

**OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE STATE INFORMATION SECURITY, FY 2024**

**AUG. 29, 2024**

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This management response to the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) performance audit report received August 9, 2024, is coordinated by the State’s Chief Information Officer on behalf of the audited entities.

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**SAO PERFORMANCE AUDIT OBJECTIVES:**

The SAO sought to answer this question:

1. Can selected agencies make their IT systems more secure and better align their IT security practices with leading practices?
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**SAO Recommendations to the selected state agencies:** to protect agency IT systems and the information contained in them, we recommended the audited agencies:

1. Continue remediating vulnerabilities identified during the security testing, starting with those most significantly affecting them.
  2. Revise IT security policies and procedures to align more closely with leading practices.
  3. To mature and maintain sufficient security, continue to identify and periodically assess the agency’s IT security needs and resources, including personnel and technology.
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**STATE RESPONSE:**

We agree with the opportunities for improvement identified by the SAO to help protect agency systems and data. We also recognize our responsibility to continue improving state government security and take that duty seriously. Audited agencies have already implemented improvements and will continue to remediate any remaining vulnerabilities. The agencies will also continue to assess and make improvements to IT security needs.

Washington Technology Solutions will continue using the SAO’s findings and observations of this and previous audits to work with all state organizations to improve the state’s security posture.

**Action Steps and Time Frame**

- Each audited entity will work with its appropriate governing bodies to address and prioritize vulnerabilities, improvements, and considerations suggested by the SAO during fiscal year 2024.