Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

To: State Executive Branch Agency and Technology Leadership

From: Department of Information Technology

Date: 2/5/2024

Subject: Mandated Ivanti Pulse Secure Decommissioning

The Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) was recently informed of a critical cybersecurity threat that will require immediate action to secure Maryland information assets and the ability of state agencies to continue to perform their critical missions. The Ivanti Pulse Secure platform, which provides VPN services for state agencies, is susceptible to several high severity vulnerabilities that are currently being actively exploited across the globe and pose an immediate risk to Maryland's information systems. DoIT is monitoring and responding to the Federal government's response to this threat, which includes a mandate by the US DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to shut down all federal agency Ivanti Pulse Secure devices by 11:59PM Friday February 2, 2024.

DoIT is accelerating an in-progress project to replace the Pulse Secure VPN platform with the Global Protect VPN platform, which will mitigate the threat. DoIT has determined that the best course of action is for all State agencies to immediately complete migration onto the Global Protect VPN platform and decommission all Ivanti Pulse Secure devices no later than Thursday February 8, 2024. DoIT and all other agencies running the vulnerable devices are required to completely shut down and remove these systems from use.

DoIT will be contacting your information technology principal to advise them of scheduled downtime and to coordinate deployment and testing activities for transitioning to the Global Protect platform. We recognize that this aggressive approach may leave some of your resources without immediate access to network assets. This is a necessary impact to completely mitigate this significant risk. Contracted resources that are not utilizing Maryland configured end user equipment may experience extended periods without access to the information assets while their devices are updated with the required software. We appreciate your patience and cooperation throughout this process.

Regards,

Greg Rogers

State Chief Information Security Officer (Acting)

Department of Information Technology, Office of Security Management