

Why is IT Services writing computer use policies and security practices?

During 2009 there was an audit performed by UNM Internal Audit. This audit covered several areas of UNM - Gallup's organization including IT Services. The first audit item for ITS said

System Administration Procedures

IT has not documented their departmental security practices, including: password controls for flash drives and unattended computers, laptop virus risks, procedures for administrative account use, controlling and monitoring software licenses, and ensuring that the modem is adequately secured. UBP 2520 "Computer Security Controls and Guidelines" Sec 1 "General" states:

Therefore, all departments operating University owned computers, including those operated by faculty, staff, and students, must develop departmental security practices which comply with the security practices listed below. In addition, departments must have environment-specific management practices for business functions such as maintenance, capacity planning, software licensing and copyright protection, training, documentation, power, and records management for computing systems under their control. . . Departments must document and periodically review established practices.

The lack of adequate and consistent security administration procedures may result in unauthorized use of, disclosure of, modification to, and/or damage or loss to systems or data.

Recommendation 1

IT needs to develop and document their departmental security practices in accordance with University policy.

Response from the IT Manager and Executive Director

We concur. Gallup IT will work with central campus IT to develop departmental security practices that are in accordance with University policy, IT standards and IT guidelines by Fall 2010.

The documents that were discussed at your senate meeting are a direct result of this recommendation by Internal Audit and must be submitted to the audit committee by the end of the Fall semester 2010. The information contained in the draft versions of "UNM - G ITS Security Practices" and "UNM-G Acceptable Computer Use Policy" are versions of the same UNM - ABQ IT documents modified for use here in Gallup.

Please take the time to read over these two documents and send an email to its@gallup.unm.edu with comments, questions and/or suggestions. I'll compile your input and bring it back to your next senate meeting for a quick discussion and further review. I would also be happy to have face to face discussions with individuals or groups about these issues.

Thank you for the time you've spent assisting us to get these policies and practices worked out and implemented.
Your help is greatly appreciated.

Jim Blackshear
Manager, IT Services
UNM - Gallup

