pennsylvania
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology Policy

Application Development Languages

ITP Number ITP-APP011	***Effective Date*** December 18, 2006
Category Recommended Policy	***Supersedes***
Contact RA-itcentral@pa.gov	***Scheduled Review*** April 2015

This Information Technology Policy (ITP) establishes enterprise-wide standards and guidance for application development languages.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Information Technology Policy (ITP) is to establish enterprise-wide standards and guidance for application development languages. Establishing application development languages standards will provide guidance to agencies as they plan for new application development projects or reengineer legacy applications.

2. 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.

3. Objective

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- Provide a uniform approach to application development;
- Enhance and promote standardization;
- Reduce training costs and facilitate enhanced support services by having the same languages in use throughout state government;
- Achieve substantial savings in person/time support costs over a period of time by reducing the number of languages supported; and

- Decrease time to production for applications.

4. Policy

New application development projects that require the use of an application development language are to use the current application development language standards as defined in section 5 of this ITP.

Major revisions to existing application development projects that are not using the current standards will be reviewed as part of the ITP-PRO001 – *IT Procurement Review Process* to determine if the investment warrants a change in standards at that time.

For application development projects using languages classified as "Retire," a date for migration off this technology has been established. A definition for the classification of "Retire" is included in Technology Life-Cycle Classifications.

All IT projects related to application development are subject to review prior to inception for compliance with this standard through the Procurement Review Process (See ITP-PRO001).

5. Standards

CURRENT STANDARDS

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

Technology	Platforms	Technology Classification
C#	Windows/.NET	Current
Visual Basic.NET	Windows/.NET	Current
J2SE	All	Current
Java SE	All	Current
Java EE	All	Current
Perl	All	Current
PHP	All	Current

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. No date has been set for their discontinuance.)

Technology	Platforms	Technology Classification
J2SE 1.4.1 and prior	All	Contain
J2EE 1.4 and prior	All	Contain

Technology	Platforms	Technology Classification
C++ (all versions)	All	Contain
C (all versions)	All	Contain
PowerBuilder (all versions)	All	Contain
COBOL[1] (all variants and versions)	All	Contain
Fortran (all variants and versions)	All	Contain
Entire X (all versions)	All	Contain
Natural (all versions)	All	Contain
Spectrum (all versions)	All	Contain
PL/I	All	Contain
Unisys COBOL (all versions)	All	Contain
Oracle Forms (all versions)	All	Contain
Python (all versions)	All	Contain
PERCobol (all versions)	All	Contain
Microsoft J# (all versions)	All	Contain

[1] – Currently under review, based on research findings on hosting platforms and associated ITPs.

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. A date for retirement has been set.)

Technology	Platforms	Technology Classification
Visual Basic 6.0 & Earlier	Windows	Retire by 12/31/2008
Microsoft Fox Pro (all versions)	Windows	Retire by 12/31/2008
Unisys Business Information Server (Formally MAPPER) (all versions)	All	Retire by 12/31/2010
Oracle Forms 6i and Earlier	All	Retire by 12/31/2005
Assembler (all variants and	All	Retire by 12/31/2008

versions)		

EMERGING / RESEARCH

(Emerging technologies 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 will become a standard.)

Technology	Platforms	Technology Classification
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6. Related ITPs/Other References

- ITP-PRO001 – IT Procurement Review Process

7. Authority

- Executive Order 2011-05, Enterprise Information Technology Governance

8. Publication Version Control

It is the user's responsibility to ensure they have the latest version of this publication. Questions regarding this publication are to be directed to RA-itcentral@pa.gov.

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

Version	Date	Purpose of Revision
Original	9/18/2008	Base Document
	10/25/2010	Perl and PHP added to current; Removed contained MAPPER since it was also listed as retired; J2SE and J2EE contained now include versions 1.4 and prior; no more J2EE in current.
	4/10/2014	ITP Reformat; Merged STD-APP011A into ITP