April 17, 2008

NIS MEMORANDUM 08-01

To:          All Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) Employees
Subject:  DIR TAC 202 Compliance Updates

Network and Information Systems has completed its annual Risk Assessment and will begin implementing additional safeguards pursuant to DIR rule TAC 202.73 and DIR best practices (http://www.dir.state.tx.us/IRAPC/practices/index.htm),

Screen Saver Lockout
Beginning, Monday April 21, 2008, NIS will begin phasing in a "screen saver" password lockout of all TTI computers in an effort to increase security. The standard “Windows” screensaver will be enabled after a computer is left unattended/inactive (no keystrokes or mouse movements) for a period of time. To log back in and resume your Windows session, you will have to enter your network password. Once the password is entered, you will be returned to your windows session. This will help prevent an unauthorized user from walking up to an unattended computer and gaining access to TTI resources without proper identification. The matter was reviewed by the NIS Advisory board and it was determined that a 20 minute inactivity timeout would be appropriate. This will only affect machines that are part of the TTI domain and will not affect employee’s personal machines.

Network Login Banner
In accordance with TAC 202.25 and 202.75 the TTI logon banner will be changed to the following:

WARNING! This computer system is the property of the State of Texas and may be accessed only by authorized users. Unauthorized use of this system is strictly prohibited and may be subject to criminal prosecution. The State of Texas may monitor any activity or communication on the system and retrieve any information stored within the system. By accessing and using this computer, you are consenting to such monitoring and information retrieval for law enforcement and other purposes. Users should have no expectation of privacy as to any communication on or information stored within the system, including information stored locally on the hard drive or other media in use with this unit (e.g., floppy disks, PDAs and other hand-held peripherals, CD-ROMs, etc.)

To acknowledge this message, click the OK button located under the text. Your logon to the TTI Local Area Network will continue. This logon warning message has been mandated by the Texas Administrative Code. The relevant State law is as follows:

TITLE 1 ADMINISTRATION PART 10 DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES CHAPTER 202 INFORMATION SECURITY STANDARDS RULE§202.7 INFORMATION SECURITY SAFEGUARDS

Both the actual time that the banner appears, and the wording in the banner may change in the future to meet criteria specified in State law. The logon screen only requires acknowledgement; and does not imply acceptance of additional terms. If you have been assigned a user id allowing access to the TTI Local Area Network, you have already signed and agreed to the terms listed in the Network Account Application form.
Network Monitoring
The TTI Local Area Network is monitored to ensure proper operation, to verify the function of applicable security features and for other like purposes. Monitoring may include active scans by authorized TTI or TAMU entities to test or verify the security of this system. During monitoring, information may be examined, recorded, copied and used for performance analysis and network security. All information, including personal information, placed on or sent over this system may be monitored for diagnostic or security purposes.

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