

Bulletin

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Requirements for Air Gapped Networks Providing Public Internet Access

OVERVIEW

In a November 2013 memo, the VA Office of the Inspector General (IG) outlined possible negative consequences regarding unmonitored Internet services at VA facilities. During their inspections, they discovered VA facilities providing free public Wifi using non-VA networks. These free public Wifi services, which were often paid for by local charitable organizations or by the facility, are not connected to the VA Network, and thus lacked security controls such as content filtering or logging. This poses a potential risk to the VA. To mitigate these risks, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Security has issued new requirements for wired and wireless public internet access.

GUIDANCE

All wired and wireless public Internet access services must comply with the following requirements:

- For public access provided in non-domiciliary/residential settings, implement advisory banners, security solutions, and logging for all VA-provided, public Internet access.
- For domiciliary settings, implement user agreements, advisory banners, access controls including user name and password, and logging for all VA-provided, public Internet access.
- Utilize a content filtering solution for monitoring on all VA-provided public Internet access.
- Log files must be maintained for a one-year period.
- Facility can implement these services through their existing Internet service provider and the service provider must be able to provide log file as requested for investigation.
- Implementation of these requirements would be documented in the required MOU for an air gapped network.

All new wired or wireless Air Gapped Networks must immediately comply with this requirement. Existing Air Gapped Networks must document a plan of action for compliance and implementation no later than September 30, 2015. Regular progress reports of completed milestones are to be provided to the Facility Information Security Officer. Failure to meet these requirements may negatively affect the VA's security posture.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Documentation of existing networks must be completed by September 30, 2015.

[OIS DAS Memo - Air Gapped Public Wifi](#)

POINT OF CONTACT

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