FACT SHEET | Cybersecurity Reforms
An Opportunity Agenda for a Better Minnesota

Minnesotans deserve an efficient, effective, accountable state government that works at the speed of business to deliver the quality services people expect. And Minnesotans ought to know that state government has the modern technology necessary to protect their personal data from cyberattacks and hacking. That is why Governor Dayton has proposed in his budget some long-overdue investments to upgrade Minnesota's information technology (IT) and computer security systems. These efforts will help deliver state government at the speed of business, and the security and personal data protection that Minnesotans expect and deserve.

Strong Cybersecurity Defenses

Every day, Minnesota state government is subject to millions of cyberattacks that attempt to interfere with state government or illegally access your private information. Thanks to Minnesota's team of cybersecurity experts, these attempts have been identified and prevented so far. But as our world grows more connected, our systems need updating to ensure that Minnesotans' private data is safe and secure. That is why Governor Dayton wants to invest $74 million to reform our state's information technology (IT) infrastructure and ensure it is up-to-date, safe, and secure.

- **Safeguarding the State from Cyber Attacks** – State of Minnesota computers are under constant attack, putting critical systems at risk and potentially exposing sensitive and confidential data. The Governor's budget would invest $27 million to minimize our risk exposure by migrating business systems to upgraded, modern, secure data centers. It would replace and upgrade insecure networking gear, servers, and workstations. And it would reinforce the State's Cyber Security Team by adding staff, and expanding monitoring and other core security services.

- **Secure and Efficient Budgeting** – Minnesota taxpayers fund state government, and that funding goes to pay for essential state government services. The Statewide Integrated Financial Tools (SWIFT) system is the State's system for accounting and procurement – the IT system that manages taxpayer dollars. It was implemented in 2011 and has not been upgraded since. This system will soon be out of software support and become increasingly vulnerable to threats or software issues. The Governor's budget would invest $18.2 million to upgrade SWIFT to continue software support, improve security, usability, and accessibility. This funding would also provide needed hardware replacements, software upgrades, disaster recovery, training, and adequate staffing to support the State of Minnesota's enterprise systems.

- **IT Systems at the Department of Corrections** – The Correctional Operations Management System (COMS) is a mission-critical system that was built over 20 years ago. The current system is built on technologies that will be obsolete in less than 5 years and does not meet modern-day security and accessibility requirements. The Governor's budget would invest $3 million in the Department of Corrections to modernize the system and hire additional technical staff. This effort would include replacing outdated technologies, updating functionality to better support efficient business process and data requirements, and enhancing the accessibility and security of the system.

- **Upgrading 30-Year-Old IT Systems at the Office of Higher Education** – Most of the core business applications at the Office of Higher Education (OHE) are integrated within an obsolete core database from the 1980s, called INGRES. Finding resources to support this 30-year-old database and its integrated applications is difficult, and the resources that do exist today are within a short time window of retirement. The Governor's budget would invest $2.6 million to allow for the rewriting of the core business applications to integrate with a modern database that complies with state standards. This would both increase the security of the data and ensure continuity of operations for the Office of Higher Education.

- **Updating the Education Department's IT Systems from the 1970s** – The Minnesota Department of Education has been using the same IT systems to pay Minnesota school districts for 43 years. The Department of Education's mainframe applications collect data, calculate and distribute more than $6 billion dollars of state aid, and $380 million dollars of federal aid to Minnesota school districts each year.

The mainframe applications are written in an obsolete language that is based on version of COBOL that was last updated in 1974. The Governor's budget would invest $3.2 million to allow for the design and building of a solution that is reliable, adaptable, scalable, and accessible so it can evolve as the needs of the Department of Education and Minnesota students change over time. It would use standards and technologies that are modern and widely used to ensure supportability.

- **Modern IT for Modern Transportation Systems** – The Minnesota Department of Transportation relies on over 500 critical technology applications to support a transportation system that maximizes the health of people, the environment, the economy, and public safety. These applications serve all critical transportation systems and all transportation partners in our state, including: airports, construction, bridges, railroad, and other modes of transportation. The Governor's budget would invest $20 million to upgrade old applications nearing end of support, and provide the ongoing preservation of secure applications with a comprehensive lifecycle plan.

21st Century Digital Infrastructure

Imagine using the first-ever Macintosh computer – released over 30 years ago – to send email, find a job, or do your daily work. It sounds crazy, but a lot of Minnesota's IT infrastructure is that old, and it is tasked with processing customer service requests for Minnesotans, hosting information online in an accessible, accountable way, and supporting the work of state government. Governor Dayton wants to invest $51 million to begin the investments necessary for a modern digital infrastructure to ensure Minnesota state government works at the speed of business.

