

**Michigan Department of Attorney General
Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy**

**Policies and Procedures: Acceptable Use of Information Technology
Policy**

Effective Date: 12/03/2020

Supersedes: 01/16/2008, 04/26/2016

Department of Attorney General staff must follow the Department of Technology, Management & Budget's "Acceptable Use of Information Technology" Technical Standard. The version of the Technical Standard in effect at the time this policy became effective is attached for reference, but staff are bound by any subsequent revision of the Technical Standard by DTMB.

Department of Attorney General staff may make incidental personal use of IT resources so long as such use does not interfere or conflict with a user's work obligation or impose costs on the State and otherwise complies with all applicable Department and State policies, including the "Acceptable Use of Information Technology" Technical Standard issued by DTMB.

Any violation of this policy may result in counseling or disciplinary action up to and including termination.

(Form revised and approved on 12/03/20)

State of Michigan Technical Standard

1340.00.130.02 ACCEPTABLE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Issued: 04/03/2013
Revised: 09/05/2019
Reviewed: 12/10/2018
Next Review Date (1 yr): 09/05/2020

Authoritative Policy: 1340.00 Information Technology Information Security Policy
(https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmb/1340_193162_7.pdf)

Associated Procedures: n/a
Distribution: Statewide

PURPOSE

This statewide standard identifies acceptable use of information technology resources (IT Resources) to conduct state of Michigan (SOM) business and provides notice of expected User behavior. Unacceptable IT Resource use exposes the SOM to unwarranted risks, such as data breach, disruption of SOM network or application services, and other legal and liability issues. Unacceptable use may also consume IT Resource capacity and hinder SOM employees' ability to conduct business.

CONTACT/OWNER

Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB)
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection (CIP)
Michigan Cyber Security (MCS)

SCOPE

This standard applies to all users granted access rights to SOM IT Resources (Users).

STANDARD

ACCEPTABLE USE OF IT RESOURCES

IT Resources, including devices, networks, data, software, email, and system accounts, are provided to conduct official SOM business. Authorized Users must act within the scope of their employment, contractual, or other relationship with the SOM and must agree to use IT Resources efficiently, responsibly, professionally, ethically, and lawfully, using approved applications, tools, and mechanisms. Users, regardless of their relationship with the SOM, as a condition of receiving access to SOM IT Resources, agree to abide by this standard, all applicable SOM policies and procedures, and all federal, state, and local laws.

Users must review these guidelines regularly. Failure to do so does not justify non-compliance.

UNACCEPTABLE USE OF IT RESOURCES

1. ILLEGAL USE

IT Resources may only be used for lawful purposes. Prohibited activity includes use that is illegal under local, state, or federal law; violates SOM or other applicable regulations, policies, or standards; compromises public safety or the privacy of legally protected personal information; is malicious; or is fraudulent.

Users must abide by all intellectual property laws. Downloading, duplicating, or distributing copyrighted materials without specific written permission of the copyright owner is not allowed. Users shall respect all licensing agreements.

2. ABUSE

IT Resource use interfering with work obligations or SOM business is prohibited. IT Resources shall not be used for purposes unrelated to the SOM's mission and objectives, unless specifically authorized by this standard and agency work rules or directives. Examples of inappropriate use include:

- For commercial or personal product advertisements, solicitations, promotions, or for-profit purposes; political fundraising or lobbying; promoting a social, religious, or political cause; or gambling, gaming, or online shopping.
- To access, send, receive, or store any obscene, pornographic, offensive, or excessively violent content.
- To send messages containing unwelcome advances, profanity, or discriminatory or harassing remarks.
- To send hate mail or chain mail.
- To download entertainment software, music, movies, television shows, video-sharing content, or other similar files.

Users shall not download or install any software (including shareware and freeware) unless authorized by DTMB. No SOM-owned or -licensed software may be installed, copied, or used on non-SOM equipment unless expressly approved by DTMB.

