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AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2015-0901

To: Agency IT Leadership, Technical Contacts

From: James M. Fowler,
Chief Information Officer

Date: September 10, 2015

Subject: Microsoft Sunset Date for IE, .NET Framework

Microsoft Corporation is ending support for some older versions of its Internet Explorer browser and .NET Framework on January 12, 2016.

The company is discontinuing support for Internet Explorer (IE) 10 and older versions of the browser on Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 devices. Agencies should resolve any issues with applications that are dependent upon older versions of IE by that date to avoid any negative business impact.

For additional reference, The Commonwealth Office of Technology first announced the IE sunset date in an [Agency Contact Memorandum dated Feb. 3, 2015](#).

Microsoft has also announced that in an effort to offer greater application stability, reliability, security, and performance, it is ending support for .NET Framework version 4, 4.5, and 4.5.1 on January 12.

It is necessary that all agencies who utilize .NET Framework 4, 4.5, and 4.5.1 upgrade to version **4.5.2 or later** as soon as possible. Please note that .NET Framework versions 4, 4.5 and 4.5.1 should not be used after January 12 due to security concerns.

Microsoft is making extended support available to the Commonwealth for the three older versions of .NET Framework at a premium. The Custom Support Standard Program Fee per device/instance from Microsoft is \$200,000 for one year, or \$150,000 for extended support with no patching.

Agencies requiring extended premium support will receive pass-through charges for any additional costs associated with that support.

Microsoft representatives have advised COT that .NET 4.5.2 is a compatible, in-place update on top of .NET 4, .NET 4.5, and .NET 4.5.1. Applications built to target any of the previous .NET 4.x versions will continue running on .NET 4.5.2 without change. Recompiling of applications should not be necessary.

However, there are a small number of changes in .NET 4.5.2 that are not fully compatible with earlier .NET versions, primarily runtime changes that were made in the interest of security and industry standards. Agencies should test all applications on the latest version to ensure success with the product and work with COT to have the runtime updated to 4.5.2 on all servers and PCs prior to January 12, 2016

Additionally, a small number of retargeting changes included in .NET 4.5.2 will only be enabled if agencies choose to recompile their application against .NET 4.5.2. More information about application compatibility including both .NET runtime and retargeting changes across the various versions in the .NET 4.x family [can be found here](#).

If you have any questions about this change, please contact your [COT Business Relationship Manager](#).

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