Firewall Operational Standards and Procedures

I. Purpose

This standard defines the essential rules regarding the management and maintenance of firewalls at Georgia Southern University and it applies to all firewalls owned, rented, leased, or otherwise controlled by Georgia Southern University employees.

II. Policy Statement

1.0. INTRODUCTION
Firewalls are an essential component of Georgia Southern University’s information systems security infrastructure. Firewalls are defined as security systems that control and restrict both network connectivity and network services. Firewalls establish a perimeter where access controls are enforced and subsequently define how a network service is utilized. Examples of services include FTP (file transfer protocol) and HTTP (web browsing).

2.0. SCOPE
This standard defines the essential rules regarding the management and maintenance of firewalls at Georgia Southern University and it applies to all firewalls owned, rented, leased, or otherwise controlled by Georgia Southern University employees.

3.0. STANDARD STATEMENT
All firewalls at Georgia Southern University must follow the following standards. Departures from this standard will be permitted only if approved in advance and in writing by the CIO or his/her designee.

3.1. Perimeter Firewalls
Perimeter Firewall(s) will allow access to the following for outbound and inbound network traffic:

3.1.1 Outbound: Allow ALL network traffic to hosts and services outside of the perimeter.
3.1.2 Inbound: Only secure applications and specific services which support the Georgia Southern University mission will be allowed access from the perimeter.
3.1.3 Any secure application or specific service will be restricted to a specific outside IP address(es) unless approved otherwise by IT services.

3.1.4 Every network connectivity path and network service not specifically permitted by this standard (and supporting documents issued by Information Technology Services (ITS)) must be blocked by University firewalls. Likewise, every network connectivity path not specifically permitted by the IT Services must be denied by firewalls. Prior to the deployment of any University firewall, permission to enable any firewall will be granted by the CIO or his/her designee only when (1) the device is necessary for important business reasons, and (2) sufficient security measures will be consistently employed.

3.2. Host Based Firewalls
For Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X, or Linux/Unix devices for which host-based firewall software is available, host-based firewall software must be running and configured to block all inbound traffic that is not explicitly required for the intended use of the device. Use of a network-based firewall does not obviate the need for host-based firewalls.

3.3. External Connections
All in-bound real-time external connections to University internal data center networks must pass through a firewall.

3.4. Firewall Dedicated Functionality
Firewalls used to protect the University's internal data center networks must run on dedicated devices. These devices may not serve other purposes, such as act as web servers.

3.5. Firewall Change Control
Firewall configuration rules and permissible services rules must not be changed unless the permission of the CIO or his/her designee has first been obtained.

3.6. Regular Auditing
Because firewalls provide such an important barrier to unauthorized access to Georgia Southern University networks, they must be audited on a regular basis. At a minimum, this audit process must include consideration of defined configuration parameters, enabled services, permitted connectivity, current administrative practices, and adequacy of the deployed security measures. These audits must be performed by technically proficient persons other than those responsible for the administration of the involved firewalls.

3.7. Logs
All changes to firewall configuration parameters, enabled services, and permitted connectivity must be logged. In addition, all suspicious activity which might be an indication of unauthorized usage or an attempt to compromise security measures must also be logged. The integrity of these logs must also be protected with checksums, digital signatures, encryption, or similar measures. These logs must be promptly removed from the recording
systems and stored in a physically protected container for at least six months after the time they were recorded. These logs must be reviewed periodically to ensure that the firewalls are operating in a secure manner.

3.8. Firewall Physical Security
All Georgia Southern University firewalls must be located in locked rooms accessible only to those who must have physical access to such firewalls to perform the tasks assigned by management. These rooms must have environmental alarms as well as an automated log of all who gain entry to the room.

4.0. RESPONSIBILITIES
The CIO or his/her designee is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the requirements of the Firewall standard. Employees who violate this standard will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

5.0 ACCESS CONTROL
The following table shows the most common services for Internet communication. This list is not exhaustive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>VPN (via Internet) to GSNet</th>
<th>Internet to GSNet Enabled</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Must be requested; must be approved by IT</td>
<td>Pop, SMTP, Imap / only authorized email services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web hosting</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Must be requested; must be approved by IT</td>
<td>includes HTTP and HTTPS (SSL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTP</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>must use Secure FTP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telnet</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>must use SSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSH</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Must be requested; must be approved by IT</td>
<td>required use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaming media (Audio/Video)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Must be requested; must be approved by IT</td>
<td>Audio, video, H323, IP Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Management</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>PCAnywhere, Timbuktu, VNC, etc. are required to use university VPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other access</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Must be requested; must be approved by IT</td>
<td>these will be evaluated on a case by case basis</td>
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</tbody>
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