8-603. Separation of test and production environments.

Development software and testing tools can cause serious problems to the production environment if separation of these environments does not exist. Separation of the development, test and production environments is required, either on physically separate machines or separated by access controlled domains or directories. Processes must be documented and implemented to govern the transfer of software from the development environment to the production platform. Each agency must consider the use of a quality assurance environment where user acceptance testing can be conducted. The following controls must be considered:

(1) Access to compilers, editors and other system utilities must be removed from production systems when not required;

(2) Logon procedures and environmental identification must be sufficiently unique for production testing and development;

(3) Access to systems and business applications must be restricted to those individuals who have a business need to access those resources in the performance of their job responsibilities; and

(4) It is recognized that at times, business or technical requirements dictate the need to test with live data. In those cases, it is mandatory to have approval from the state information security officer, and to implement production-class controls in the applicable test environment to protect that information.

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History: Adopted on July 12, 2017.
URL: https://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/8-603.pdf