




OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

August 13, 2013

Memorandum

To: Eric Eisenstein
Division Chief, Internal Control and Audit Follow-up
Office of Financial Management

From: Michael P. Colombo 
Western Regional Manager for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Subject: Verification Review of Recommendations for the Evaluation Report, "Evaluation of the Department of the Interior's Accountability of Desktop and Laptop Computers and their Sensitive Data" (WR-EV-MOI-0006-2008, April 2009) Report No. WR-VS-MOA-0018-2013

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed a verification review of the four recommendations presented in the subject evaluation report. Our objective was to determine whether the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) implemented the recommendations as reported to the Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management and Budget. PFM reported to OIG when PAM and OCIO had addressed and provided supporting documentation for the recommendations in the subject report. Based on our review, we consider all four recommendations to be resolved and implemented.

Background

Our April 2009 evaluation report, "Evaluation of the Department of the Interior's Accountability of Desktop and Laptop Computers and their Sensitive Data," contained four recommendations pertaining to the accountability of DOI computers and the potential loss or misuse of sensitive information they may contain.

PAM and OCIO agreed with all four recommendations and provided its plan of action in a memorandum dated July 7, 2009. Based on DOI's response, we considered the four recommendations resolved but not implemented. We deemed the actions identified in DOI's response to Recommendations 1 and 3 to be insufficient. PFM notified us that the recommendations were closed as shown below:

- Recommendation 1: July 19, 2010;
- Recommendation 2: September 9, 2010;
- Recommendation 3: August 25, 2011; and
- Recommendation 4: January 17, 2012.

Scope and Methodology

The scope of this review was limited to determining whether PAM and OCIO took action to implement our recommendations. To accomplish our objective, we reviewed the supporting documentation that PAM and OCIO provided and discussed actions taken relating to the recommendations.

We did not perform any site visits or conduct fieldwork to determine whether PAM and OCIO had corrected the underlying deficiencies that we initially identified. As a result, this review was not conducted in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Results of Review

We determined that all four recommendations have been resolved and implemented.

Recommendation 1: Establish a uniform DOI-wide, system-controlled chain of custody property system for computers.

PAM established a policy requiring that DOI treat all computers as system-controlled property to be recorded and tracked in an official system for managing personal property. PAM also provided information to demonstrate that it had established a centralized, DOI-wide property management system.

Based on the information that PAM provided and the documents we reviewed, we conclude that this recommendation has been resolved and implemented.

Recommendation 2: Incorporate information sanitization procedures in conjunction with property disposal procedures.

PAM and OCIO issued a memorandum and published a chapter in the Departmental Manual to provide guidance on the proper sanitation and disposal of computer equipment.

Based on the information that PAM and OCIO provided and the documents we reviewed, we conclude that this recommendation has been resolved and implemented.

Recommendation 3: Require that the loss or theft of all computers be reported to DOI's Computer Incident Response Center [DOI-CIRC].

PAM revised its policy to require that all incidents of loss, theft, or damage to desktop and laptop computers be reported to the DOI-CIRC. OCIO also included a statement in its mandatory training for Federal Information System Security Awareness and Privacy and Records Management that all information security incidents, including the potential loss or theft of all computers, be reported to DOI-CIRC. In addition, DOI's "Interior Computer Security Incident Response Handbook" establishes reporting requirements based on threat level assessments. The

handbook further requires that lost or stolen laptops containing personally identifiable information be reported to DOI-CIRC within one hour of discovery.

Based on the information that PAM and OCIO provided and the documents we reviewed, we conclude that this recommendation has been resolved and implemented.

Recommendation 4: Take immediate steps to encrypt all portable computers throughout DOI.

OCIO mandated that all bureaus and offices use cryptography to protect the confidentiality and integrity of remote access sessions and authorized an enterprise data encryption solution. At the time OCIO requested closure of this recommendation, it reported that nearly 85 percent of DOI laptops had been encrypted. At the time of our review, OCIO reported that 89 percent of DOI laptops had been encrypted. OCIO's goal is to encrypt all DOI laptops; it stated, however, that 100 percent compliance is not easily sustained in such a dynamic environment.

Based on the information OCIO provided, the documents we reviewed, and consideration of the fluidity of the situation, we conclude that this recommendation has been resolved and implemented.

Conclusion

In an email dated July 26, 2013, we informed OCIO officials of the results of this review. OCIO officials agreed with the results of our review and declined our offer for an exit conference.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at 916-978-5653.

cc: Debra E. Sonderman, Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management
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