

Department of Veterans Affairs

VHA DIRECTIVE 2001-023

Veterans Health Administration  
Washington, DC 20420  
April 20, 2001

## INSTALLATION TIMEFRAMES FOR VETERANS HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY ARCHITECTURE (VistA) SOFTWARE PACKAGES AND PATCHES

1. **PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines mandated installation timeframes for Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) software packages and patches.

### 2. BACKGROUND

a. The VistA software packages provide essential support for VHA operations at its health care facilities. Software packages are updated regularly and released to the field to enhance the support they provide to VHA.

b. The release date for any VistA software is defined as the date the software is made public by the National VistA Support (NVS) team of the Office of Information (OI) (19). Impending notices are issued in advance of actual software release to allow facilities time to schedule installations.

c. Consistent with OI software support policy, support for VistA software by NVS will be restricted to the current version and the most recent prior release. There should only be one released version of a package in the field at any time except for the 6-month period following a new release. Therefore, support for the previous version will be terminated if additional version updates are not issued within 60-days of initial release.

3. **POLICY:** It is VHA policy that all VistA software must be installed as promptly as possible. This includes installing all VistA software on the legacy systems, as well as primary production accounts at integrated sites.

4. **ACTION:** Facility Directors are responsible for installing VistA software as follows:

a. All VistA software packages must be installed in facility production accounts within 60 days of release. The mandated installation window of 60 days supports the need to advance VistA to keep pace with the rapidly evolving VHA health information system and to ensure that VHA mission critical objectives are supported.

b. Installation of software issued via the National Patch Module (NPM) as a fix to existing software must be installed within 24 hours of release if the patch is designated as

“Emergency.” In the event that OI determines that a longer time window for installation of an emergency patch

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is appropriate (such as may be needed to update several client workstations), the sites will be informed of alternate install requirements.

c. Installation of software issued via the NPM as a fix to existing software (a routine patch) must be installed within 30 days of release.

d. Software installation must adhere to the following requirements:

Type of Software Release  
Installation Requirement

VistA Packages  
60 days

Emergency Patch  
24 hours unless directed otherwise

Routine Patch  
30 days

5. REFERENCES: None.

6. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: The Office of the Associate Chief Information Officer for Technical Services (192) for the contents of this Directive.

7. RESCISSIONS: VHA Directive 10-93-073, is rescinded. This VHA Directive expires April 30, 2006.

S/ by Tom Sanders for

Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.

Under Secretary for Health

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INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY ARCHITECTURE (Vista)

SOFTWARE PACKAGES AND PATCHES

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INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY ARCHITECTURE (Vista)

SOFTWARE PACKAGES AND PATCHES

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INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY ARCHITECTURE (Vista)

SOFTWARE PACKAGES AND PATCHES

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Washington, DC 20420

April 20, 2001H

INSTALLATION TIMEFRAMES FOR VETERANS HEALTH INFORMATION

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SOFTWARE PACKAGES AND PATCHES

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1. PURPOSE:2

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(VistA) software packages and patches.!

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## 2. BACKGROUND2

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support they provide to VHA.'

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by the National VistA Support (NVS) team of the Office of Information (OI) (19).

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notices are issued in advance of actual software release to allow facilities time to schedule

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restricted to the current version and the most recent prior release. There should only be one!

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released version of a package in the field at any time except for the 6-month period following a!

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new release.2

Therefore, support for the previous version will be terminated if additional version=

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updates are not issued within 60-days of initial release.

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### 3. POLICY:

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It is VHA policy that all VistA software must be installed as promptly as possible. This includes installing all VistA software on the legacy systems, as well as primary2

production accounts at integrated sites.2

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### 4. ACTION:

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Facility Directors are responsible for installing VistA software as follows:8

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a. All Vist,

A software packages must be installed in facility production accounts within 60

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days of release. The mandated installation window of 60 days supports the need to advance2

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VistA to keep pace with the rapidly evolving VHA health information system and to ensure that

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VHA mission critical objectives are supported.H  
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b. Installation of software issued via the National Patch Module (NPM2 ) as a fix to existing!  
software must be installed within 24 hours of release if the patch is designated as “Emergency.”

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In the event that OI determines that a longer time window for installation of an emergency patch!

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VHA Dir 2001-023, INSTALLATION TIMEFRAMES FOR VETERANS HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY ARCHITECTURE (VistA) SOFTWARE PACKAGES AND PATCHES

INSTALLATION TIMEFRAMES FOR VETERANS HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY A

SOFTWARE PACKAGES AND PATCHES

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines mandate

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