Users shall not divulge or release any confidential information to the public that is not available to members of the general public. This does not prohibit disclosing a violation or suspected violation as authorized in Civil Service Commission Rule 2-10, unless otherwise prohibited.

Incidental personal use of IT Resources during lunch or break times may be authorized in agency work rules or directives, but shall not interfere or conflict with a User's work obligations or SOM business and must comply with all applicable SOM policies.

3. SOCIAL NETWORKING

Users shall not establish a state of Michigan Social Media site unless they follow 1340.00.130.03 Social Media Standard. Users shall not misrepresent their relationship with the SOM, imply SOM endorsement of products or services of a non-SOM entity, or give the impression that they are representing, giving opinions, or speaking on behalf of the SOM, unless part of

their legitimate job duties. When indicating place of employment as "State of Michigan" on personal social media websites, Users shall not represent their personal opinion as that of an agency or the SOM, including linking to official SOM websites within personal social media accounts or using state logos or graphics.

Users are responsible for any online activity conducted with SOM email addresses. Users must recognize that their SOM email address associates them with the SOM.

Some Internet sites may impose Terms of Service agreements that are unacceptable to the SOM, such as indemnification clauses or agreements to be sued in other states. When accessing these sites without specific SOM authorization, the User accepts such terms solely in a personal capacity and is personally and solely responsible for any legal claims arising from an agreement "signed" by clicking to agree on the terms of service.

4. SECURITY

Users must follow all applicable security policies and standards and are responsible for the reasonable (1) physical security and protection of their IT Resources and devices and (2) protection and use of granted access. Users shall not reveal to or allow use of their accounts or passwords by others, including family members. Users shall not leave workstations, devices, or IT Resources unattended without engaging password protections.

Users must maintain the security of SOM data. Providing unauthorized persons any information that is sensitive or protected by law; unauthorized posting of SOM information to external newsgroups, bulletin boards, or other public forums; sharing personal information about another person unless part of legitimate job duties; and storing SOM information in public storage services without DTMB approval are prohibited.

Users also shall not:

- Interfere with the normal operation of any IT Resource.
- Act to disrupt systems or cause unnecessary network congestion or application delays.
- Try to compromise or cause intentional damage or loss to SOM systems or data.
- Modify or circumvent security safeguards or access controls.
- Use tools or utilities to reroute traffic on, scan, probe, or attack a network.
- Intercept or try to intercept any data transmissions without authorization.
- Use unauthorized peer-to-peer (P2P) networking, file sharing, instant messaging or Internet Relay Chat (IRC) applications or services.
- Forward SOM email messages to personal email accounts that would create unacceptable privacy, security, or compliance risks.

- Use non-DTMB approved email servers or services to conduct SOM business.
- Use any unauthorized remote control software, tools, or services on any internal or external devices or systems not set up by DTMB.
- Store SOM data in public storage services, unless approved by DTMB.
- Post SOM information to external newsgroups, bulletin boards, or other public forums, unless authorized.
- Send unsolicited email messages, including junk mail or other advertising material, to individuals who did not specifically request such material.
- Install or attach any unauthorized equipment to an IT Resource without approval of DTMB and the resource owner, (e.g., wireless access points, modems, disk drives, external hard drives, networking devices, personal mobile devices or computers, etc.). Unauthorized equipment will be confiscated.
- Intentionally modify, damage, or remove IT Resources owned by the SOM without authorization from DTMB and the IT Resource owner.
- Intentionally modify, disable, test, or circumvent any IT Resource security controls without authorization.
- Intentionally causing a security incident resulting in a loss of data confidentiality or integrity or a disruption or denial of availability.
- Circumvent user authentication or compromise the security of a host, network, or account.
- Seek or enable unauthorized access to any computer system, application or service.
- Intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, data, or passwords of other Users.
- Impersonate or fraudulently represent other Users on the network.
- Try to access any computer account or part of the SOM's network to which they are not authorized.
- Participate in activities that promote computer crime or misuse, including posting on internal or external sites; disclosing passwords, credit card, or account numbers; and revealing system vulnerabilities.

