

OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE STATE INFORMATION SECURITY, FY 2025

AUG. 29, 2025

This management response to the State Auditor's Office (SAO) performance audit report received August 12, 2025, is coordinated by the State's Chief Information Officer on behalf of the audited entities.

SAO PERFORMANCE AUDIT OBJECTIVES:

The SAO sought to answer this question:

1. Can selected agencies make their IT systems more secure, and better align their IT security practices with leading practices?
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SAO Recommendations to the selected state agencies: to protect agency IT systems and the information contained in them, we recommended the audited agencies:

1. Continue remediating vulnerabilities identified during the security testing, starting with those most significantly affecting them.
 2. Revise IT security policies, procedures and practices to align more closely with leading practices.
 3. Continue to identify and periodically assess the agency's IT security needs and resources, including personnel and technology, to mature and maintain sufficient security.
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STATE RESPONSE:

We agree with the opportunities to improve recommended by the SAO to help protect agency systems and data. We take our duty to continue improving state government security seriously and will continue to do so. We have already implemented improvements and will continue to remediate any remaining vulnerabilities. We will continue to periodically assess and improve IT security needs.

Washington Technology Solutions will continue using the SAO's findings and observations of this and previous audits to improve the state's security posture across all state organizations.

Action Steps and Time Frame

- Each audited entity will work with its appropriate governing bodies to address and prioritize vulnerabilities, improvements, and considerations suggested by the SAO during its' fiscal year 2025 performance audit.