
	<i>VCCS ITS</i>	Document #:	VCCS-ITS-08-5200
Information Technology Policies		Revision:	1.0
		Effective Date:	Sep. 18, 2008
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Information Technology Infrastructure, Architecture, and Ongoing Operations Policy

General	<p>It is critically important that the Virginia Community College System's (VCCS) information technology (IT) infrastructure, architecture and ongoing operations support the mission of the institution. To help ensure this need is met, decisions affecting these areas must reflect standards, guidelines and practices found to be effective in the higher education environment. This policy establishes the nationally recognized codes of practice with which the VCCS aligns its IT infrastructure, architecture and ongoing operations.</p>
Policy Statement	<p>The VCCS maintains a list of specific standards and guidelines that should influence decisions affecting key components of its IT infrastructure, architecture and operations. These standards and guidelines align with industry best practices, appropriately tailored for the specific circumstances of the VCCS, as described by EDUCAUSE, Internet2, and others within higher education, as well as those from selected technology industries. It is not the intent of this guidance to inhibit institutional endeavors that by their nature may require the use of cutting-edge technology not yet appropriate for normal use. The guidance is descriptive rather than prescriptive to achieve flexibility where needed. The ultimate goal is to create logical relationships between information technology resources and the mission of the VCCS and its units.</p> <p>This policy applies to all VCCS information technology, whether owned and operated by the VCCS, or used for VCCS business through contractual arrangements.</p> <p>An overview of the framework for infrastructure, architecture and ongoing operations, along with the standards and guidelines are posted at VCCS IT Guidelines and Procedures. When decisions are made regarding IT infrastructure, architecture and ongoing operations, the decision maker should consult this information for guidance.</p>
Terms	None
Related Information	The following is a sampling of higher education sources for IT best practices and evolving trends:


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	<p>The Campus Cyberinfrastructure Working Group of Net@EDU helps educational institutions develop institutional strategies and plan their resource deployment in this emerging and evolving technological landscape and helps their users harness and optimize the power and capabilities of new integrated IT tools and systems for educational and research applications in higher education.</p> <p>EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. http://educause.edu</p> <p>Internet2 develops and deploys advanced network applications and technologies for research and higher education, accelerating the creation of tomorrow's Internet.</p> <p>The National LambdaRail develops and deploys a fiber optic network infrastructure for the purpose of advancing research, clinical, and educational goals.</p> <p>The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council is a non-profit association of colleges and universities; professional and commercial organizations; data, software and service providers; and state and federal government agencies.</p>
Policy Background	<p>Chapter 945 of the 2005 Session of the General Assembly provided for a significant restructuring of operational authority for Virginia's institutions of higher education (the 2005 Restructuring Act). Additionally, the 2005 Restructuring Act permits Level 1 institutions to enter into a Level 2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Administration in one or more operational areas. Legislation approved in the 2008 legislative session established eligibility criteria for an institution to be granted additional operational authority in a minimum of two, but not all three, of the following areas: information technology, procurement, and capital outlay. At the May 2008 meeting of the State Board, a resolution was passed indicating that the Virginia Community College System is qualified to be, and should be governed by memoranda of understanding in the areas of capital outlay and information technology, and that authority was provided by the Board to the Chancellor to move forward on activities designed to secure Level 2 authority in the areas of Information Technology and Capital Outlay.</p>

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	<p>The policy statements indicate that the Virginia Community College System has adopted procedures and policies that are in line with existing state and federal code requirements as well as industry best practices appropriately tailored for higher education.</p>
Policy Approval and Revisions	<p>The VCCS State Board adopted the proposed Information Technology policy statements in the areas of accessibility; infrastructure, architecture and operations; project management; and security to fully comply with §2.0 and §5.0 of Chapter 824, 829 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly.</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE STAFF:</p> <p>Ms. Karen Petersen Executive Vice Chancellor Virginia Community College System (804) 819-4911 Kpetersen@vccs.edu</p> <p>Dr. Joy Hatch Vice Chancellor, Information Technology Services Virginia Community College System (804) 819-4990 JHatch@vccs.edu</p>