Commonwealth of Kentucky
Finance and Administration Cabinet

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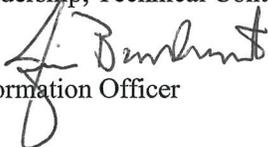Frankfort, KY 40601
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Jim Barnhart
Acting – Chief Information Officer

AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2016-0603

TO: Agency IT Leadership, Technical Contacts

FROM: Jim Barnhart
            Acting Chief Information Officer

DATE: June 15, 2016

SUBJECT: Installation and Use of Open Source Software

The use of open source software provides an attractive, low-cost alternative to proprietary commercial products. However, an uncontrolled proliferation of open source software can result in the introduction of security vulnerabilities to the Commonwealth's IT ecosystem and may exchange short-term cost savings for unplanned long-term life cycle maintenance and support costs.

In December, 2015 the release of CIO-051 Information Technology Standards Policy established the requirement that only IT products listed within Kentucky Information Technology Standards (KITS) are approved for installation and use within the executive branch of Kentucky State Government. This includes the installation, upgrade, or deployment of open source software. Agencies that intend to use open source products are to ensure the following:

- Confirm the software is currently on the standards list, or
- Request to have it added to standards, or
- Obtain a business exception for use prior to installation of the software.

To petition to have an open source product added as a standard or for a business exception to use an open source product, agencies should initiate a KITS addition, modification, or exception request, and clearly identify the product as "open source". For detailed information on submitting requests, please visit the COT web page COT - Exceptions, Modifications and Additions to Kentucky Information Technology Standards.

Upon completion of the approval process, vendors promoting open source products assume the responsibility to keep the software up-to-date. For software already listed as a standard, a request for the product should be made via the Commonwealth Service Desk (CSD), and the product will then be delivered by COT's Field Service/Server Teams.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your COT Business Relationship Manager.