1979

ANNUAL REPORT

COMPUTER SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

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Chairman
December, 1979

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Computer Security Subcommittee of the DCI Security Committee

operates under the Charter as provided by DCID 1/11, "Security Committee".

Specifically, Attachment 2 of that document, "Computer Security",

directs the Subcommittee to:

        a. Review, formulate, and recommend to the DCI policies, standards,

and procedures to protect intelligence data stored or processed by computer.

        b. Formulate and recommend resource programming objectives.

        c. Facilitate within the Intelligence Community the exchange of

information relating to computer security threats, vulnerabilities, and

countermeasures.

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The Computer Security Subcommittee is chaired by [   ] of

NSA, the Executive Secretary is [   ] also of NSA, and the membership

consists of each Intelligence Community Agency. Additionally, the Office of the

Secretary of Defense, WWMCCS Project Office, and the Information Handling Committee

are represented on a permanent observer basis. (A list of the members is attached.)

II. MEETINGS

During the past year, we have taken the opportunity to rotate the location

of the monthly meetings among several of the member agencies. This was done to

promote information exchange by making it more convenient for the hosting agency to

provide speakers and interested participants. The Subcommittee feels this procedure

has had a beneficial effect, and we anticipate a continuation of the practice. As a

forum for information exchange, the Subcommittee has invited speakers to discuss a

variety of topics which are of interest to the members. The briefings to the

Subcommittee have included subjects such as:

        -- APEX, the revision of the codeword/compartmentation scheme, and its

potential impact on ADP operations within the community.

-- The ASD(C^3I) initiative in Computer Security, whose primary aim

is to encourage the U.S. ADP industry to incorporate recent advances in

"Secure Operating Systems" into their product lines.

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III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Subcommittee gave a great deal of attention to the revision of DCID 1/11,

primarily Attachment 2, which embodies the Charter of the Computer Security

Subcommittee. The Subcommittee's concern was to resolve the apparent ambiguity

in the Subcommittee's scope of authority caused by the wording in DCID 1/16

which excludes communications processing systems. After much discussion, the

Subcommittee has concurred with the revision of DCID 1/11 as proposed by the

Security Committee.

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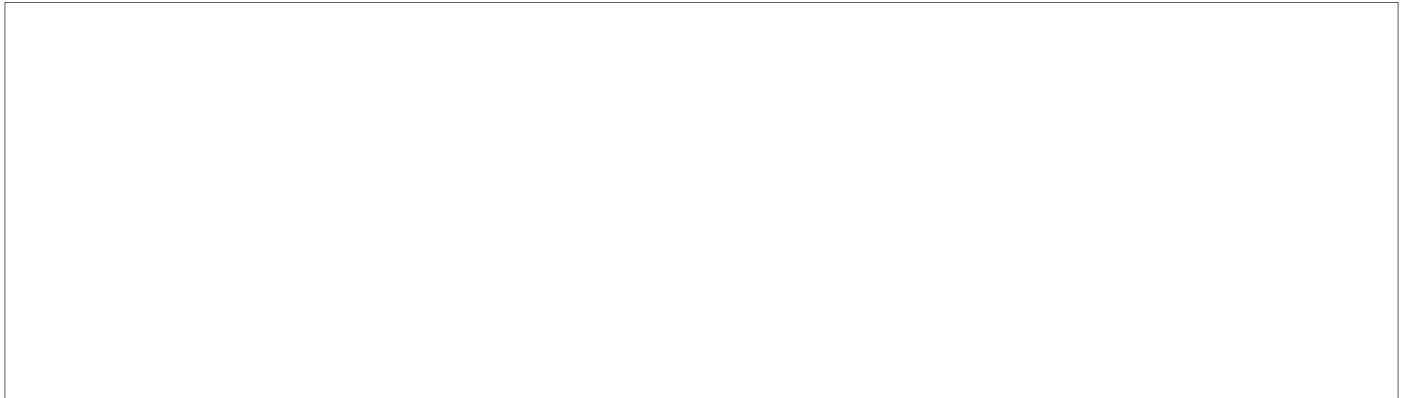
During the past year, the Subcommittee initiated the publication of the "Computer Security News Notes", which are intended as a vehicle for bringing subjects of interest to the attention of the community. They will be published aperiodically, as subjects of interest arise, and will be distributed to the Subcommittee Members, who will distribute them as they see fit within their respective agencies. The first News Note was published in September 1979, and provided information   A second is presently in draft, and will highlight the concerns caused by the rapid proliferation of word processing systems.

IV. FUTURE ACTIONS

The past year has seen considerable discussion concerning a possible revision of DCID 1/16. The Subcommittee is presently organizing for this task, and foresees both reformatting the present document, as well as incorporating some new sections.

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The Chairman of the Computer Security Subcommittee will be an observer on the newly-formed National COMSEC Board's Computer Security Working Group. This should provide the visibility/coordination necessary for each group to operate within its own sphere of responsibility and yet avoid the promulgation of contradictory policy and guidance.

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Chairman

Computer Security Subcommittee

Encl:
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