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# Information Technology Policy

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## *Internet Browser Policy*

<b><i>ITP Number</i></b> ITP-APP035	<b><i>Effective Date</i></b> November 20, 2009
<b><i>Category</i></b> Recommended Policy	<b><i>Supersedes</i></b> None
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**This Information Technology Policy (ITP) establishes an enterprise-wide policy and standards for Internet Browser technology for Microsoft Windows operating systems.**

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Information Technology Policy (ITP) is to establish enterprise-wide standards and policies for Internet browser technology for Microsoft Windows operating systems.

Setting and implementing Internet browser technology standards benefits the commonwealth through increased enterprise security, streamlining patch management and ensuring compatibility with enterprise applications.

### 2. Background

An Internet browser is a software application used for retrieving, presenting, and traversing information resources on the World Wide Web. The purpose of an Internet browser is to bring information resources to the user. Internet browsers software provides the following capabilities to a user:

- Allows the user to open multiple information resources at the same time (in different browser windows or in different tabs of the same window)
- Includes pop-up blockers to prevent unwanted windows from appearing without the user's consent
- Displays bookmarked pages so users can return quickly to pages they already viewed (favorites)
- Features Web feed aggregator "live bookmarks" and behaves like a folder of bookmarks corresponding to recent entries in the feed
- Includes incremental find features to search within a Web page
- Supports HTTP Secure (HTTPS)

- Offers quick and easy ways to delete the Web cache, cookies, and browsing history
- Provides development features for creating, actively modifying and debugging code.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Objectives

The objective of this policy is to establish enterprise-wide standards for Internet browser technologies that are compatible with commonwealth enterprise applications.

### 5. Policy

#### 5.1 General Policy

Agencies are to refer to Management Directive 205.34 “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy” for use of Internet browsers.

All Internet browser products are to be patched with service packs within six months of the release date in accordance with ITP-SYM006 - *Desktop and Server Software Patching Policy*.

Agencies are to ensure that all internet traffic will be directed through the CoPA Internet Access Control and Content Filtering implementation per ITP-SEC003 - *Enterprise Security Auditing and Monitoring - Internet Access Control and Content Filtering (IACCF) Standard*.

Agencies are responsible for testing and verifying that all line-of-business applications are compatible with the current Internet browser standards before upgrading to new standards.

Agencies are to standardize on one or more of the following current Internet browser standards. The current standards have been tested for compatibility with enterprise applications.

#### **CURRENT STANDARDS**

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

<b>Technology</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>Technology Classification</b>
Internet Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer 10 Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 Microsoft Internet Explorer 8	Current

**Notes Regarding Current Products:**

While there are newer versions of Internet Explorer, the current technology classification applies only to the versions above. The versions above have been tested for compatibility with enterprise applications. Agencies that require newer versions of Internet Explorer are required to file a waiver per ITB-BUS004 and are responsible for ensuring agency applications are compatible with the new version(s).

The following SAP Graphical User Interface (GUI) for Windows is required for:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 10 – SAP GUI release 7.30 or higher
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 – SAP GUI release 7.20 or higher
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 – SPA GUI release 7.20 or higher

**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.)

<b>Technology</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>Technology Classification</b>
Internet Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer 7	Contain

**Notes Regarding Contained Products:**

- Technologies that are no longer the standard. They will be phased out over time.
- Extensive modifications to these systems require review to determine if newer technology is to be used.
- All products are to be patched with service packs within six months of the release date in accordance with ITB-SYM006.
- New deployments or installations of these products are not recommended.

**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.)

<b>Technology</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>Technology Classification</b>
Internet	Microsoft Internet Explorer	Retire

Browser	versions 6 and below	
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### 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 become a standard.)

Technology	Products	Technology Classification
Internet Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer versions 11 & 12	Emerging
Internet Browser	Firefox, Opera, Chrome	Research

## 6. Responsibilities

Agencies are required to adhere to the policies presented in this ITP.

## 7. Related ITBs/Other References

- Management Directive 205.34 "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy"
- ITP-SYM006 - *Desktop and Server Software Patching Policy*
- ITP-SEC003 - *Enterprise Security Auditing and Monitoring - Internet Access Control and Content Filtering (IACCF) Standard*

## 8. Authority

- Executive Order 2011-05, Enterprise Information Technology Governance

## 9. 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](mailto:RA-itcentral@pa.gov).

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

Version	Date	Purpose of Revision
Original	11/20/2009	Base Document
	10/25/2010	Refresh
	2/11/2014	Refresh