

BTS-2.09 - Portable Computing Devices

PORTABLE COMPUTING DEVICES

Administrative Rule Adopted by Office of Management and Finance Pursuant to Rule-Making Authority
ARB-BTS-2.09

Purpose

Portable computing devices are increasingly powerful and affordable. Their small size and functionality make these devices a desirable replacement for traditional desktop computers in a wide number of applications. However, these devices' portability may increase the security risks to organizations using such devices.

The purpose of the City's Portable Computing Security Policy is to establish the rules for the use of portable computing devices and their connection to the City's network. These rules are necessary to preserve the integrity, availability and confidentiality of City information and assets.

This policy covers all portable computing devices (laptops, PDAs, Blackberries, Smartphones, etc) owned, maintained and operated by the City.

Administrative Rule

- Only BTS approved portable computing devices may be used to access City information systems. BTS's Support Center Manager shall determine the approved devices in consultation with the Information Security Manager.
 - Where technically feasible, portable computing devices 1) shall comply with BTS Administrative Rules including, but not limited to, network access, remote network access, user and administrative passwords and 2) have a BTS approved anti-malware product and personal firewall operational at all times to prevent propagation of malicious code (viruses, trojans, worms, etc.).
 - Portable computing devices that can not support BTS Administrative Rule 2.05 User and Administrative Passwords shall be required at a minimum to implement a four-digit PIN with a fifteen minute inactivity lockout.
 - Confidential City data should not be stored on portable computing devices. Any portable computing devices with confidential data shall use BTS approved encrypted techniques for storage for confidential data. Portable computing devices with restricted data are recommended to utilize encrypted storage for such information. Please see BTS Administrative Rule 2.18 Data Classification Policy for more information on the definition of confidential and restricted information.
 - Sensitive City data must not be transmitted via wireless to/from a portable computing device unless BTS approved wireless transmission protocols along with approved encryption techniques are implemented.
 - All remote access to the City network must comply with BTS Administrative Rule 2.04 Remote Network Access.
 - Non-City portable computing devices that require City network connectivity must conform to City information security policies and standards.
 - All City employees must be responsible to secure portable computing devices in their care and possession and immediately report any loss or theft of such devices to their bureau management. Additionally, if such devices support connectivity to the City network, the BTS Helpdesk should be contacted to take immediate steps to protect against unauthorized access to the City's information assets.
 - Exceptions to this Administrative Rule must be approved in writing by the CTO or the Information Security Manager.
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Guidelines

- When not in use, external wireless communication mechanisms such as 802.11 or Bluetooth should be turned off.
 - Beware of shoulder surfers. When people peer over your shoulder in the airport or other public places, they may be trying to see confidential data or watch you type in a password. When possible, use a polarizing screen cover which helps prevent viewing the display screen from side angles.
 - When conducting City business wirelessly, without VPN technologies, Wi-Fi access points (such as those at coffee shops) should be avoided since they may not have all the proper security features enabled.
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HISTORY

Ordinance No. 179999, passed by City Council March 15, 2006 and effective April 14, 2006.

Revised rule adopted by Chief Administrative Officer of Office of Management and Finance and filed for inclusion in PPD July 27, 2010.