Federal CIO Council

Federal Desktop Core Configuration

Security – the Imperative for Change

Ricki Vanetesse
Christine McKinney
DISA Field Security Operations
Agenda

- Background
- FDCC Standards
- Variances
- Benefits to Community
- Certification and Accreditation
- Conclusion
Consensus group formed in 2004
- NIST, NSA, DISA, CIS and Microsoft
- Windows 2003
- Windows XP
- Specialized Security Limited Functionality (SSLF) Setting

Air Force (AF) started defining Secure Desktop Configuration 1 (SDC 1) in 2005
- Windows XP
- May 2006 to Feb 2007 implementation
- Installed on over 435,000 workstations

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Consensus group met in Spring 2006
- NIST, NSA, DISA and Microsoft
- Windows Vista
- Specialized Security Limited Functionality (SSLF) Setting

AF started defining SDC 2 in Fall 2006
- Windows Vista
- Navy, Marine Corps and Army joined project to develop the DoD SDC
- Over 5,000 hours in review meetings
FDCC Standards

- Evolved from DoD Standard Desktop Configuration
- Windows XP Professional
  - Operating System
  - Internet Explorer 7.0
  - Critical security patches
- Windows Vista
  - Operating System
  - Internet Explorer 7.0
  - Critical security patches

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Variances

- Minimal number due to operational and usability issues
- Out of 540 configuration settings – approx. 14 different than SSLF settings
- Agreed upon by OMB, NIST, NSA, DISA, Air Force, Army, Navy and Microsoft
- DoD entities still need to address variances

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Benefits to Community

Security

- Improves security posture of workstation and ultimately the data
- Reduces human error of configuration
- Eliminates usage of admin access by all users
- Increases security with Firewall configuration
- Adds additional layer for Defense in Depth
- Provides more consistent infrastructure

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Benefits to Community (cont)

- Cost Saving
  - Reduces cost of ownership of PC
  - Lessens help desk troubleshooting
  - Facilitates purchase of preconfigured systems
  - Simplifies deployment of software and operating systems

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Benefits to Community (cont)

- **Speed of Delivery**
  - Eases government and vendor application development
  - Assists with testing of applications
  - Enhances patch testing process
  - Simplifies build, buy and support of software

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Certification and Accreditation

- Helps speed the C&A process
- Reduces the risk of client-side issues
- Supports acceptance of external certifications

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Conclusion

- Collaborative Effort
- Proven Process
- Dynamic Process
- Benefits
  - In line with DISA’s Vision for:
    - Surety
    - Reach
    - Speed
- C & A Process

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