



**State of North Carolina  
Office of Information Technology Services**

**Beverly Eaves Perdue**  
Governor

**George Bakolia**  
State Chief Information Officer

**Memorandum**

**To:** Agency CIOs  
Security Liaisons

**From:** George Bakolia *GAB*

**Subject:** Important Statewide Security Policy Issues

**Date:** September 17, 2009

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This memorandum is to inform you of two important actions relating to statewide IT security policies. They are summarized as follows:

- Chapter 2—Section 020106—Managing Passwords. The password reset requirements for system administrator and privileged user accounts has been changed to a range of 30 to 60 days. The old standard was 30 days. This revision is a result of the BEACON and NCID audits, and makes NCID compliant with all known standards, including IRS 1075, PCI and NIST.
- Chapter 2—Section 020112—Controlling Remote User Access. A statewide deviation to the prohibition on split tunneling in this standard is extended for one year. A proposed change to this standard would allow split tunneling under certain conditions if the agency is willing to accept the risk. The new standard may not be in place by November 1, 2009, when the current deviation expires. In addition, a new VPN/SSL service now in development allows sign on to multiple applications without split tunneling. Migrating agencies to the new service will take about one year.

A copy of new password standard is attached.

My staff recommended these actions as a result of our annual review of the *Statewide Information Security Manual*. You will soon be receiving additional proposed changes to the manual for your review and discussion.

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These actions regarding passwords and split tunneling should not be controversial, and provide immediate benefit to agencies. For that reason, I decided to approve them immediately.

Please feel free to contact Ann Garrett, the State Chief Information Security Officer, if you have any questions. She can be reached at (919) 754-6300 or [ann.garrett@its.nc.gov](mailto:ann.garrett@its.nc.gov).

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