

Task 3.4 Working Group

Task Overview

The FSA Security and Privacy team participates in numerous FSA and Departmental Working Groups. We provide subject matter expertise and briefing materials as necessary to support the team. Participation in working groups will be limited to those meetings where contractor involvement is necessary.

Task Details

The FSA security and privacy team will need to participate in several working groups, either on a consistent basis or ad hoc. The team may participate in groups that address security training, incident response, critical infrastructure protection, contractor clearances, or any number of security related topics. We will need to contact the lead for each working group and discuss areas where our support may further the mission of the group. When requested, we will prepare briefing materials to support the security and privacy team.

To date, we have supported the Xacta C&A working group and the Incident Response working group almost exclusively. Our involvement in both working groups has been extensive, providing thought leadership, chairing meetings, and developing supporting documentation. As the year progresses our involvement in Department working groups most likely will increase.

We also now support the Configuration Management Working Group. Our role is to ensure that patch management is embedded in FSA's final CM Plan. In parallel, we are meeting with several patch management vendors to review each company's capabilities and their applicability to the FSA environment

Recently, we began working with a newly formed Critical System Working Group that includes participants from across Education. Our initial task from the group is to develop a methodology to determine the security evaluation process systems should undergo when making changes to its components or data. We completed a draft of this methodology and presented our findings the work group. Our work was extremely well received by the group. They have asked for additional work as a result. We hope to submit another draft early in 04 and then have the documents issued as policy by the Department.

During January and February, BearingPoint was requested by name to support several of the Department's work groups. We currently support the standards group, the POA&M group, and the Critical Systems Work Group. Our support includes researching various topics, drafting new Departmental Policy, and providing insight during the weekly meetings.

Task Status

BearingPoint will continue to support the Department's "Eliminating IT security as a reportable condition" Work groups. The workload may increase significantly as the Department attempts to solve several difficult and high profile issues.