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Cybersecurity — Guidelines for Internet security

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Introduction

The focus of this document is to address Internet security issues and provide guidance for addressing common Internet security threats, such as:

- social engineering attacks;
- zero-day attacks;
- privacy attacks;
- hacking; and
- the proliferation of malicious software (malware), spyware and other potentially unwanted software.

The guidance within this document provides technical and non-technical controls for addressing the Internet security risks, including controls for:

- preparing for attacks;
- preventing attacks;
- detecting and monitoring attacks; and
- responding to attacks.

The guidance focuses on providing industry best practices, broad consumer and employee education to assist interested parties in playing an active role to address the Internet security challenges. The document also focuses on preservation of confidentiality, integrity and availability of information over the Internet and other properties, such as authenticity, accountability, non-repudiation and reliability that can also be involved.

This includes Internet security guidance for:

- roles;
- policies;
- methods;
- processes; and
- applicable technical controls.

Given the scope of this document, the controls provided are necessarily at a high-level. Detailed technical specification standards and guidelines applicable to each area are referenced within the document for further guidance. See Annex-A for the correspondence between the controls cited in this document and those in ISO/IEC 27002.

This document does not specifically address controls that organizations can require for systems supporting critical infrastructure or national security. However, most of the controls mentioned in this document can be applied to such systems.

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This document uses existing concepts from ISO/IEC 27002, the ISO/IEC 27033 series, ISO/IEC TS 27100 and ISO/IEC 27701, to provide the illustrate:

- the relationship between Internet security, web security, network security and cybersecurity;
- detailed guidance on Internet security controls cited in 9.2, addressing cyber-security readiness for Internet-facing systems.

As mentioned in ISO/IEC TS 27100, the Internet is a global network, used by organizations for all communications, both digital and voice. Given that some users target attacks towards these networks, it is critical to address the relevant security risks.

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Cybersecurity — Guidelines for Internet security

1 Scope

This document provides:

- an explanation of the relationship between Internet security, web security, network security and cybersecurity;
- an overview of Internet security;
- identification of interested parties and a description of their roles in Internet security;
- high-level guidance for addressing common Internet security issues.

This document is intended for organizations that use the Internet.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 27000, *Information technology — Security techniques — Information security management systems — Overview and vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 27000, and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 attack vector

path or means by which an attacker can gain access to a computer or network server in order to deliver a malicious outcome

EXAMPLE 1 IoT devices.

EXAMPLE 2 Smart phones.

3.2

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attacker

person deliberately exploiting vulnerabilities in technical and non-technical security controls in order to steal or compromise information systems and networks, or to compromise availability to legitimate users of information system and network resources

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27033-1:2015, 3.3]

3.3

blended attack

attack that seeks to maximize the severity of damage and speed of contagion by combining multiple *attack vectors* (3.1)

3.4

bot

automated software program used to carry out specific tasks

Note 1 to entry: This word is often used to describe programs, usually run on a server, that automate tasks such as forwarding or sorting e-mail.

Note 2 to entry: A bot is also described as a program that operates as an agent for a user or another program or simulates a human activity. On the Internet, the most ubiquitous bots are the programs, also called spiders or crawlers, which access websites and gather their content for search engine indexes.

3.5

botnet

collection of remotely controlled malicious bots that run autonomously or automatically on compromised computers

EXAMPLE: ~~DDoS~~; **Distributed denial-of-service (DDoS)** nodes, where the botnet controller can direct the user's computer to generate traffic to a third-party site as part of a coordinated DDoS (~~distributed denial-of-service~~) attack.

3.6

cybersecurity

safeguarding of people, society, organizations and nations from cyber risks

Note 1 to entry: Safeguarding means to keep cyber risk at a tolerable level.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC TS 27100:2020, 3.2]

3.7

dark net

network of secret websites within the Internet that can only be accessed with specific software

Note 1 to entry: The dark net is also known as dark web.

3.8

deceptive software

software which performs activities on a user's computer without first notifying the user as to exactly what the software will do on the computer, or asking the user for consent to these actions

EXAMPLE 1 A program that hijacks user configurations.

EXAMPLE 2 A program that causes endless popup advertisements which cannot be easily stopped by the user.

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EXAMPLE 3 Adware and spyware.

3.9 hacking

intentionally accessing a computer system without the authorization of the user or the owner

3.10 hacktivism

hacking (3.9) for a politically or socially motivated purpose

3.11 Internet

global system of inter-connected networks in the public domain

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27033-1:2015, 3.14, modified — “the” has been deleted from the term.]

3.12 Internet security

preservation of confidentiality, integrity and availability of information over the *Internet* (3.11)

Note 1 to entry: In addition, other properties, such as authenticity, accountability, non-repudiation and reliability can also be involved.

Note 2 to entry: Please refer to definitions on confidentiality, integrity, availability, authenticity, accountability, non-repudiation and reliability in ISO/IEC 27000:2018, Clause 3.

3.13 Internet service provider ISP

organization that provides Internet services to a user and enables its customers access to the *Internet* (3.11)

Note 1 to entry: Also, sometimes referred to as an Internet access provider (IAP).

3.14 malicious content

applications, documents, files, data or other resources that have malicious features or capabilities embedded, disguised or hidden in them

3.15 malware malicious software

software designed with malicious intent containing features or capabilities that can potentially cause harm directly or indirectly to the user and/or the user's computer system

EXAMPLE- Viruses, worms and trojans.

3.16 organization

person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives

Note 1 to entry: In the context of this document, an individual is distinct from an organization.

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