

Use of System Utilities Standard

Introduction

The State of Oklahoma controls and restricts many system utilities to ensure the safety and security of state systems and data. Most computer installations have one or more system utility programs that might be capable of overriding system and application controls. Use of these system utility programs must be restricted and tightly controlled.

Purpose

This document provides system control options to protect State of Oklahoma assets.

Definitions

System utilities – Software programs that perform specific tasks related to the operation and maintenance of a computer system.

Standard

The following controls should be considered to protect State of Oklahoma assets:

- Use of authentication procedures for system utilities.
- Segregation of system utilities from applications software.
- Limitation of the use of system utilities to the minimum practical number of trusted authorized users.
- Authorization for ad hoc use of systems utilities.
- Limitation of the availability of system utilities, e.g. for the duration of an authorized change.
- Logging of all use of system utilities.
- Defining and documenting of authorization levels for system utilities.
- Removal of all unnecessary software-based utilities and system software.

Compliance

This standard shall take effect upon publication and is made pursuant to Title 62 O.S. §§ 34.11.1 and 34.12 and Title 62 O.S. § 35.8. OMES IS may amend and publish the amended standards policies and standards at any time. Compliance is expected with all published policies and standards, and any published amendments thereof. Employees found in violation of this standard may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Rationale

To coordinate and require central approval of state agency information technology purchases and projects to enable the chief information officer to assess the needs and capabilities of state agencies as well as streamline and consolidate systems to ensure that the state delivers essential public services to its citizens in the most efficient manner at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers.

References

- [Information Security Policy, Procedures and Guidelines.](#)

Revision history

This standard is subject to periodic review to ensure relevancy.

Effective date: 09/06/2024	Review cycle: Annual
Last revised: 09/06/2024	Last reviewed: 09/06/2024
Approved by: Joe McIntosh, Chief Information Officer	