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IT Security Awareness and Privacy Training Policy Background

New, Update or Sunset Review? Sunset Review.

What due diligence was conducted to determine the content of this policy/standard? If this is an update or sunset review, provide information as to what changes were made, if any, as well as reasons behind the policy/standard content.

The original standard items on security awareness were consolidated and modified based on workgroup and community feedback to improve clarity for agency adoption and accountability. The update replaces 141.10 1.4, 2.1,4,5. Additional updates to this policy draw from NIST 800-53 Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations.

What is the business case for the policy/standard?

- Basic cybersecurity awareness training for all IT system users enhances the primary line of defense to maintain business continuity.
- This policy ensures agency staff have awareness and training aligned with their role in IT security.

What are the key objectives of the policy/standard?

- Ensure that users are familiar with potential threats to the IT ecosystem and aware of strategies they must employ to prevent or respond.
- Agency staff who have IT and IT security-related roles are informed and recognize their roles and responsibilities.

How does policy/standard promote or support alignment with strategies?

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This policy supports efficient and accountable government by ensuring agencies are managing IT roles and responsibilities comprehensively.

What are the implementation considerations?

- Agencies will need review and verify that their awareness and training requirements are sufficient
- Agencies may request additional training and support.
- Additional specific training cannot be designated to IT system users who do not already have this included in their job descriptions, but training paths can be suggested.

How will we know if the policy is successful?

Specific: Agency IT system users attest to their awareness of their duties and obligations.
Measurable: Activity and feedback on the awareness and training materials can be reported.
Achievable: WaTech offers basic cybersecurity training awareness for all agencies.
Relevant: People who are unaware of the cybersecurity risk are far more likely to allow a threat into the system than those who receive basic training.
Timely: Ransomware and other malware are easier than ever to deploy, so the risk will only continue to increase.
Equitable: Agencies of all sizes benefit when everyone completes basic cybersecurity awareness training. Agencies with additional resources and responsibilities will have corresponding needs for additional training.