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## FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

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### ADVISORY BULLETIN

**AB 2014-04**

### **Guidance on the Retirement of the Microsoft Windows XP Operating System**

This advisory bulletin is being issued by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to ensure that Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Federal Home Loan Banks (collectively, the Regulated Entities), and the Office of Finance are aware of and responsive to the retirement and ending of support of Windows XP and Office 2003. This advisory bulletin is consistent with guidance issued by other federal financial regulatory agencies.

The Windows XP operating system and Office 2003 are no longer receiving technical assistance from Microsoft, including updates and patching, after April 8, 2014. While the technology will continue to function, without support it may become more prone to operational breakdowns and security risks.

The Regulated Entities and the Office of Finance should review the effectiveness of their system and patch management programs to ensure that the risks associated with this retirement are appropriately understood and mitigated. The review should also consider exposures from third party services providers and other vendors that use Windows XP or Office 2003 upon which the Regulated Entity or the Office of Finance has a material reliance.

Advisory Bulletins communicate guidance to FHFA supervision staff and the regulated entities on specific supervisory matters pertaining to the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Office of Finance, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac. This bulletin is effective immediately upon issuance. Contact Kari Walter, Senior Associate Director, Office of Supervision Policy at [Kari.Walter@fhfa.gov](mailto:Kari.Walter@fhfa.gov) or (202) 649-3405, or Terry Miller, Senior Examiner (Policy), Office of Supervision Policy at [Terry.Miller@fhfa.gov](mailto:Terry.Miller@fhfa.gov) or (202) 649-3524 with comments or questions pertaining to this bulletin. This Advisory Bulletin is a Public document.