. 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 shall be directed to RA-ITCentral@pa.gov.

9. 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 shall 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	01/31/2002	Base Policy	N/A
Revision	04/16/2009	Removed references to Layer one and two security protection and rescinded ITB I.6	N/A
Revision	04/2/2014	ITP Reformat; Merge STD-SEC001A into ITP	N/A
Revision	01/28/2021	Updated Bureau name update and removed Data Power House.	N/A
Revision	05/05/2021	Policy Refresh Added Exemption Section Added third-party vendors to scope and responsibilities sections	N/A
Revision	06/09/22	ITP Refresh Removed third party vendors from Scope/Responsibilities sections. Standards moved to STD-SEC011A	N/A
Revision	07/26/2023	Annual review. Scope updated based upon connection to Commonwealth Network. Added contact email for Enterprise Security Operations section. Added link to IT Central for references to STD-SEC011A	Revised IT Policy Redline <07/26/2023>