IT Security Essential Body of Knowledge (EBK):
A Competency and Functional Framework for IT Security Workforce Development

Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board Meeting
December 7, 2007
Training & Education: Program Goals and Objectives

National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace

Priority III:
National Cyberspace Security Awareness and Training Program

NCSD Education and Training Program

Program Goal:
Foster adequate training and education programs to support the Nation’s cyber security needs

- Improve cyber security education for IT professionals
- Increase efficiency of existing cyber security training programs
- Promote widely-recognized, vendor-neutral cyber security certifications
Training & Education: Key Programs

- National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education - CAEIAE Program

- Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service - SFS Program

Origin: IT Security Workforce Development Initiative

- President’s Critical Infrastructure Protection Board (PCIPB) IT Security Certification Working Group Recommendations

- National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC)

- National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace, Priority III

National Strategy To Secure Cyber Space

February, 2003
IT Security EBK: Objectives

- Ensure that we have the most qualified and appropriately trained IT security workforce possible
- Establish a national baseline representing the essential knowledge and skills that IT security practitioners should possess to perform
- Advance the IT security landscape by promoting uniform competency guidelines
IT Security EBK: Framework Model

- **Roles:** Manage, Design, Implement, Evaluate
- **Competencies:**
IT Security EBK: Contributing Resources

- DoD’s Workforce Improvement Program (WIP) – Directive 8570.1 IA Training and Certification Framework
- Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Training Standards
- DoD Physical and Personnel Security program policy
- Federal Acquisition Regulation
- Various Federal agency program plans
- Position Descriptions
- National Institute of Standards and Technology SP-800 Series
- FIPS Publication 200: Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems
- ISO/IEC Standards
- Models (COBIT, SSE-CMM, CMMi)
- Microsoft Operations Framework
Develop notional competencies using DoD IA Skill Standards
Identify functions from resources and critical work functions (CWFs) and map to competencies
Identify key terms and concepts for each competency area
Identify notional IT security roles
Categorize functions as Manage, Design, Implement, Evaluate
Map roles to competencies to functional perspectives
IT Security EBK: Functional Perspectives

Work functions that concern:

**Manage**
overseeing a program or technical aspect of a security program at a high level and ensuring its currency with changing risk and threat

**Design**
scoping a program or developing procedures and processes that guide work execution

**Implement**
putting programs, processes, or policy into action within an organization

**Evaluate**
assessing the effectiveness of a program, policy, or process in achieving its objectives
IT Security EBK: The Framework

14 Competency Areas
- Definitions to specify parameters and avoid overlap
- Work functions categorized by functional perspective (M, D, I, E)

Key Terms and Concepts

10 Function-Based IT Security Roles
- Clusters of organizational positions/jobs
- Example job titles provided for clarification
- Role charts illustrate the 3-dimensional model in a useful format
IT Security EBK: Framework Components

- 14 Competency Areas
- Key Terms and Concepts
- 10 Function-Based IT Security Roles

Competency, Role and Function Matrix
IT Security EBK: 14 Competency Areas

- Data Security
- Digital Forensics
- Enterprise Continuity
- Incident Management
- IT Security Training and Awareness
- IT Systems Operations and Maintenance
- Network Security and Telecommunications
- Personnel Security
- Physical and Environmental Security
- Procurement
- Regulatory and Standards
- Risk Management
- Strategic Management
- System and Application Security
IT Security EBK: Regulatory and Standards Compliance

Refers to the application of the principles, policies, and procedures that enable an enterprise to meet applicable information security laws, regulations, standards, and policies to satisfy statutory requirements, perform industry-wide best practices, and achieve its information security program goals.

Key Terms and Concepts:
- Assessment
- Auditing
- Certification
- Compliance
- Ethics
- Evaluation
- Governance
- Laws
- Policy
- Privacy Principles/Fair Info Practices
- Procedure
- Regulations
- Security Program
- Standards
- Validation
- Verification

Functions:
- **Manage**: Establish and administer a risk-based enterprise information security program that addresses applicable standards, procedures, directives, policies, regulations and laws
- **Design**: Specify enterprise information security compliance program control requirements
- **Implement**: Monitor and assess the information security compliance practices of all personnel in accordance with enterprise policies and procedures
- **Evaluate**: Assess the effectiveness of enterprise compliance program controls against the applicable laws, regulations, standards, policies, and procedures
IT Security EBK: 10 Roles

- Chief Information Officer
- Digital Forensics Professional
- Information Security Officer/Chief Security Officer
- IT Security Compliance Professional
- IT Security Engineer
- IT Systems Operations and Maintenance Professional
- IT Security Professional
- Physical Security Professional
- Privacy Professional
- Procurement Professional
Role: IT Security Compliance Professional

Role Description:
The IT Security Compliance Professional is responsible for overseeing, evaluating, and supporting compliance issues pertinent to the organization. Individuals in this role perform a variety of activities, encompassing compliance from an internal and external perspective. Such activities include leading and conducting internal investigations, assisting employees comply with internal policies and procedures, and serving as a resource to external compliance officers during independent assessments. The IT Security Compliance Professional provides guidance and autonomous evaluation of the organization to management.

Competencies/Functional Perspectives:
- Data Security: Evaluate
- Digital Forensics: Evaluate
- Enterprise Continuity: Evaluate
- Incident Management: Evaluate
- IT Security Training and Awareness: Evaluate
- IT Systems Operations & Maintenance: Evaluate
- Network Security & Telecommunications: Evaluate
- Personnel Security: Evaluate
- Physical and Environmental Security: Evaluate
- Procurement: Evaluate
- Regulatory & Standards Compliance: Design, Implement, Evaluate
- Risk Management: Implement, Evaluate
- Strategic Management: Evaluate
- System and Application Security: Evaluate

Job Titles:
- Auditor
- Compliance Officer
- Inspector General
- Inspector / Investigator
- Regulatory Affairs Analyst
## IT Security EBK:
### A Competency and Functional Framework for IT Security Workforce Development

**Functional Perspectives**
- M - Manage
- D - Design
- I - Implement
- E - Evaluate

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<tr>
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<td>7 Network Security and Telecommunications</td>
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IT Security EBK: Strengthening the IT Security Workforce

- Training
- Professional Development
- Education
- Workforce Management
IT Security EBK Testimonials & Federal Register Notice Feedback

“I found this to be an excellent framework with which to move us forward as we continually deal with security issues. Job well done”
- Maryland Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts

“The document is well thought out and simple to read. Categories are well done”
- CISSP, Hickman Air Force Base, Hawaii

“It is a very well researched and formatted document that presents a common framework that is greatly needed. I applaud the effort that went into this and hope that it will get traction out there in the greater community”
- BAE Systems
IT Security EBK Testimonials & Federal Register Notice Feedback

“I commend you all for taking on such a challenge...with numerous security (and now privacy) certifications in the country, it is a real achievement to be able to craft a document as you all have managed to do -- it is not an easy task”

- CEO, SECNAP Network Security (and IBM Data Governance Council)

“This is straight forward, logical, and just downright makes sense. I would love to see this permeate throughout the government.”

- SAIC Integrated Security and Systems Solutions

“A good document that is needed in the information security communities. As a developer of Information Security/IA curriculum and as an IT Security Auditor, simple standardization would definitely be a step in the right direction.”

- Information Assurance Training Coordinator, Dynetics, Inc.
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