

FSA Information Security and Privacy Policy Matrix

Task Overview

Per the recently released FSA IT Security and Privacy Policy document, all FSA systems and personnel must comply with the outlined policies or submit waivers to the Computer Security Officer explaining the risk based decision not to comply. Although the policy document was written as clearly and with as little fluff as possible, it is still a daunting task to determine if a system is in compliance with the policy or not. The request to develop an FSA Security and Privacy Policy Matrix stems from the need for system security officers to be able to easily determine and track their systems' compliance with the FSA IT Security and Privacy Policy document. This matrix will be a reusable checklist, which the SSO may use to quickly determine a system's deficiencies.

Task Details

To create the Information Security and Privacy Policy Matrix, we initially broke down the policy document into its core policy statements. These policy statements were then transformed into system-oriented yes/no questions. The questions were subsequently placed in a spreadsheet under the requirement column heading. The spreadsheet also contains column headings for the document and section source of the policy statement, appropriate testing procedures for the requirement, a place for the SSO to note whether the requirement was not applicable to the system, whether the system was in compliance or not in compliance with the requirement, or if the system obtained a waiver for the requirement. The test procedures will consist of a set of suggested methods that may be used to determine whether or not the system is in compliance with the specified policy requirement. The test procedures will also include information on how and where to obtain the appropriate information in order to answer the yes/no question.

Task Status

Although the initial draft of the Information Security and Privacy Policy Matrix draft will be included in this deliverable, the first release to SSOs will not take place until after its review by the Security and Privacy Team. The test methods will be completed shortly, at which point the matrix will be ready for review. As a methodology to be used in conjunction with FSA's IT Security and Privacy Policy, we expect it will draw considerable scrutiny and evaluation by both Departmental and Federal reviewers. As we continue to receive feedback regarding the policy document as well as the policy matrix, we will incorporate any changes in future revisions. In the meantime, we will continue to finalize the Matrix requirements and complete the accompanying test method procedures.