



HIC Services SOP11/7.1
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HIC SERVICES STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Maintenance of IT Infrastructure

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7.0	Ian Fletcher (Senior Cyber Security Infrastructure Specialist)	10/09/2021	Minor grammatical and punctuation amendments and addition of Cloud services
7.1	Simon Li (Senior Infrastructure Specialist)	15/11/2022	Amended purpose to define cloud and added cloud provider failure section

***Draft and Archived/Obsolete revisions are not to be used.
Access current versioning system to verify revision.***

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1. PURPOSE

Health Informatics Centre (HIC) is a University Research Support Unit operating within the Tayside Medical Science Centre (TASC) at the University of Dundee, in collaboration with NHS Tayside and NHS Fife. HIC Services provides Data Users with linked, anonymised information derived mostly from large population-based health datasets, owned mainly by the NHS and the University of Dundee. HIC also develops data collection software, provides data entry services, web development services and provides secure access to research data.

This SOP describes the relevant monitoring and data management systems that are being used within HIC Services. These systems may be hosted in on-premise data centre or with a cloud service provider.

2. SCOPE

This SOP covers the IT Infrastructure hardware and software products that are owned or used exclusively by HIC Services. It does not cover products or services owned or provided by the wider University or by NHS Tayside.

3. DEFINITIONS

For overall definitions see HIC Services SOP Appendix B - Definitions.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- IT Administrators - Responsible for all IT Infrastructure procedures



5. POLICY

For overall policy see HIC Services SOP Appendix A - Policy.

5.1 Monitoring

Monitoring of the Infrastructure services is provided in the following categories:

- i. Availability - servers are monitored internally and externally.
- ii. Security - security related events are logged on individual servers.
- iii. Forensic - security related events from the last 30 days are collected and stored centrally to assist in the diagnosis of any reported breaches of network security.
- iv. External services - HIC services available on the public Internet such as websites are monitored remotely in order to collect performance and availability data.

5.2 Backup

For the protection of data, a backup system appropriate to the environment is employed:

For all data and relevant virtual machines residing in all HIC data centres, the following procedure is followed:

- i. Data is backed up within a schedule based on the type of data.
- ii. Local backups are taken to primary site backup media or disks.
- iii. Disaster Recovery (DR) site backups are transferred to DR site media or disks from the primary site backup location.
- iv. Data and system configuration in cloud providers is backed up using the appropriate backup service offered by the provider.
- v. Automated reports on the status of the previous night's backups are available and checked by the IT administrator(s) as part of routine monitoring activities.
- vi. Details of backup schedules, media used, source and destination storage locations, and data retention periods are reviewed in the Service Description for backup provision for the appropriate HIC data domain.

5.3 Change Control

There is a weekly maintenance period for performing planned changes to IT Infrastructure.

5.4 Security Patching

Windows servers and desktops:

- i. All servers running a supported version of Windows are patched using a centrally managed service. Security patches are applied regularly according to a rolling schedule.

Unix and Linux servers:

- i. All servers running a supported version of Unix or Linux are patched by an IT Administrator using a manual process.



5.5 Hardware Failure

- i. In the event of hardware failure an IT Administrator will contact the appropriate Supplier to request support.
- ii. If a site visit is required from a supplier representative, this will be carried out under the supervision of a HIC IT Administrator. At no time will hardware containing data leave the IT Server Room/s.
- iii. For hardware that is not covered by a supplier warranty or support agreement, internal investigation and remediation activities will be undertaken.
- iv. If the hardware failure has resulted in a service outage, a HIC IT Administrator will report the status and progress of any hardware fault to the relevant stakeholders.

5.6 Cloud Service Provider Failure

- i. In the event of a failure on a cloud service provider an IT Administrator will attempt to restore the service
- ii. If the service cannot be restored the IT Administrator will open a support ticket with the cloud provider.
- iii. If the failure has resulted in a service outage, a HIC IT Administrator will report the status and progress of any resolution to the relevant stakeholders.

5.7 Disposal of Assets

- i. All local storage from equipment that is to be decommissioned are removed for destruction using the secure disposal service provided by the University of Dundee unless the local storage has hardware encryption enabled or is securely erased before leaving HIC's control, in which case they may be repurposed. The following configuration details are recorded for each device:
 - a. The type of device.
 - b. Encryption type and state.
 - c. Whether a secure erase was performed.

For each disposal, the total number of devices is matched with the data available on the receipt from UoD IT or their contracted secure disposal service.

- ii. All hardware that has been decommissioned is disposed of using the standard, environmentally friendly, service provided by the University of Dundee. All hardware disposals are recorded in the Asset Register.



6. APPLICABLE REFERENCES

- i. HIC Services SOP 01 HIC Data Security
- ii. HIC Services SOP 02 Data Access Approvals
- iii. HIC Services SOP 03 Handling HIC Significant Events
- iv. HIC Services SOP Appendix A Policy
- v. HIC Services SOP Appendix B Definitions
- vi. HIC Services Service Description 11 - Server Backup Provision for DATAENTRY domain
- vii. HIC Services Service Description 16 - Safe Haven Backup Provision