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Advisory – Mainframe Terminal Emulation Software Standards

Commonwealth Office of Technology sent this bulletin at 05/27/2021 09:22 AM EDT



AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2021-0527

TO: Agency IT Leadership, Technical Contacts

FROM: Kari Welch, Executive Director
Office of Architecture & Governance

DATE: May 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Advisory – Mainframe Terminal Emulation Software Standards

In order to comply with Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS 140-2), the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) has updated the Kentucky Information Technology Standard (KITS) for Network Services – Mainframe Access (EAS3520).

As a result of this change, COT will be updating all COT supported agency workstations to default 3270 terminal emulation software to BlueZone. All existing BlueZone users will be upgraded to version 7.1 as soon as possible. Implementations of the new release of software will begin June 1, 2021 and will be completed by August 1, 2021. MochaSoft users will migrate to BlueZone version 7.1 during the same timeframe.

Effective August 1, 2021 the IBM MaaS z/OS mainframe will no longer support Secure Socket Layer (SSL), and will expect Transport Layer Security (TLS) version 1.2 or higher.

COT support staff will use centralized client management tools to manage the implementation of these changes, and no action will be required by agency staff. This effort will be systematic and implemented in segments so as to allow for an efficient transition to an approved software.

If you believe your agency uses macros or other special processes that could be impacted by a change to emulation software, please contact Jeff Bell at (502) 782-4689 to complete testing prior to the upgrade.

If you encounter any issues as the migration is performed, please contact the Commonwealth Service Desk (502) 564-7576 or CommonwealthServiceDesk@ky.gov to open an Incident ticket.

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