What is OMB M-06-16?

OMB M-06-16 is a memorandum issued by the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) outlining recommended actions for all federal departments and agencies to properly safeguard information assets. It specifically directs all federal agencies and departments to encrypt all data on mobile computers and devices.

The recommendations outlined in OMB M-06-16 are in addition to the recommendations supplied by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for the protection of remote information.

How Does OMB M-06-16 Affect My Organization?

OMB M-06-16 requires all federal government agencies and departments to secure sensitive information that is accessed remotely or stored offsite. This includes information that is physically transported outside of an agency’s perimeter, including information transported on removable media (e.g., CDs, DVDs, flash drives) and portable mobile devices (e.g., laptops). OMB M-06-16 also applies to sensitive information shared with outside organizations.

Federal government agencies and departments that handles any type of sensitive information, such as Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or Personal Health Information (PHI), need to ensure that their method of protecting sensitive information meets OMB M-06-16 compliance requirements.

OMB M-06-16 also recommends that all federal agencies and departments implement the policies outlined in the NIST remote information security checklist, including NIST Special Publication 800-53, which calls for the use of validated cryptography when data is removed from a department or agency’s control.

How Does Smartcrypt Help Meet OMB M-06-16 Compliance Requirements?

Smartcrypt by PKWARE fully addresses the recommendations outlined in OMB M-06-16 by strongly encrypting data to ensure it remains protected at its origin or destination, both in movement or storage. Because Smartcrypt encrypts the data itself rather than the storage device, it remains protected even if placed on removable media that is lost or stolen during transit.
Customer Success Story: OMB M-06-16 Compliance

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is using PKWARE’s smart encryption software not only to meet OMB M-06-16 and FIPS 140-2 compliance requirements, but also to securely exchange sensitive information with hundreds of external partners, including other government agencies, research labs, universities, and large corporations. More information is available in the Gartner Case Study: CMS Data-Sharing Project Highlights the Benefits of a Multi-platform Approach.

In addition to meeting the recommendations outlined in OMB M-06-16, Smartcrypt helps solve several other data security issues that government agencies face today. Please visit our website to learn more about how Smartcrypt can help solve your data security issues.