DIR Cybersecurity Insight

Texas Department of Information Resources

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 1 YEAR 2014

ADDRESSING THE EVERCHANGING SECURITY RISKS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

A continuous effort from different areas are committed to our Statewide Information Security Program. Letting you know about different opportunities, news and important issues is part of that commitment.

Securing the Human (StH) Training for End Users

In the continuing effort to support your agency security program, the Office of the CISO (OCISO) has purchased **Securing the Human *End User*** training for State of Texas employees via the SANS Institute.

Securing the Human *End User* training focuses on daily challenges, including topics such as social engineering threats, safe web browsing, and the importance of using strong passwords. This computer-based training is designed to increase your users' security awareness by adding elements to help modify online behavior. Your agency will be able to choose up to four modules per month throughout the year.

Please contact DIR Security for more information.

FAQ at our website

What is SB1597

Senate Bill 1597— directed each state agency to develop and periodically update a security plan to be supplied to DIR .

To ensure consistent comparison and analysis, the OCISO will develop the framework and supporting templates that agencies will use to report the status of their security program.

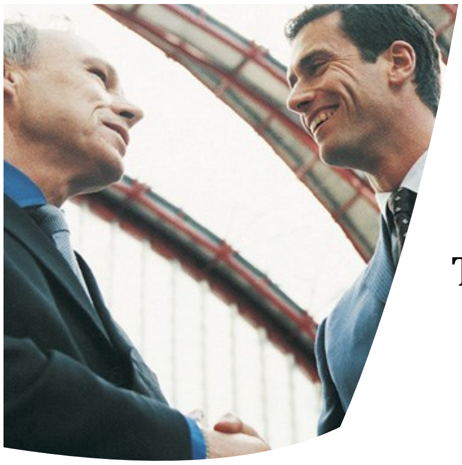
The OCISO first has to develop the architecture prior to delivering the security plan template to agencies. Next, to allow the agencies adequate time to determine compliance, the OCISO will deliver an overview document based on the architecture in January 2014.

Who?

All State agencies need to submit their Agency Security Plan to DIR OCISO

When?

Every even year starting on October 2014.



Support for Windows XP ends on April 2014

The Risk of running Windows XP

After April 8, Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3) customers will no longer receive new security updates, non-security hotfixes, free or paid assisted support options or online technical content updates. This means that any new vulnerabilities discovered in Windows XP after its “end of life” will not be addressed by new security updates from Microsoft . Organizations need a level of certainty about the integrity of their systems. Minimizing the number of systems running unsupported operating systems is helpful in achieving that.

“The average price on the black market for a Windows XP exploit is $50,000 to $150,000”
-Jason Fossen, a trainer for SANS and security expert for Microsoft.

Time is ticking away,

Are you ready?

Risks:

- Windows XP will be indefensible when security patches cease to be issued by Microsoft .
- First quarter of calendar year 2013, NIST.gov published 28 severe network exploitable vulnerabilities affecting Windows XP .
- Attackers holding back malware for vulnerabilities once End of Life occurs
- Cannot fully mitigate risk without patches.
- Simply maintaining up to date anti-virus on Windows XP will not suffice.

Are you familiar with DIR security services?

Office of the Chief Information Officer has expanded the portfolio of the Security Services available for State Agencies.

For more information visit www.dir.texas.gov/security

Awareness and Education

Gartner Webinars

Tuesday February 11, 2:00 PM – User Provisioning: Beyond Join, Move, Leave.

Tuesday March 11’ 2:00 PM – Detect data Breaches with user activity monitoring.

Registration is available at:
http://www.dir.texas.gov/security/training

CIAS Executive Webinars

Don’t Be A Target

DIR, in collaboration with the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS), has designed a high-level cybersecurity awareness webinar specifically for agency executive and senior management staff. No technical expertise is required for the webinars. The webinar will be provided on three separate dates.

Wednesday January 29, 2:00 PM
Thursday January 30, 9:00 AM
Tuesday February 4, 1:00 PM

Please visit “Don’t Be A Target” video on youtube for a short video describing the webinars.

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Cybersecurity Tips

Do you have your Cybersecurity resolutions for 2014?

The New Year is upon us, and here is a top five list of resolutions that we recommend you consider, and stick to throughout the year.

✓ Identify

Inventory your sensitive data.

✓ Protect

Update and patch your applications, software, and operating systems; check those default settings and protect the administrator accounts.

✓ Detect

Schedule a vulnerability assessment or Controlled Penetration Testing (CPT).

✓ Respond

Update and exercise your incident response plan, engage your team and assign responsibilities.

✓ Recover

Make sure CSIRT contact information is up-to-date.

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