



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
107 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0107

Office, Chief Information Officer/G-6

SAIS-AOI

SEP 18 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Policy on Approved Windows Operating System Standards

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 25-1, Army Information Technology, 25 June 2013.
- b. Memorandum, Chief Information Officer/G-6 and Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), 4 May 2009, subject: Use of Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) as the Primary Source for Procuring Commercial IT Hardware and Software.
- c. Memorandum, Secretary of the Army, 28 June 2012, subject: Support to the Army Request for Information Technology (ARFIT) Process.
- d. Operations Order, U.S. Army Cyber Command/2nd Army, 9 January 2013, subject: 2013-111 Reducing Computer Systems Vulnerability on the Land Warrior Network (LWN).

2. Background. The Army Chief Information Officer (CIO)/G-6 analyzed the potential costs, benefits, and risks of migrating Army end-user devices to the Windows 8 operating system.

3. Purpose. This memorandum provides policy and guidance to Army organizations and agencies regarding operating system standardization and use of Windows 8 on computing devices.

4. Policy. All Army organizations and agencies will adhere to the following guidance.

- a. The approved computer operating system for Windows-based desktop/laptop computers is Windows 7, in accordance with the Army Golden Master migration schedule. Windows 8 is not authorized for deployment or use on laptop or desktop devices that will be connected to the Army network.

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b. The approved computer operating system for Windows-based tablet/slate devices that support a 32-bit (x86) or a 64-bit (x64) architecture is Windows 7. When a Windows 8 Army Golden Master is released, it will be the approved operating system for these devices. Windows 8 may not be used on tablet/slate devices until an approved Army Golden Master is released.

c. All Army organizations and agencies must continue to acquire, field and maintain their computing devices in accordance with relevant Army policies and processes, including: procurement via CHES; compliance with applicable Security Technical Implementation Guides; installation of the Army Golden Master baseline image; and accreditation by the appropriate designated accreditation authority (see references a, b and c).

d. All Army organizations that own and operate desktop operating systems on the Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU) and Secret IP Data Networks (formerly referred to as the Non-Secure and Secure Internet Protocol Router Networks) are required to migrate to an operating system supported by the Army Golden Master program (see reference d). Currently, the Army Golden Master supports Windows 7. An Army Golden Master for Windows 8 on tablets and slate devices is under development, with release expected in fiscal year 2014.

5. Policy Compliance and Waiver. Commands may request a waiver to this policy. Requests for waivers must be consolidated by the initiating command; receive the concurrence of the first General Officer Commander or civilian equivalent in the chain of command; and be approved by the Army Command, Army Service Component Command or Direct Reporting Unit Commander. CIO/G-6 retains oversight of the waiver process. Requests for exceptions to this policy must be submitted via the Goal 1 waiver process specified in AR 25-1 and located at: <https://adminapps.hqda.pentagon.mil/akmg1w/index.html>. Goal 1 waiver instructions are accessible after authentication to the application.

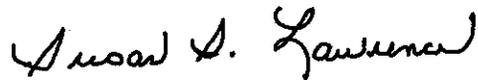
6. Strategic Intent. The CIO/G-6's strategic intent is to conclude migration to Windows 7 (currently under way) and transition to the next major release of Windows once it matures and meets Army requirements.

7. Policy Expiration. This policy will expire 30 June 2018.

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8. The point of contact for this policy is LTC Guy DeWees: (703) 614-7287 or guy.m.dewees.mil@mail.mil.



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