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**ALL AGENCY MEMO - 2020-03**

February 10, 2020

To: All Agencies

From:  Susan Brown, Director, Governor's Finance Office  
 Laura Freed, Director, Department of Administration

Subject: Windows 7 End-of-Life

The Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008R2 operating systems have now reached their end of life. Microsoft system patches released on January 14, 2020 are the last freely available patches that Microsoft will release for these systems. Going forward, any defunct system operating on the State's SilverNet network must either have an Extended Support License (ESL) or be completely removed and decommissioned from the network.

Unpatched systems on SilverNet pose a significant security risk to the State. These systems are and will remain vulnerable to attack from malicious actors and can become platforms for further attacks deeper into the State's computing infrastructure.

To reduce this risk, the Office of Information Security (OIS) within the Enterprise IT Services Division of the Department of Administration will assist agencies with purchasing as many ESLs as necessary for any remaining Windows 7 and/or Windows Server 2008R2 systems in the Executive Branch. The OIS will also assist agency Information Security Officers with license installation as needed. The Microsoft ESL for Windows 7, at a cost of \$49.87 per license, will provide security patching until the end of Calendar Year 2020. At the end of the extended license coverage, agencies must have removed all defunct systems from the network or must have replaced or upgraded the systems to Windows 10 or Windows Server 2012 or later. Executive Branch agencies must report to the Chief Information Security Officer within Enterprise IT Services what their plans are for removing defunct systems and/or upgrading them.

If purchasing Extended Support Licenses represents a budget hardship for agencies, agency staff are required to coordinate with their assigned analyst in the Governor's Finance Office (GFO) to determine if the agency is eligible to have Enterprise IT Services purchase ESLs on behalf of that agency. However, agencies will be required to reimburse OIS for any Extended Support Licenses installed from the pool of purchased licenses on or before June 30, 2020.

Within the next 30 days, due to the significant security risk the defunct systems present to the State, any un-extended and unpatched Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008R2 systems remaining on the network may be subject to being blocked or isolated from the Internet at the State Chief Information Security Officer's direction.

Please contact your agency Information Security Officer, the State Chief Information Security Officer, or your GFO Executive Branch Budget Officer for further information regarding this matter.