AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2017-0102

To: Agency IT Leadership, Technical Contacts
From: Jim Barnhart
    Acting Chief Information Officer
Date: January 30, 2017
Subject: Client Device Refresh Changes

The Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) has historically employed a desktop and laptop refresh cycle based generally on a four-year deployment. For the biennium spanning fiscal years 2017/18, this approach is being revised to give priority to equipment lacking adequate security provisions and capacity to accommodate the Commonwealth’s future strategy for client computing.

Effective immediately, equipment refreshes will be strictly limited to those machines that are broken or otherwise inoperable, are still running Windows XP, or do not meet minimum Office 365 operating requirements. Additional memory and/or other hardware upgrades will be the preferred first-option for improving machine performance, where applicable. Adoption of this practice will also serve to facilitate a transition from the leasing/financing procurement approach in place today, to a model based on purchased equipment. The revised refresh approach will help create the funds necessary to accomplish this transition.

This change has been discussed with members of the advisory body to the Commonwealth’s Chief Information Officer, the Technology Advisory Council (TAC). TAC members have been encouraged to communicate these changes within their individual agencies. The Commonwealth remains committed to ensuring that employees have the equipment they need to perform their jobs effectively.

Agencies should consult with their Business Relationship Managers to determine the impact of this change on their current and ongoing equipment needs. Thank you for your patience during this time.