AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2017-0301

To: Agency IT Leadership, Technical Contacts

From: Jim Barnhart
Acting Chief Information Officer

Date: March 8, 2017

Subject: Windows 10 – Application Compatibility Testing

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Office of Technology is beginning a transition from Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 operating systems used on end-user workstations, laptops, and tablets to 64-bit Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise. This change in operating system will allow the Commonwealth to standardize and streamline the client IT operating environment and significantly improve the Commonwealth's cybersecurity posture.

The Windows 10 transition has been discussed at meetings of the Technology Advisory Council, and many cabinets are eager to move forward as quickly as possible due to the performance and security improvements associated with Windows 10. Achieving these improvements, however, will come at the cost of less accommodation of out-of-date agency applications and less flexibility for picking and choosing which patches to deploy. To accommodate Windows 10 workstations, agencies <u>must</u> stay current with all necessary applications whether they are in-house, 3rd party, or cloud-based.

Beginning July 1, 2017, COT will begin deploying Windows 10, 64-bit, on new installations and as part of computer refreshes. COT urges that if you have not worked with COT on testing Windows 10 in your environment, you should contact your Business Relationship Manager to begin this process as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact your BRM or Field Services Manager.