

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TECHNOLOGY LETTER	NUMBER: TL 17-06	DATE ISSUED: AUGUST 2017
SUBJECT: UPDATE TO CLOUD COMPUTING POLICY - INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLATFORM	REFERENCES: Government Code Sections 11545 & 11546 Technology Letter 16-01 State Administrative Manual (SAM) Sections 4983 and 4983.1 Statewide Information Management Manual (SIMM) Section 18	

BACKGROUND

In an increasingly digital era, state government and consumers of Information Technology (IT) services expect greater agility and increasing returns on their technology investments. They want modern, reliable, secure and innovative solutions for the people and organizations they serve. Cloud computing continues to be the technology of choice for meeting these growing demands through on-demand, self-service computing, in a pay-as-you-use model.

In August 2014, California issued its Cloud Computing policy, enabling government to place greater emphasis on delivering the highest quality business value to the people of California, while keeping the underlying technologies transparent, ubiquitous and interchangeable. This Cloud Computing policy required all Agencies/state entities to utilize cloud computing technologies first, for the delivery of IT services in a cost-effective manner. The California Department of Technology (CDT) and the Department of General Services partnered to further this approach by developing policy that requires all state entities to use cloud service solutions provided through CDT for office productivity software, ensuring that the state maximizes the benefits of these services.

To further realize the benefits of cloud, CDT has updated the Cloud Computing policy to enable rapid acquisition of cloud infrastructure technologies through pre-existing contracts and moving the responsibility and cost of uptime, infrastructure and/or platform upgrades and security to commercial cloud service providers. These changes will establish a channel between IT service providers and business partners, providing greater flexibility and more opportunities to meet program needs than currently possible.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Technology Letter (TL) is to announce:

- Agencies/state entities are required to evaluate and use Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) and Platform as a Service (PaaS) for all new technology, expansion or refresh initiatives. Evaluation should include security, data classification, and privacy impact analysis to ensure compliance and regulatory requirements are met. (SAM Sections 4983, 4983.1, 5100 and 5305.5)
- Agencies/state entities must acquire all IaaS and PaaS solutions through CDT. Accordingly, CDT will either utilize existing CDT services or partner with the Department of General Services to determine the best procurement method.
- If an Agency/state entity determines that the use of a cloud service solution is not feasible, or the required solution cannot be provided through CDT, they shall submit an exemption request to CDT for approval. The Cloud Computing Policy exemption process is defined in Statewide Information Management Manual (SIMM) Section 18.
- Agencies/state entities must utilize the Department of General Services' Cloud Computing Services Special Provisions when procuring commercial and/or government cloud services (SAM Section 4983.1).

QUESTIONS

Questions should be directed to your CDT Project Oversight Manager; assignments can be found at:
<https://cdt.ca.gov/project-approvals-and-oversight-contact/>

SIGNATURE

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Amy Tong, Director
California Department of Technology