STATE OF ALABAMA

Information Technology Policy

POLICY 641-00: EXTERNAL CONNECTIONS

Some connections between State information systems and external (non-State) information systems are necessary in order to conduct government business; however, connecting a State information system to any unknown, un-trusted information system (where the security policies of the external system are unknown) is inherently risky.

OBJECTIVE:

Ensure connections to systems external to State network systems are properly secured.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all Executive Branch agencies, boards, and commissions except those exempt under The Code of Alabama 1975 (Title 41 Chapter 4 Article 11).

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Agency Management, Information Technology Organization:

- Ensure that connections are only allowed with external networks, systems, or applications that have demonstrated and/or documented acceptable security controls and procedures.
- Ensure external connections are continuously monitored (in accordance with applicable standards) for security, performance, and continued business need.
- Ensure connections are terminated when no longer required or as security or performance issues require.

Information Services Division:

Identify applicable security controls and connection requirements in State Standards and/or Procedures.

The State IT Security Council shall have the right to review all new external connection requests. Reviews shall ensure that access matches the business requirements and that necessary security controls meeting established State standards are implemented. The council may direct that a vulnerability assessment be conducted to further assess the risk to State assets due to the external connection.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- Information Technology Standard 641S1: Interconnecting IT Systems

By Authority of Director, Information Services Division, Department of Finance

DOCUMENT HISTORY:

Version	Release Date	Comments
641-00	09/01/2011	Replaces Policy 640-01 (format and number change only)