A VIEW FROM CONGRESS ON

FISMA
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Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,
Government Information, Federal Services,
And International Security
Current FISMA “Framework”

• Agency head responsible for overall information security
• Business owners responsible for assessing and implementing information security
• CIO asserts compliance of business owners
• Independent Evaluation tests CIO assertion
• Congress receives reports from OMB and
FISMA Success Since 2002

- Comprehensive IT governance structure
- Increased focus on information security by senior agency officials
- Directed resources and budget to the CIO office
- Increased percentage of Certification and Accreditation government-wide
- Increased accountability with CIO office
<table>
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<th>Information Environment Since 2002</th>
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<td>• Exponential increase in the number and severity of external attacks both reported and unreported</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increase in number of insider threats both intentional and unintentional</td>
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<td>• Increased sophistication of attacks through means such as social engineering and vulnerable supply chains</td>
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<td>• Increased use of mobile devices, uncontrolled points of access, and increasing interconnectivity</td>
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Information Security
Improvements
2002 versus 2008

• Are we “more secure” now than we were 6 years ago?
• How do we measure “security?”
• How do we prioritize resources to face the evolving threat?
• How can Congress hold agencies accountable?
### Problems with FISMA Implementation

- There is a lack of outcome-oriented measures that can be compared over time.
- There is little focus on the ability to monitor, respond, and mitigate security incidences.
- There is no way to accurately compare security between agencies.
- Congress has little insight into agency information security.
- Agencies prioritize their own resources based upon Congressional and OMB attention.
How Can We Improve the Information Security Environment

- Improve information security measures
  - Outcome/effectiveness-oriented
  - Measure progress over time
  - Measure ROI
- Prioritize and direct resources against greatest threats
- Incentivize open collaboration
- Treat security holistically-not system by system/agency by agency
Possible Solutions

- Develop and implement standardized information security measures
- Increase visibility and authority of CIO/CISO over information security
- Standardize independent evaluation
- Breakdown artificial organizational boundaries
- Test agency information security based on intelligence
- Provide decision-makers holistic view of security government-wide.
Partners for Success

• The educated individual
• The responsible business owner
• The empowered CISO
• The informed agency head
• An educated Executive and Legislative branch
Legislative Aspirations

- Increase the resources, quality, and responsibility of the CISOs
- Shift the security paradigm
- Standardize the independent evaluation
- Create a central forum composed of those who are facing the threats every day
- Supplement the CIO assertion and IG evaluation with an operational evaluation
- Require that network service providers and COTS are held to government standards
Questions