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**STATE OF MAINE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES MAINE INFORMATION**  
**TECHNOLOGY (MaineIT) CYBERSECURITY DIRECTIVE 2023-03**

Maine Information Technology (MaineIT) has issued the following Directive to all executive branch State Agencies<sup>1</sup> for the purposes of safeguarding State of Maine (SOM) information systems and assets.

**Summary:**

This Directive establishes a moratorium for at least 6 months on Generative Artificial Intelligence. The State of Maine government must keep pace with a rapidly evolving cyber threat landscape that poses significant risks to the security of the State's network infrastructure, including the sensitive and confidential data that we are entrusted to protect for our citizens. This Directive is in response to the unique security and privacy risks posed by the rapid rise in the breadth and scope of artificial intelligence (AI) systems, specifically generative AI, and establishes the moratorium while MaineIT conducts further risk assessment.

**Background:**

MaineIT is responsible for maintaining the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the State's information systems and assets, while serving Executive Branch Agencies with efficient and secure network services. As U.S. policy on AI continues to develop, caution must be taken to assess the risks involved with the use of generative AI technologies. Early federal guidance and best practices<sup>2</sup> provide a roadmap for industry and government to move towards the responsible management of generative AI systems that cultivate public trust.

Generative AI systems have the capacity to automatically process data and information in a way that resembles intelligent human behavior. Although these systems have many benefits, the expansive nature of this technology introduces a wide array of security, privacy, algorithmic bias, and trustworthiness risks into an already complex IT landscape. These systems lack transparency in their design, raising significant data privacy and security concerns. Their use often involves the intentional or inadvertent collection and/or dissemination of business or personal data. In addition, generative AI technologies are known to have concerning and exploitable security weaknesses, including the ability to generate credible-seeming misinformation, disseminate malware, and execute sophisticated phishing techniques.

These factors make it challenging to maintain adequate understanding and control over AI-based decisions, including their appropriateness, fairness, and alignment with organizational values and risk appetite. The complete risk associated with the use of this technology remains unknown.

**Required Actions:**

Effective immediately, Wednesday, June 21, 2023, the adoption or use of Generative AI technology<sup>3</sup> (i.e., produces uncontrolled results) is prohibited for at least six months for all State of Maine business and on any

<sup>1</sup>This Directive is being issued to all SOM executive branch agencies, including all State agencies, departments, commissions, committees, authorities, divisions, boards or other administrative units of the executive branch that use the State network.

<sup>2</sup>NIST [AI Risk Management Framework](#) and the NIST Artificial Intelligence Resource Center ([AIRC](#)).

<sup>3</sup>Generative AI refers to "AI techniques that learn a representation of artifacts from data, and use it to generate brand-new, unique artifacts that resemble but do not repeat the original data. These artifacts can serve benign or nefarious purposes. Generative AI can produce totally novel content (including text, images, video, audio, structures), computer code, synthetic data, workflows and models of physical objects. Generative AI also can be used in art, drug discovery or material design." See Gartner at <https://www.gartner.com/en/information-technology/glossary/generative-ai>

device connected to the State of Maine network. This will allow for a holistic risk assessment to be conducted, as well as the development of policies and responsible frameworks governing the potential use of this technology.

Any requests for an exception to this Directive must be submitted by filing a direct waiver request through the appropriate [MaineIT Account Manager](#) for your department.

**Technologies Covered:**

Generative AI [technologies covered](#) under this directive include large language models that generate text like ChatGPT, as well as software that generates images, music, computer code, voice simulation, and art. Any chatbot technology currently approved for use by MaineIT is not prohibited by this moratorium.

**Additional Information:**

MaineIT is currently assessing other products, services and telecommunication equipment that may pose security risks to the State of Maine's network infrastructure and additional steps may need to be taken to strengthen our security posture.

This Directive will be reviewed and revised, as necessary, in six months. The internal point of contact for this Directive is Nathan Willigar, State of Maine Chief Information Security Officer, at [Nathan.Willigar@maine.gov](mailto:Nathan.Willigar@maine.gov).