

Sensitive Information on the Web, an Information Security Perspective

“We have met the enemy and they are
us.” - Pogo

Background

- Mindsets
- Blake Memorandum – Oct. 26, 2001
- White House WMD Memorandum – March 19, 2002
- Secretary WMD Memorandum – May 30, 2002
- Web sites seen as terrorists aids
- Internet Content Advisory: Considering the Unintended Audience

Threat – One Example

Geostrategy-Direct

Week of January 28, 2003

BACKGROUND: Compiled by Bill Gertz

Al Qaida exploiting web sites, Pentagon warns

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has warned Pentagon officials that Al Qaida is exploiting open-source information on Defense Department Internet sites.

A Pentagon memorandum quotes an Al Qaida training manual recovered in Afghanistan stating that by "using public sources openly and without resorting to illegal means, it is possible to gather at least 80 percent of information about the enemy."

Information Availability

- Material removed from sites is still available
- Web Archives
- Search Engines
- Other
- Solution: Do not place sensitive information on Web sites.

Potentially Sensitive Information

- Facilities, Personnel
- Programs, Materials
- Security, Safety
- Assessments, Vulnerabilities
- Sensitive Subjects List

Considerations

- Suitability – What does it do for the person, organization, Department?
- Sensitivity – How can it be used by an adversary?
- Risk - What are the chances of an adversary using the information?
- Consequences – What could happen if an adversary used the information?

Review Process

- Team Approach
- Suitability – Organization, program
- Sensitivity – Facility Security, OPSEC, Classification
- Risk – CN, OPSEC, Facility Security
- Consequences – All
- Conflict Resolution by Senior Management

One Approach

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Originating Dept. Concurrence	Department Manager	Release Requested Yes ___ No ___		
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UCNI Review	Classification Officer	Yes ___ No ___		
ECI Review	Export Control Officer	Yes ___ No ___		
Critical Tech. Review	Export Control Officer	Yes ___ No ___		
OPSEC/OUO Review	OPSEC Manager	Yes ___ No ___		
Counterintelligence	Counterintelligence	Yes ___ No ___		
Legal	Legal	Yes ___ No ___		
Cyber Security	Cyber Security Manager	Yes ___ No ___		
Final Approval for Release	DOE/AAO Security Team Lead	Yes ___ No ___		

Comments: _____

Summary

“It’s not true that life is one thing after another, it’s the same damn thing over and over.” – Edna St. Vincent Milay

Questions

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Closing Thought

Our greatest happiness in life does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed us, but is always the result of good conscience, good health, occupation, and freedom in all just pursuits.

- Thomas Jefferson