NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Health Information Technology (IT)

Security

Protecting electronic health information is crucial to organizations exchanging data across the healthcare enterprise.

Overview

Collaborating with stakeholders, NIST provides standards, guidelines, tools, and technologies to protect information systems, including health IT systems, against threats to the confidentiality of information, integrity of information and processes, and availability of information and services.

Industry Need Addressed

With the increased use of electronic health record systems, organizations need guidance to effectively and efficiently manage their security programs, including handling the challenges associated with electronic data exchange and ensuring the data is adequately protected.

NIST Approach

Specific for health IT, researchers are:

- Leveraging security automation principles and specifications to develop baseline security configuration checklists and tool kits to aid organizations in implementing the HIPAA Security Rule standards and implementation specifications.

- Developing a harmonized set of security principles for use in establishing architectures supporting the exchange of health information.

- Conducting outreach and awareness on security challenges, threats and safeguards, including presentations at industry conferences, workshops, federal advisory committees and at other federal agencies on the application of security standards and guidelines to support health IT implementations.

Impact

These research efforts result in standards, guidelines, tools, and technologies that are being used to provide for the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of health information and information systems.

For additional information, please visit http://www.nist.gov/healthcare/security/index.cfm

Key Contacts

Kevin Stine
Information Technology Laboratory
Computer Security Division
kevin.stine@nist.gov
(301) 975-4483

Matt Scholl
Information Technology Laboratory
Computer Security Division
matthew.scholl@nist.gov
(301) 975-2941