

Valuable New Tool Helps System Security Officers

Online Security Center Provides “One-Stop” Shopping

(This is an article that appeared in the FSA monthly newsletter announcing to the Department the new web portal.)

The FSA Security and Privacy Team has a new online tool to help find the information it needs the most: the Online Security Center, or OSC. The Online Security Center, located on FSAnet, provides a single, centralized intranet location for important IT security-related policies and procedures, training, references, news, deadlines, etc. While the main target audience of the site is system security officers (SSOs), the site is a great resource for anyone in FSA who wants to learn more about computer and information security.

The new site features a variety of benefits:

- Important FSA security support material is located one convenient and easy to find place.
- The content is grouped by tasks and responsibilities, which makes it very easy to find everything you need to know about any given subject.
- The site always contains the most current information and document version.
- There are tools to raise awareness about current security trends and tools to complete common security activities—for example, processing new employees.

New Features

The site also includes new information created specifically for SSOs. New features include a new employee/contractor security checklist; a departing employee/contractor security checklist; a high-level overview of Federal Regulations, NIST guidance, and Dept. of Education and FSA policies/procedures; a calendar of security events (deadlines, conferences, etc.), security tips; latest news items; and references for additional information.

The heart of the new site is the section titled Front to Back. This section is grouped by the primary issues that security officers are responsible for. Each section has a description of the topic, the policies/procedures/regulations from the government, Department of Education, and FSA, tools to help in writing any associated plans, training, a contact person, and links to additional resources, like white papers or websites.

Where You Can Find It

The new website replaces the existing FSAnet CIO IT Security Website, and can be found at http://fsanet.ed.gov/cio/products/it_security_portal. It can be accessed in a number of ways. A user can enter the website address into their address bar. Another method is to go to the Channels tab located at the top of the FSAnet homepage, click on CIO, then in the left hand column, click on the Online Security Center. The user could also access the site through the new Online Security Center tab, which is located under the TechCenter tab on the homepage of FSAnet.

The Online Security Center is an ongoing project, with content continually being updated and changed as appropriate. If you have any questions or other features you would like to see included, please email Bob Ingwalson at Robert.ingwalson@ed.gov or Jill Mossman at jill.mossman@ed.gov.

To access the Online Security Center, go to the FSAnet homepage, then click on the “Tech Center” tab at the top, then “Online Security Center.”

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the FSA Online Security Center website. The browser's address bar shows the URL http://fsanet.ed.gov/cio/products/it_security_portal/. The website header features the FSA logo (Federal Student Aid) and the tagline "We Help Put America Through School". A navigation menu includes tabs for Channels, Forms, Training, Contacts, Library, TechCenter, and Search. The main content area is titled "Welcome to the FSA Online Security Center: Your one-stop shop for everything related to IT security". It lists several categories of resources: Security Front to Back (including Certification & accreditation, Configuration Management, Continuity of support, Cost Estimation, Data Classification, Incident Response, Inventory Worksheet, Personnel, Privacy, Risk Assessment, Solution Life Cycle, System Interconnections, System Security Plan, and Training); Forms/Templates/Checklists (including CIPP Survey, Configuration management checklist, Configuration Management Plan template, Contingency planning checklist, Contingency Plan template, Inventory worksheet, Personnel forms, Privacy impact assessment, Rules of behavior, Security Plan template, Suspicious event report, System Access forms, and System interconnection templates); Required Plans (GSSs and MAs Only) (including Configuration management plan, Continuity of support plan (contingency plan/disaster recovery), Critical infrastructure protection plan, Inventory worksheet, Privacy impact assessment, Risk assessment, System interconnection agreements, and System security plan); Policies/Regulations (including Policy Roadmap, Federal Regulations, NIST Guidance, Department of ED Policies, and FSA Policies); Incident Response (including ED Procedures, FSA Security Incident Implementation Guide, Reporting Flowchart, Suspicious Event Reporting Form, and Links); and a Help Desk section. On the left side, there is an "Events Calendar" for January 2004 and a "Products" section with a "Tip of the Month" and "Security News". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open windows, and the system clock displaying 2:34 PM.