State of Nevada
Office of the Chief Information Officer

Guidelines

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1.0   PURPOSE

As a key principle of the State of Nevada "Road to Unity" strategy, the CIO and State IT recommend that all agencies consider moving their technology into co-location environments such as SWITCH or the State Facility. In most cases co-location results in reduced costs through shared resources and economies of scale.

2.0   SCOPE

It is critical that all agencies understand the importance of properly preparing their computing environments to take advantage of co-location facilities.

As such the following general guidelines have been compiled for pre-planning State technology equipment co-location.

Note that this is not an all-inclusive list, and guidelines may vary based on agency situation and current and future business needs.

3.0   APPROVAL

Any agency planning to place State technology in SWITCH must first contact the 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.

Once a migration plan is agreed upon, the EITS Administrator will inform the State CIO and the State's SWITCH representative. SWITCH will not allow any State equipment into their facility without written authorization from the State CIO.

4.0   COLOCATION GUIDELINES

- The SWITCH colocation facility is designed around high-density cost-efficient racking of computing resources.
- To minimize cost, the State's equipment needs to be efficiently racked to meet SWITCH's high-density standard.
- The Enterprise IT Services Division (EITS) will deploy Virtual Computing Pools (VCPs) within SWITCH for State use. Whenever possible the VCP will be used to host agency computing resources and applications.

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- Some of the State's current technology may not be suitable for racking directly at SWITCH without adjustment or even replacement. If an application or service is not ready for direct migration to SWITCH, EITS will provide intermediate hosting services in the current State Tier 3 Computing Facility to facilitate an agency's transition to SWITCH.
- A minimum number of State SWITCH T-SCIFs (for Thermal Separate Compartment in Facility) will be created to control cost.
- Physical access to SWITCH facilities is limited and constrained and requires efficient access management. SWITCH data centers are primarily lights-out operations and do not typically include console, tape, or printing options.
- To minimize physical trips and large numbers of state personnel accessing the secured SWITCH facility, EITS will establish a team of dedicated staff to provide hands-on support and physical management of State equipment within the SWITCH facility. Other support personnel will be allowed into the State SWITCH facility on a limited, case-by-case basis as approved by the EITS Administrator.
- All data in the SWITCH facility containing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or other sensitive content must be encrypted when at-rest and in-transit.
- Due to insufficient disaster event geographic separation, SWITCH in Reno is not a viable disaster recovery site for Carson City operations.

5.0   CONTACT

- If you have any questions about these guidelines, please feel free to contact the EITS Administrator. To contact the EITS Administrator, email the Office of the EITS Administrator at lolson@admin.nv.gov.