Try to circumvent this standard by using anonymous proxies, software or hardware; use software or websites to hide Internet activity; or use devices or utilities to remove or camouflage information of evidentiary value.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY

All SOM business functions must be conducted on equipment approved for type of work being completed. The use of private email for conducting state business within the executive branch of state government is prohibited. State email accounts must not be used for non-state activity.

NO PRESUMPTION OF PRIVACY

Data is a valuable SOM asset that must be protected. Any data Users create, store, process, or send using SOM IT Resources remains the property of the SOM. The SOM cannot guarantee the confidentiality or privacy of Users, unless applicable law provides differently. Users have no expectation of privacy in their use of SOM-provided email, instant messaging, computing equipment, Intranet or Internet access, or other SOM information systems.

The SOM actively monitors IT Resources to ensure compliance with policy. This includes real-time monitoring of network traffic; the transfer of data created, sent, received or stored on IT Resources; and other monitoring and auditing the SOM may deem necessary. The SOM also blocks unauthorized internal and external traffic and services that may cause risk to IT Resources. Any evidence of illegal activity or unacceptable use discovered during monitoring or reviews may be provided to SOM management or law enforcement organizations.

Electronic records may also be available for public distribution under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The SOM may require Users to surrender to SOM authorities any IT Resources (state-owned or personal) that have been used to conduct SOM business or on the SOM's network, in response to discovery orders from a court of law; information holds from the Agency or Attorney General; acceptable use or cybersecurity-incident investigations by the SOM; or FOIA Requests.

INADVERTENT OR ERRONEOUS USE

Users inadvertently directed to a website that violates laws, regulations, policies or this standard may claim erroneous use by **immediately** reporting to managers when unintentional misuse occurs. Self-reporting is encouraged and may be done without consequence in demonstrated cases of inadvertent use.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Agencies** shall communicate this standard to all Users, ensure that users read and understand this standard, and develop processes to certify and document User acceptance.
- **Users** shall read this standard, understand its expectations, and follow its provisions. Each User shall acknowledge receipt of this standard and any agency-specific addenda. Each User shall report all violations to their manager or Agency contact, who must report all violations to Michigan Cyber Security (MCS).
- **Agents, contract staff, vendors, and volunteers who use IT Resources** shall follow and acknowledge awareness of this standard.
- **Managers or Directors** shall require all Users under their management to read and acknowledge this standard and abide by its provisions.
- **Agency Human Resources** shall support managers as needed in assuring awareness and enforcement of this standard.

- **DTMB Information Technology Staff** shall report suspected violations of this standard found in system support activity to MCS and assist MCS with audits and enforcement actions.
- **Michigan Cyber Security (MCS)** shall receive and document reports of suspected abuse from any source and respond as necessary. MCS shall supervise periodic system and network audits for abuse and compliance with this standard. MCS shall report abuse to Agency Human Resources, internal auditors, and appropriate law enforcement officials when appropriate. MCS shall also assist in preserving digital forensic evidence.
- **DTMB Procurement, Contract Administrators, and Project Managers** shall ensure contracts obligate contractors to comply with all applicable IT policies, standards, and procedures and that appropriate compliance activities occur.

EFFECT

The standard sets minimum expectations for all SOM IT Resources. Agency work rules supporting this standard may provide departmental guidance on how violations are handled. SOM agencies may implement policies on IT Resources consistent with this standard and may implement more restrictive standards on IT Resources with prior coordination with MCS.

All employees must realize that misuse or abuse of IT Resources may lead to agency investigation and criminal, civil, or legal actions and discipline, up to and including discharge. IT Resources may be removed from a work area for analysis.

APPROVING AUTHORITY

Tricia L. Foster, Director

Revised: 9/5/2019