- **Streamlining Purchasing at the Department of Administration** – The State of Minnesota purchases $2.9 billion in goods and services annually. Procurement is performed today mostly through paper-based procedures that are inefficient, hinder purchasing staff productivity, and slow the overall purchasing process. In addition to inefficiencies, the state lacks sufficient data on what is being purchased, how much, by whom, and from whom. The result is that it is difficult to leverage our annual spending to support veteran, women, and minority-owned businesses across the state, bolstering economic growth. The Governor's budget would invest $10 million in the first phase of the implementation and maintenance of a computer system to simplify the purchasing process that would make it easier for vendors to do business with the state. The new system would drive savings with improved data collection, promote equity in the state's procurement system, and ensure fair and robust competition.

- **IT Upgrades at the Department of Human Services** – The Governor's budget would invest $9 million to support the development of an Integrated Service Delivery System (ISDS) and a Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) used to process health care claims and payments to providers and managed care capitation payments to managed care organizations. This investment would replace aging and outdated technology with an integrated, people-centered service delivery system to streamline major business processes including eligibility, assessment, enrollment, and case management with automated tools to create, track, manage, and coordinate resources.

- **Better IT Systems for Health Records** – The Governor's budget would invest $2 million to begin development of a modern electronic health record (EHR) system. Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) systems are used to bill for services, receive payment for services, provide physical security, operate facilities, document treatment, monitor medications, track compliance with federal and state regulations and standards, track individuals' physical property, and ensure efficient and effective operations.

- **Updating a 25-Year-Old Labor Standards System** – The current labor standards system was developed more than 25 years ago. The most recent upgrade was performed 13 years ago and no new functionality has been added since. The system is old and has not kept up with the demands of the modern workplace. Using this system today requires inefficient and manual intervention to process claims and conduct investigations. The Governor's budget would invest $1.3 million in a new case management system to automate these processes, making it easier to protect the rights of Minnesota workers. Improved data collection will assist investigators responding to complaints of prevailing wage violations, reports of child labor law violations, and wage claim complaints.

- **Better IT Systems for Managing State Forests** – Minnesota Forestry's current suite of primary business applications are slow-performing, non-integrated, technically diverse, aging, and cannot be used in the field. The Governor's budget would invest $4 million to build a modern, unified, integrated set of technology tools to maximize staff productivity and allow field foresters to spend more time in Minnesota's state forests, keeping our 4.2 million acres of forests and trees growing strong for future generations.

- **Updating a 20-Year-Old Licensing System at the State's Nursing Board** – The current licensure and discipline case management system for the state's Nursing Board has been in use for more than 20 years. The platform is outdated, many components are no longer sustainable, and many functions are deficient. Most critical is the reporting function, which is ineffective and does not produce meaningful or accurate data. The Governor's budget would invest $1 million to deploy an integrated, up-to-date technology solution for a discipline case management system would improve efficiency, add modern data analytics, and would improve the ability to monitor disciplinary and corrective actions, helping the Nursing Board to fulfill its mission and keep Minnesotans safe.

- **Modern Technology for the Perpich Center** – The Governor's budget would invest $2.2 million to replace old desktop computers, laptops, printers, and software at the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

- **Database Improvements for the Physical Therapy Board** – The Health Professionals Services Program needs database improvements to better protect the public from persons regulated by the state's Health Licensing Boards who are unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety. The Governor's budget would invest $100,000 to help case managers to more efficiently perform intakes with real time data entry – improving efficiency and eliminating the need to transcribe written materials into the system. These improvements would allow for better tracking and reporting on persons regulated by the boards who are unable to practice with reasonable skill or safety due to illness, use of alcohol, drugs, chemicals, or any other substances, or as a result of any mental, physical, or psychological condition.

- **A Better Predatory Offender Registration System** – The state's Predatory Offender System allows the public to search a database of registered predatory offenders. It was developed nearly 20 years ago and cannot easily be updated to meet current requirements, including integrations with other systems, and the ability to accept offender documentation electronically. Replacing this aging system would automate the submission and review process, allow electronic document storage for easier retrieval, improve the process for submitting records to the National Sex Offender Registry, and improve sharing of information with law enforcement. The Governor's budget includes $4.1 million to upgrade the registration system.

- **Modern Technology for Special Education** – While some Minnesota school districts and vendors have Individual Education Program (IEP) case management software today, many districts and schools are without this tool and must process special education cases manually. The Governor's budget would invest $1.4 million to close the gap between those districts and schools with vendor software and those without by making one universal IEP case management software application available to all Minnesota organizations providing special education.

- **Technology for a 21st Century Workforce** – Today, state agencies determine their own approaches to employee training, development, and performance management – duplicating many efforts. The Governor's budget would invest $15 million to create a statewide talent management system to provide consistent tracking, management, and reporting of key factors required to develop and maintain our state's workforce. This system would provide secure access to previously manual and paper based records, and would improve operating efficiency for the State of Minnesota.