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**POLICY DIRECTIVE #AD 2018-01**

**TO:** All Agencies Memo  
**FROM:** Michael Dietrich, State Chief Information Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Switch Rackspace Colocation Guidelines  
**DATE:** June 11, 2018

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I am pleased to announce that as of October 10, 2017, the State of Nevada has in place a Master Service Agreement (MSA) with SWITCH, LTD for network connectivity and computing colocation services. These services allow the State to take full advantage of the SWITCH state-of-the-art facilities and world-class network connections.

The purpose of this communication is to introduce State guidelines and procedures for engaging the SWITCH MSA service contract to collocate applications and services at the SWITCH facilities. These procedures are intended to more fully exploit the State's footprint/implementation at SWITCH while minimizing potential technology sprawl and unnecessary costs.

The Enterprise IT Services Division (EITS) is currently completing new high-speed connections between SWITCH and the State Computing Facility. During upcoming months EITS will be deploying compute and storage to the SWITCH Citadel (Reno) to create a Virtual Compute Pool (VCP) which will initially host the migration of the State shared computing platform from the EITS Facility to SWITCH. The VCP will be an efficient high-density environment designed to realize maximum value from the SWITCH facility design. The VCP will also be the environment for hosting State Agency IT services and applications with essentially unlimited size and scalability.

Any agency planning to move solutions into a colocation environment, including SWITCH, must first contact the Enterprise IT Services (EITS) Administrator, to discuss the deployment or migration plans. The Administrator will assign EITS support staff as needed to assist with collaborating to determine the most efficient and cost-effective strategy.

It will be critical that agencies understand the importance of properly preparing their applications and services to take advantage of these new opportunities. Existing computing environments around the State – particularly those that have not been designed for high-density colocation - may not be able to efficiently migrate into SWITCH.

To that end a first step may include consolidation of existing applications and services into the EITS Computing Facility to allow for the necessary steps of preparing applications and computing environments for eventual inclusion into the high-density high-efficiency State environment at SWITCH.

Strategically transforming the State’s computing infrastructure from server closets in backrooms to full hybrid cloud production support requires careful consideration and planning. Attached please find general guidelines and steps for planning, installing, and supporting State equipment collocated at SWITCH facilities. I ask for every agency to follow these guidelines to prevent miscues “tech sprawl” and unnecessary costs.

All the best,

Michael Dietrich  
State CIO

To contact the EITS Administrator, email the Office of the EITS Administrator at [lolson@admin.nv.gov](mailto:lolson@admin.nv.gov).