I. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to explain the IT Division’s level of support regarding departmental specific systems (hardware and software) deployed for either academic or administrative purposes within the department for reasons determined internally by the department or college. These systems may be on hardware physically housed and maintained by the department, on hardware hosted by the IT Division in the WKU Data Center, or on hardware remotely hosted by a 3rd party vendor.

II. Policy

In general, WKU’s IT Division discourages the practice whereby departments acquire their own server or workstation hardware and deploy and manage such hardware. This is especially true if such systems are multi-user, have any sensitive or confidential data, and if disaster recovery is important. Regardless of whether IT staff provides any level of assistance setting up such systems, IT takes no responsibility for the security, data integrity, functionality, or disaster recovery of systems deployed in this manner.

WKU’s IT Division provides a fee-based hosting service for both academic and administrative units in need of server space. IT provides systems administration, backup, and disaster recovery as part of this service and encourages departments to use IT’s hosting service instead of running their own servers. Departments using remotely hosted vendor systems should make sure they have a maintenance agreement in place with such vendors. In the case of remotely hosted vendor systems, WKU’s IT Division has no role or support obligation.

III. Procedure

IV. Related Policies

V. Reason for Revision