



## **AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2019-0719**

**TO:** Agency IT Leadership, Technical Contacts

**FROM:** Dr.Charles Grindle, Chief Information Officer

**DATE:** July 19, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Open Systems Backup (ST90) - Cost Reductions

In the upcoming months, Commonwealth of Kentucky state agencies should see a significant reduction in Open Systems Backup (ST90) costs.

The Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) recently implemented an innovative "VxBlock" converged infrastructure solution in partnership with Dell. To date, COT staff have migrated ~3000 virtual machines for multiple agencies to the new platform. The VxBlock platform provides greatly improved stability and performance for agency applications. Transition from legacy backup methods provides enhanced application resiliency, more restore points, faster recovery, and reduced server downtime. Additionally, the technological advances leveraged in the new backup system accommodate more data in a much smaller physical footprint.

COT will soon implement a new backup policy for the Enterprise to complement the new technology. The new policy can be summarized as follows: The default backup retention policy for all VxBlock virtual servers will be: 7 daily backups, 4 weekly backups, and 12 monthly backups. This new approach ensures mission critical servers are protected irrespective of their classification as “production” or “development” systems. In short, all virtual servers in the VxBlock are backed up without exception.

Upon completion of agency transition, backup and retention will be at the highest ever attained for our environments in the Commonwealth and at a reduced cost. COT will continue to evaluate ways to expand the new solution to servers and data in remote locations, both physical and virtual, and will work towards the elimination of all legacy backup solutions within the next twelve months. As always, COT appreciates the opportunity to serve the Commonwealth and to work cooperatively with all state agencies to produce increased efficiencies and lower overall costs.