

# Endpoint Detection and Response Solution–Deployment Administration

#22-108



The University of Texas at El Paso  
**Office of Auditing and Consulting**

"Committed to Service, Independence and Quality"



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June 27, 2022

Dr. Heather Wilson  
President, The University of Texas at El Paso  
Administration Building, Suite 500  
El Paso, Texas 79968

Dear Dr. Wilson:

The Office of Auditing and Consulting Services has completed a limited-scope audit of Endpoint Detection and Response Solution–Deployment Administration. During the audit, we identified opportunities for improvement and offered the corresponding recommendations in a separate management letter. We intend the recommendations will assist the department in strengthening controls and help ensure that the University’s mission, goals, and objectives are achieved.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by the Technology Support and Information Security staff during our audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lori Wertz'.

Lori Wertz  
Chief Audit Executive

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Auditing and Consulting Services has completed a limited scope audit of *Endpoint Detection and Response Solution–Deployment Administration* to determine adherence to State and University security controls and standards. Due to the confidential nature of the audit, we issued a separate management letter to Technology Support, which details specific findings and recommendations. These confidential results are exempt from the Texas Public Information Act under Texas Government Code §552.139.

### Background

During the summer of 2021, the University initiated a roll-out of Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) technology to its endpoints, including user computers and servers. These efforts were put in place to help the University better detect and respond to cyber threats in an automated and timely manner. Technology Support handled the deployment of the EDR solution to user computers with Microsoft Windows operating systems, the focus of this audit.

The audit was conducted by the Institute of Internal *Auditors’ International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards*.

### Audit Objectives and Scope

Determine if processes and tools were in place to ensure (i) the EDR solution has been effectively deployed to current and new computers and (ii) EDR-onboarded computers are active and are periodically checking into the EDR solution. The scope of the audit is limited to September 1, 2021 to April 22, 2022 for user computers with Microsoft Windows.

### Strengths

Technology Support has implemented Microsoft Windows Autopilot, which helps automate the onboarding of new Windows computers into EDR. They have been actively interacting with users regarding the need to upgrade to a Microsoft Windows operating systems version that the EDR solution supports. Technology Support and the Information Security Office have defined roles and responsibilities related to the EDR deployment administration.

### Summary of Audit Results

Endpoint Detection and Response Solution–Deployment Administration	Number of Findings
A. Endpoint Detection Response Solution Deployment	3

## **Conclusion**

Based on the audit procedures performed, we conclude that Technology Support can strengthen existing security controls by implementing the recommendations included in this memo.

We wish to thank the management and staff at Technology Support and Information Security Office for their assistance and cooperation throughout the audit.

## **Report Distribution:**

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Mr. Francisco Poblano, Associate Vice President, Technology Support

Mr. Gerard Cochrane, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer

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