Mission Assurance (MA)

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Interim Guidance for the Use of Canonical Names (CNAME) in Cloud Computing

Reference: DoD Instruction 8500.01

DoD Instruction 8500.01 tasks 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 cyber security policies, standards, architectures, security controls, and validation procedures, with the support of the NSA/CSS, using input from stakeholders” and DoD Component heads “ensure that all DoD IT under their purview complies with applicable STIGs, security configuration guides, and SRGs.”.

Under the authority of DoD Directive 8500.01 and in support of the DoD Cloud Initiatives, DISA is releasing interim security guidance for Domain Name System CNAME requirements. The change allows public facing websites to resolve to a .mil address.

STIG ID: SRG-APP-000516-DNS-000113

Rule Title: A zone file must not include resource records for hosts which resolve to a fully qualified domain name residing in another zone.

Exception: The exceptions are glue records supporting zone delegations, CNAME records supporting a system migration, or CNAME records that point to third party Content Delivery Networks (CDN) or cloud computing platforms. In the case of third-party CDNs or cloud offerings, an approved mission need must be demonstrated.

STIG ID: SRG-APP-000516-DNS-000114

Rule Title: CNAME records must not point to a zone with lesser security

for more than six months.

Exception: The exceptions are glue records supporting zone delegations, CNAME records supporting a system migration, or CNAME records that point to third party Content Delivery Networks (CDN) or cloud computing platforms. In the case of third-party CDNs or cloud offerings, an approved mission need must be demonstrated (AO approval of use of a commercial cloud offering would satisfy this requirement).

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