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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE

RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 4143

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UNCLAS STATE 122253

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ACOA, AADP, AMGT

SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF VISTA DEPLOYMENT WITHIN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REF: State 064060

1. REFTEL advised posts the Department was looking to a Microsoft Vista-based solution to achieve compliance with the federally mandated security settings known as Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC). Since the release of REFTEL, the Department has made progress in testing and deploying a fully FDCC-compliant version of Vista. To date there are 285 authorized Vista workstations operating on OpenNet in support of this testing effort. Required upgrades to existing hardware and needed software modifications coupled with the recognized need to maintain a dual Vista/XP environment require extensive financial

and support resources, both foreign and domestic.

2. Faced with our current budgetary constraints, it has been decided to delay deployment of Vista to allow application owners more time to upgrade or replace their applications, for hardware to be fully upgraded and standardized within the established technical refresh process, and to allocate support resources toward a more targeted approach toward FDCC compliance.

3. As a result of this decision, IRM management is shifting efforts to bring all Windows XP desktop systems into FDCC compliance by March 2009. Great progress has been made with the implementation of the FDCC Group Policy Object (GPO) security template released in August 2008, which adjusted our operating system security settings to be in line with the federal mandate. Implementation of this template brought the Department's XP configuration to within 93% percent compliance of the FDCC mandate. Next steps include establishing Windows XP Service Pack 3 as the Department's Standard Operating Environment (SOE) operating system and upgrading to Internet Explorer 7 (IE7), which has its own set of FDCC settings.

4. ACTION: Posts and bureaus are required to restore all Vista workstations to Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2) and configured to report status via the Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS) system. The latest XP build can be obtained from the ENM FTP site at:  
(ftp://ftp.irm.state.gov/ENM/Windows\_OS/XP%20Pro%20With%20SP2) .

Continued offline testing of applications with Vista is approved and encouraged. Questions regarding the Department's FDCC implementation can be sent to the DoS FDCC working group at dosfdcc@state.gov. For more information on the FDCC mandate, visit the FDCC website at <http://nvd.nist.gov/fdcc/index.cfm>.

Telegram

5. This suspension applies to computers that connect to  
OpenNet and ClassNet. It does not apply to laptops.

6. Minimize considered.

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