INTERNET EXPLORER 10
SECURITY TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE (STIG) OVERVIEW

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Developed by DISA for the DoD

Trademark Information

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Executive Summary

The Internet Explorer (IE) 10 Overview, along with the IE 10 and Windows Desktop Application Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIGs), provides the technical security policies, requirements, and implementation details for applying security concepts to Commercial-Off- The-Shelf (COTS) applications.

The nearly universal presence of systems on the desktops of all levels of staff provides tremendous opportunities for office automation, communication, data sharing, and collaboration. Unfortunately, this presence also brings about dependence and vulnerabilities. Malicious and mischievous forces have attempted to take advantage of the vulnerabilities and dependencies to disrupt the work processes of the Government. Compounding this problem is the fact that the vendors of software applications have not expended sufficient effort to provide strong security in their applications. Where applications do offer security options, the default settings typically do not provide a strong security posture.

The requirements and recommendations set forth in this document will assist ISSOs and ISSMs in protecting desktop applications in DoD locations hereafter referred to as sites. The responsible Configuration Control Board (CCB) will approve revisions to site systems that could have a security impact. Therefore, before implementing desktop application security measures, the IAO will submit a change notice to the CCB for review and approval.

Although there are a few different operating system platforms for desktop environments, this document addresses applications running on Microsoft Windows platforms. This document does not include specific guidance for UNIX, Linux, or Apple desktop environments at this time.
The security requirements detailed in this document apply to applications installed on Microsoft Windows Server platforms as well as Microsoft Windows Workstation platforms. On server platforms, the security configuration parameters will be set to at least as restrictive values as those listed in this document.

1.2 Authority

DoD Instruction (DoDI) 8500.01 requires that "all IT that receives, processes, stores, displays, or transmits DoD information will be […] configured […] consistent with applicable DoD cybersecurity policies, standards, and architectures" and tasks that Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) "develops and maintains control correlation identifiers (CCIs), security requirements guides (SRGs), security technical implementation guides (STIGs), and mobile code risk categories and usage guides that implement and are consistent with DoD cybersecurity policies, standards, architectures, security controls, and validation procedures, with the support of the NSA/CSS, using input from stakeholders, and using automation whenever possible." This document is provided under the authority of DoDI 8500.01.

Although the use of the principles and guidelines in these SRGs/STIGs provide an environment that contributes to the security requirements of DoD systems, applicable NIST SP 800-53

cybersecurity controls need to be applied to all systems and architectures based on the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Instruction (CNSSI) 1253.

1.3 Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

Severity Category Codes (referred to as CAT) are a measure of vulnerabilities used to assess a facility or system security posture. Each security policy specified in this document is assigned a Severity Category Code of CAT I, II, or III.

Table 1-1: Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

	DISA Category Code Guidelines
CAT I	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which will, **directly and immediately** result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.
CAT II	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which **has a potential** to result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.
CAT III	Any vulnerability, the existence of which **degrades measures** to protect against loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.

1.4 STIG Distribution Internet Explorer 10

Parties within the DoD and Federal Government's computing environments can obtain the applicable STIG from the Information Assurance Support Environment (IASE) website. This site contains the latest copies of any STIGs, SRGs, and other related security information. The address for the IASE site is http://iase.disa.mil/.

1.5 Document Revisions

Comments or proposed revisions to this document should be sent via email to the following address: disa.stig_spt@mail.mil. DISA will coordinate all change requests with the relevant DoD organizations before inclusion in this document. Approved changes will be made in accordance with the DISA maintenance release schedule.

1.6 Other Considerations

DISA accepts no liability for the consequences of applying specific configuration settings made on the basis of the SRGs/STIGs. It must be noted that the configurations settings specified should be evaluated in a local, representative test environment before implementation in a production environment, especially within large user populations. The extensive variety of environments makes it impossible to test these configuration settings for all potential software configurations.

For some production environments, failure to test before implementation may lead to a loss of required functionality. Evaluating the risks and benefits to a system's particular circumstances

and requirements is the system owner's responsibility. The evaluated risks resulting from not applying specified configuration settings must be approved by the responsible Authorizing Official. Furthermore, DISA implies no warranty that the application of all specified configurations will make a system 100% secure.

Security guidance is provided for the Department of Defense. While other agencies and organizations are free to use it, care must be given to ensure that all applicable security guidance is applied both at the device hardening level as well as the architectural level due to the fact that some of the settings may not be able to be configured in environments outside the DoD architecture.

1.7 Product Approval Disclaimer

The existence of a STIG does not equate to DoD approval for the procurement or use of a product.

STIGs provide configurable operational security guidance for products being used by the DoD. STIGs, along with vendor confidential documentation, also provide a basis for assessing compliance with Cybersecurity controls/control enhancements which supports system Assessment and Authorization (A&A) under the DoD Risk Management Framework (RMF). DoD Authorizing Officials (AOs) may request available vendor confidential documentation for a product that has a STIG for product evaluation and RMF purposes from disa.stig_spt@mail.mil. This documentation is not published for general access to protect vendor's proprietary information.

AOs have the purview to determine product use/approval IAW DoD policy and through RMF risk acceptance. Inputs into acquisition or pre-acquisition product selection include such processes as:

- National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) evaluation for National Security Systems (NSS) (http://www.niap-ccevs.org/) IAW CNSSP #11
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cryptographic Module Validation Program (CMVP) (http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/STM/cmvp/) IAW Federal/DoD mandated standards
- DoD Unified Capabilities (UC) Approved Products List (APL) (http://www.disa.mil/network-services/ucco) IAW DoDI 8100.04

2. ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 Security Assessment Information

To conduct a manual review of compliance with the IE 10 STIG requirements, it is necessary to use some tools that are provided with the Windows operating system. Some of these tools are as follows:

- Microsoft Management Console - Security Configuration and Analysis Snap-in
- Registry Editor