



INSTITUTION'S TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

PURPOSE

During the past 25 years, Praxis Institute has been successful in improving its academic portfolio. However, this growth will require Praxis to continue to support the architecture of academic excellence by improving and maintaining its underlying academic infrastructure.

Praxis' library services, and information technology (IT), focus on providing the support infrastructure for these expanding academic endeavors. The library services, and IT, must be increasingly incorporated into the pursuit of the institution's aspirations, as they are an existential necessity for a contemporary post-secondary education entity to maintain a competitive edge. Operationally, this requires continuing to modernize the libraries', and information systems infrastructure.

Adequacy, improvements, and protection of the technical infrastructure, to include distance education, is sustained and ensured through the implementation and use of a robust ICAM system.

Identity, Credential, and Access Management – or ICAM – is a set of security tools, policies, and systems that help Praxis authenticate and authorize users on its networks. Through ICAM, Praxis can assure that the right person is accessing the right information at the right time for the right reason.

- Identity management allows Praxis to establish, maintain, and terminate credentials for individuals.
- Credential management allows Praxis to issue, track, update, and revoke credentials.
- Access management allows Praxis to authorize access to specific documents or applications, making sure only approved individuals can interact with sensitive information.

The ongoing operation and maintenance of technical infrastructure, including distance education, are guaranteed through risk assessments of internal and external risks to the security, confidentiality, and integrity of student data. The Information Security Program is adjusted or revised based on the results of the risk assessments.

The privacy, safety, and security of data contained within the institutional networks is protected through the following strategies:

- ❖ Establishing Windows file and folder level permissions according to the users' needs and duties.
- ❖ Implementing password policies.
- ❖ Encryption of hard drives of servers and computers.
- ❖ Implementing email encryption.

- ❖ All Internet access from Praxis' computer systems is controlled, reviewed, and related using an appliance (firewall) network security system.
- ❖ Checking and configuring firewalls according to the best practice.
- ❖ Deployment anti-virus application on all Praxis' computers and servers.
- ❖ Implementation of policies that allow the restriction of USB flash drives.
- ❖ Establishing operating system access policies for local accounts.
- ❖ Deployment of a local administrator account different of the user administration account.
- ❖ Deployment of a multi-factor authentication method.
- ❖ Deployment of a password manager tool.
- ❖ Set the windows computer to lock automatically.
- ❖ Training employees to increase awareness to lock computers when workspace is not occupied.
- ❖ Deployment of several SSID according to the access level policies.
- ❖ Design and implement back up policies that include servers and critical computers.
- ❖ Deployment of the 3-2-1 rule for the backup of servers.
- ❖ Design and implement a disaster recovery plan that allows Praxis the continuity of its operation if a disaster occurs.
- ❖ Servers and core network devices physically located in an access-controlled area.
- ❖ Design and implement patching policies that allow the IT platform to be updated.
- ❖ Design and implement disposal policies that allow disposing of the IT assets in a safe way.

IT provides operational support to the employees and technology support for delivering Praxis' educational mission. There is one keyway to realize this:

- To provide IT with the necessary resources to directly support faculty, and students in their academic process and staff in their day-to-day job performance.

To deepen the support for Praxis' mission, the libraries provide excellence in knowledge curation. This service helps solidify the infrastructure for learning by moving beyond the traditional role of knowledge service provider and engaging in the activity of knowledge creation.

The libraries support all aspects of the learning process and provide crucial foundation to individual, programs, and institutional projects. Whether through physical collections, electronic collections, data management, support for textbook affordability, data literacy, and research support.

The computer system and network reliability are ensured through a contractual agreement established on 01/2022 with DEPLOIT GROUP, a leading name in IT with Headquarters in Miami, that offer a myriad of services and products designed to simplify and streamline the day-to-day operations of the institution including cloud and managed services to infrastructure solutions, hardware and software procurement, disaster recovery, and more.

AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

The plan is available to administration, faculty, and staff through the institution's website Consumer Information tab under the Institutional Plans heading

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Students evaluate the infrastructure, specifically library services, distance education/IT structure, no less than once a year via an anonymous survey on Survey Monkey Platform. Staff and faculty appraise the IT structure ongoingly identifying operational issues or IT glitches on the day-to-day operations. The plan is revised as necessary.