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MEMORANDUM

September 16, 2021

TO: All Agencies

FROM: Bob Dehnhardt, State Chief Information Security Officer

SUBJECT: Upgraded Email Security Service

Since June 2021, the Enterprise IT Services (EITS) Computing Unit has been piloting the Barracuda Email Security Service with seven agencies, including the Department of Administration. This email security service is an upgrade of the current system and offers several additional features that will bring a higher degree of protection against spam, malicious attachments, improper content, ransomware, and other attacks. The remaining Executive Branch agencies will receive this upgrade during either September or October. Prior to implementation, EITS will provide each agency with detailed information, including frequently asked questions, on how to manage email quarantined by this upgraded email security tool.

The State Information Security Committee, which is comprised of information security officers (ISOs) from each Executive Branch agency, is tasked with establishing standardized statewide security settings for this tool. While this work is underway, settings have been selected to provide enhanced security while still enabling email flows and business processes. Any settings changes that impact employees' email behavior will be communicated to agencies.

Ransomware reports are increasing in both size and frequency, and the most common way for the attack to start continues to be email. State governments are being targeted by a wide variety of sources, including hacktivists wanting to make a statement, constituents who disagree with a policy or governmental decision, entities that seek to disrupt government processes, as well as criminals motivated by simple greed. No matter the source of the attack, it needs to be stopped as quickly as possible. This enhanced service is one more layer of a security program working to accomplish that for the State of Nevada.

CC: State Information Security Committee