CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE INFORMATION
SERVICES COUNCIL

Emerging Technology Committee
Research Briefing

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Subject:	Application Vetting for Smart Phones and Tablets

Overview:

Mobile applications are being used each day on cell phones and tablets throughout the criminal justice community and the need to vet these applications before they are installed is very crucial. The FBI CJIS Security Policy clearly defines what actions must be taken to secure mobile devices themselves but it does not go into great detail as to how applications being loaded on them should be vetted. There are multiple things that should be looked at when evaluating or vetting applications for use on agency smart devices.

- Is there a business need for this application?
- Has the technical requirements and permissions been vetted?
- Has the company been vetted?
- Do you understand and agree to the terms in the User Agreement?
- Is the application available from the Google App Store or Apple iTunes?

Recommendations:

- Form a mobile application working group made up of managers from across the agency. This group will decide if there is a business need for the requested application and will have the expertise in their areas to back up the decision.
- Assign a member to review the company and to answer the following questions. Is support offered for the software? What country are they in? How many downloads have they had? What are the comments/reviews online from other users who have utilized the software?
- Assign a member to vet the applications user agreement to ensure the company does not collect or share your data with anyone unless you agree to do so.

- Keep a list of approved applications and what they do so that users do not spend cycles looking for applications that meet certain requirements when there could already be one on the approved list that meets there needs.
- Only download and Install software from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

Current Policies:

CJIS Security Policy 5.6	*Identification and Authentication*
CJIS Security Policy 5.13	*Mobile Devices*