

Status of Recommendations Information System Audit

NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CONNECTND CAMPUS SOLUTIONS

Report dated September 18, 2012

Office of the State Auditor
Division of State Audit

**LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND FISCAL REVIEW
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Representative Gary Kreidt – Chairman
Senator Ralph Kilzer – Vice Chairman

Representatives

*Wesley R. Belter
Jeff Delzer
Ron Guggisberg
Patrick Hatlestad
Jerry Kelsh
Keith Kempenich
Andrew G. Maragos
Bob Martinson
Corey Mock
Marvin E. Nelson
Chet Pollert
Dan Ruby
Jim Schmidt
Robert J. Skarphol
Wayne Trottier*

Senators

*Judy Lee
David O'Connell
Terry M. Wanzek*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Transmittal Letter	1
Recommendations Not Implemented	2
Improper Superuser Access	2
Test Accounts in Production.....	3

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

February 12, 2015

Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Jack Dalrymple, Governor
Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly
The State Board of Higher Education

A fundamental objective of the Office of the State Auditor's work is to bring about improvements through recommendations. To achieve this, our recommendations need to be timely and effectively implemented. The Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee (LAFRC) has requested the Office of the State Auditor to perform follow-up work after presentation of audit reports to the Committee. The LAFRC has also requested the Office of the State Auditor report those agencies which have not implemented audit recommendations.

The Office of the State Auditor has conducted an audit follow-up on the information system audit of ConnectND Campus Solutions, issued September 18, 2012. The North Dakota University System was contacted and limited testing was performed. Our conclusions are based on limited tests, and there is a possibility that more substantial testing might have changed our conclusions.

This report addresses the recommendations that have been fully implemented, and those that have not been implemented.

As a result of the follow-up review, both recommendations were determined to not be implemented. The following pages identify these recommendations and the North Dakota University System's responses.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert R. Peterson
State Auditor

RECOMMENDATIONS NOT IMPLEMENTED

Improper Superuser Access

Original Condition:

We noted developer accounts with access to modify security in ConnectND Campus Solutions. Developers should have no access or inquiry only access to the production system. The current level of security increases the risk of unauthorized changes to security. The North Dakota University System stated they were aware of the access given to developers, but felt it was necessary to the developer's job duties.

Recommendation:

We recommend the North Dakota University System properly limit developer's access to the production environment.

Action Taken:

The system directors examined ways to limit developer access to security while still allowing them to view it in order to help with problems and help desk tickets. Our security team continues to run a daily report which identifies security changes made and the person who made the changes.

Summary of Testing:

We reviewed security rights and noted no changes to developer access. Properly developed queries can provide the same ability to view security without providing developers the opportunity to modify security rights.

Future Action to be Taken:

The North Dakota University System should remove developer access to modify security in the production environment.

Agency Response:

Agree. We will ensure that developers no longer have access to modify security in the production environment.

Test Accounts in Production

Original Condition:

We noted test accounts in ConnectND Campus Solutions creating an increased risk of unauthorized access. Testing should be done in an environment separate from production. The North Dakota University System stated these accounts are developed in the production environment to more easily troubleshoot user issues.

Recommendation:

We recommend the North Dakota University System not develop test accounts in the production environment.

Action Taken:

Our security team unlocks the accounts used for testing security when needed, then re-locks the accounts when that use is complete. Other "test accounts" have been removed.

Summary of Testing:

Test accounts are not locked between testing phases. We noted at least 4 accounts that had not been used for at least 5 months (3 of them for at least 11 months) that were not locked. In addition, there were a number of other test accounts in production.

Future Action to be Taken:

The North Dakota University System should eliminate test accounts in production and perform testing in other environments.

Agency Response:

Partially disagree. We will ensure that test accounts are locked or eliminated when not needed. We will also reevaluate the need for these test accounts in the production environment, and if we determine the testing can be accomplished another way, we will eliminate them altogether.

State Auditor's Concluding Remarks:

While we understand there may occasionally be a need to use a test ID in the production environment, we believe these cases should be rare and test ID's should be immediately eliminated after such testing concludes.

You may obtain audit reports on the internet at:

www.nd.gov/auditor/

or by contacting the
Division of State Audit

Office of the State Auditor
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 117
Bismarck, ND 58505-0060

(701) 328-2241