

Distribution Date	July 17, 2025
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CIT Name	Updated Lobby Tablet Recommendations

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Description	<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of this CIT is to provide updated guidance and recommendations regarding lobby tablet compatibility and operating system (OS) requirements for the new web-based lobby application (SCR CA-213363). This document outlines minimum and recommended OS versions, device preferences, and important considerations related to Android support and patching lifecycles.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>To ensure compatibility with the latest Lobby web-based application features and security standards, the Project is updating the supported OS guidance for Android-based lobby tablets. Android version support and patching timelines vary significantly by device vendor and model, which can impact the usability and security of tablets used in the field.</p> <p>With the release of CA-213363, the Project's new web-based application will no longer support Android OS versions 13 and earlier. The current Android OS version is 16. The new web-based application is supported on Android 14 and above; functionality is not supported on Android 13 and earlier.</p>
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Additional Information

The Project recommends the use of Samsung devices due to their consistent Android patching timelines and broader support across OS versions.

Note: CA-213363 does not support iOS (Apple) at this time.

Unlike desktop operating systems, Android OS development and support cycles are fragmented. A new Android version is typically released every year; however, each device manufacturer (vendor) determines its own timeline for implementing updates, providing patches, and ending support. This means Android's OS lifecycle is not universally aligned across devices, making it difficult to apply a strict "N-1" compliance model across all county-owned tablets.

Note: N-1 refers to the current/latest release minus one release back.

Instead, Counties should evaluate the vendor's track record for delivering timely OS upgrades and security patches when selecting devices. The Project recommends choosing enterprise-grade Android tablets that are supported for multiple Android versions and offer extended patching support.

Android Version Compatibility:

- Current Android Version: 16
- Recommended Minimum: 15
- Minimum supported version: 14
- Unsupported Versions: 13 and below

Device and Security Considerations:

- Verify how long the vendor supports OS upgrades for the specific model.
- Review the vendor's security patching timeline to ensure the device will remain compliant with CalSAWS security standards.
- Select enterprise-grade devices that support at least two future Android OS releases and provide regular security updates over an extended lifecycle.

County Actions

Counties are advised to share this guidance with appropriate IT and procurement staff to support future planning and ensure all future tablet purchases meet or exceed the Android OS N-1 compliance recommendation.

If you have questions on this CIT, please reach out to the Primary Contact and cc your Regional Managers.

Primary Project Contact

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Attachments

None

Web Portal Link

[REDACTED]

OR

You may also retrieve the CIT document and attachments by following these steps:

1. Click on the CRFIs & CITs link at the top of the page.
2. Click on the "CalSAWS Information Transmittal (CIT)" folder.
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