

## CIOB – 0219 Use of Microsoft Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7

Approved by: DIO Council Date: 10/15/2009 Sunset Review Date: 10/15/2011

### **This Bulletin supersedes CIOB 0212: Use of Microsoft Windows Vista**

The purpose of this Bulletin is to formalize FMS policy regarding Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7. In April 2007 the Chief Information Officer (CIO) issued CIOB 0212 on Windows Vista announcing that Vista would be evaluated for security, performance, and compatibility, while FMS remained committed to Windows XP.

Microsoft has now released Windows 7 in Beta, and recently announced that Windows 7 Enterprise will be generally available on October 22, 2009. FMS believes that Windows 7 Enterprise will address various security and performance deficiencies of Vista, and thus will now focus its research and planning on Windows 7 instead of Windows Vista. Windows Vista will not become an FMS standard.

The following policies established in CIOB 0212 remain in effect:

- 1) **No installations of Vista will be permitted on Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) or on FMS-owned computers, desktops, or laptops at any location. Exceptions may be made for testing purposes (such as in the FMS Test Data Development Center), and then only as permitted in writing by the CIO.**
  
- 2) **Individually owned computers running Vista brought into FMS facilities will *not* be permitted to connect to the FMS network.**

FMS will begin testing Windows 7 in October 2009 in anticipation of an enterprise roll-out sometime in the next one to two years. Upon the completion of Windows 7 testing, further CIO guidance will be provided on a roll-out schedule.

In the interim, Microsoft has announced support of XP through April 2014, and FMS will continue to support XP until further notice. Microsoft has announced that it will allow new machines to be “downgraded” to XP Professional until April 1, 2011. Per this policy, FMS is installing XP on all equipment before distribution to users.

FMS applications have been developed and tested using Microsoft Windows XP as a desktop platform and Internet Explorer as the browser. As such, FMS is unable to assist business partners with problems related to the partner's use of the Vista Operating System. Such problems may include, but are not limited to, inaccessibility, performance degradation, data corruption, and integration and compatibility issues especially as related to applications requiring Public Key Infrastructure certificates for authentication and/or digital signatures. If Applications/Programs choose to develop with non-compliant FMS browsers and operating systems, they will be responsible for providing associated support.

**Point of Contact:** David Ambrose, FMS Chief Information Security Officer.