

Important information for All MACH Agencies utilizing NCIC bot functions

MICROSOFT ENDING SUPPORT FOR WINDOWS XP OPERATING SYSTEM

Microsoft has announced that after April 8, 2014, technical assistance will end for Windows XP operating system. Included are automatic updates that help protect your PC from security vulnerabilities. This means that Microsoft will no longer provide the “security” updates which patch newly discovered vulnerabilities affecting the computer operating system. This could make your computer susceptible to viruses and malware which could compromise your computer system, your data, or open you up to identity theft. Some information technology security experts are warning that a “hacker storm” could happen as hackers start trying to gain access to unpatched systems.

In order to comply with the FBI’s *CJIS Security Policy*, systems having access to Criminal Justice Information (CJI) must have up-to-date security patches on its computer operating system. Here is the specific verbiage from the security policy:

5.10.4 System and Information Integrity Policy and Procedures

5.10.4.1 Patch Management

The agency shall identify applications, services, and information systems containing software or components affected by recently announced software flaws and potential vulnerabilities resulting from those flaws. The agency (or the software developer/vendor in the case of software developed and maintained by a vendor/contractor) shall develop and implement a local policy that ensures prompt installation of newly released security relevant patches, service packs and hot fixes.

Local policies should include such items as:

- 1. Testing of appropriate patches before installation.*
- 2. Rollback capabilities when installing patches, updates, etc.*
- 3. Automatic updates without individual user intervention.*
- 4. Centralized patch management.*

Patch requirements discovered during security assessments, continuous monitoring or incident response activities shall also be addressed expeditiously.

Agencies that use the Microsoft XP operating system must upgrade to a supported operating system as soon as possible but no later than December 31, 2014.