

# STATE OF ALABAMA

## Information Technology Policy

### **POLICY 663-00: RACF SECURITY**

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Access to State of Alabama information systems must be authorized, authenticated, and audited to ensure that only authorized users gain access to State resources and data. Access, in a computer-based environment, means the ability to do something with a computer resource (for example, use, change, or view something). Access control is the method by which this ability is explicitly enabled or restricted. The access control principle says that access to resources is controlled in such a way that permission to use them is restricted to just those people whose normal duties require their use.

Resource Access Control Facility or RACF® is an add-on software product that provides basic security for a mainframe system. RACF protects resources by granting access only to authorized users of the protected resources. Major software products such as CICS®, VTAM®, and DB2® also use the facilities of RACF to protect transactions and files.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

Manage user access to critical resources while maintaining a flexible and responsive access control strategy and ensuring the security principles of least privilege and separation of duties through the careful administration of RACF security policies and standards.

#### **SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all Executive Branch agencies, boards, and commissions except those exempt under The Code of Alabama 1975 (Title 41 Chapter 4 Article 11).

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

##### **Information Services Division (ISD) and State RACF Administrator:**

- Provide State-level RACF Administration
- Provide RACF administrator training to Agency RACF Administrators
- Perform RACF administration functions for agencies without a trained RACF Administrator
- Determine and administer access rights for shared mainframe resources (such as TSO)
- Create and document RACF policies, standards, and guidelines
- Monitor the implementation and compliance of adopted RACF policies and standards
- Support State and system-level audits and assist with agency-level audits

##### **Agency Management, Information Technology Organization:**

All organizations that utilize mainframe-based resources shall designate at least one Agency RACF Administrator or Agency RACF Security Contact.

Ensure Agency RACF Administrators attend classroom training (provided by the State RACF Administrator). This training is required before the Agency Administrator will be granted the rights necessary in order to perform RACF admin functions (maintenance of RACF profiles and determination of access rights). Contact the State RACF Administrator to schedule training.

Agency-level audits of RACF and related resources are the responsibility of the agency and the Agency RACF Administrator. The State RACF Administrator can provide limited audit assistance on a case-by-case basis when requested by Agency Management.

**Agency RACF Administrator or Agency RACF Security Contact:**

To ensure individual accountability, State IT Policy 621 requires every State information system user to have an individual system access account (i.e., a unique user identifier); therefore, every mainframe system user shall have an individual RACF profile.

Agency RACF Administrators shall manage (establish, activate, modify, review, disable, and remove when no longer needed) RACF profiles for their respective agency.

Agency RACF Security Contacts shall communicate all requests for the creation and maintenance of RACF profiles with the State RACF Administrator.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Information Technology Policy 621: Network and System Access

[http://cybersecurity.alabama.gov/documents/Policy\\_621\\_Network\\_System\\_Access.pdf](http://cybersecurity.alabama.gov/documents/Policy_621_Network_System_Access.pdf)

Information Technology Standard 663S1: RACF Security

Email [Lee.Styres@isd.alabama.gov](mailto:Lee.Styres@isd.alabama.gov) to request a copy of this document

Information Technology Dictionary

[http://cybersecurity.alabama.gov/documents/IT\\_Dictionary.pdf](http://cybersecurity.alabama.gov/documents/IT_Dictionary.pdf)

*By Authority of Director, Information Services Division, Department of Finance*

**DOCUMENT HISTORY:**

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