



Michigan
Office of the Auditor General
REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

Report Number:
071-0562-12

Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) Security

*Department of Technology, Management,
and Budget*

Released:
August 2012

A WLAN is a data network that links various devices within a geographic area through radio communications. The security of a WLAN is dependent upon all of the components of the WLAN, including client devices, access points, and switches. The Telecommunications Division, Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), is responsible for the security and management of the State's WLAN. As of April 30, 2012, the Telecommunications Division had installed 942 wireless access points in 139 buildings across 72 Michigan cities to provide wireless network access to State employees and guest access to the Internet.

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of DTMB's efforts to design and implement a secure WLAN infrastructure.

Audit Conclusion:

DTMB's efforts to design and implement a secure WLAN infrastructure were effective. Our audit report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

Noteworthy Accomplishments:

The DTMB Telecommunications Division won the 2009 National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) Award for Information Security and Privacy for its implementation of a secure WLAN.

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of DTMB's efforts to monitor the security of the State's WLAN.

Audit Conclusion:

DTMB's efforts to monitor the security of the State's WLAN were moderately effective. We noted two reportable conditions (Findings 1 and 2).

Reportable Conditions:

DTMB needs to increase its monitoring efforts regarding the investigation of unauthorized wireless access points to determine if the access points are inappropriately connected to the State's network (Finding 1).

DTMB did not perform annual security assessments of the State's WLAN (Finding 2).

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Audit Objective

To assess the effectiveness of DTMB's efforts to implement standards and procedures for the deployment, administration, and monitoring of the State's WLAN.

Audit Conclusion:

DTMB's efforts to implement standards and procedures for the deployment, administration, and monitoring of the State's WLAN were moderately effective. We noted one reportable condition (Finding 3).

Reportable Condition:

DTMB had not fully established and implemented security standards and procedures for the State's WLAN (Finding 3).

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Agency Response:

Our audit report contains 3 findings and 3 corresponding recommendations. DTMB's preliminary response indicated that it agrees with all of the recommendations.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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