GAO Information Security Issues Update

Presented to:

Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board

August 5, 2010
Agenda

• State of Federal Information Security

• GAO Focus Areas

• Recent GAO Reports

• Q&A
State of Federal Information Security

- Agencies report mixed progress complying with security requirements
State of Federal Information Security

- Agencies continue to report persistent weaknesses in information security

State of Federal Information Security

- Most agencies have weaknesses in most FISCAM general control areas
State of Federal Information Security

- Reported security incidents have increased dramatically
State of Federal Information Security

- Types of reported security incidents varied

![Pie chart showing percentages of various security incidents: 36% Unauthorized access, 23% Malicious code, 16% Under investigation, 4% Denial of service, 20% Improper Usage, 1% Scans/Probes/Attempted access. Source: GAO analysis of U.S. CERT data.]
State of Federal Information Security

• Agencies face many challenges securing IT resources
  • Computing environments are highly complex, dynamic
  • Multitude of vulnerable or defective software
  • Cyber threats to federal systems are growing, evolving

• Several initiatives are underway to enhance security
  • Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative
  • Trusted Internet Connection / Einstein
  • Federal Desktop Core Configuration
  • Cyberscope
GAO Focus Areas

**FISMA**
- Mandate Report
- Annual Report Analysis
- NARA Information Security
- Security Frameworks

**Emerging Issues**
- Cyberspace Policy Recommendations
- Private/Public Partnership Expectations
- Web 2.0 Social Media Services
- Cybersecurity Human Capital
- Cyber Crime Laws & Enforcement
- Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Standards

**Privacy**
- OPM FISD
- DHS National Immigration Info Sharing Operation
- e-Verify
- Electronic Prescriptions

**Consolidated Financial Statements**
- IRS
- BPD/Federal Reserve
- FDIC
- SEC
- OIGs
- TARP
- FHFA
- SOSI
- BCFP

**Critical IT Systems & Infrastructure**
- NNSA Supercomputers CP & Security
- State Security System
- Wireless Security
- IRS e*File

**Training/Methodology & External Liaison**
- FISCAM
- GAO Internal Controls
- Internal/External Training
- Technical Assistance to Hill
- OMB/NIST/NASCIO
Recent GAO Reports

• GAO-10-872T, Information Management: Challenges in Federal Agencies’ Use of Web 2.0 Technologies (July 2010)
• GAO-10-606, Cyberspace: United States Faces Challenges in Addressing Global Cybersecurity and Governance (July 2010)
• GAO-10-834T, Cybersecurity: Continued Attention Is Needed to Protect Federal Information Systems from Evolving Threats (June 2010)
Recent GAO Reports

- GAO-10-466, Cybersecurity: Key Challenges Need to Be Addressed to Improve Research and Development (June 2010)
Recent GAO Reports

Recent GAO Reports

- GAO-10-338, Cybersecurity: Progress Made but Challenges Remain in Defining and Coordinating the Comprehensive National Initiative (March 2010)
- GAO-10-361, Electronic Personal Health Information Exchange: Health Care Entities’ Reported Disclosure Practices and Effects on Quality of Care (February 2010)
- GAO-10-230T, Cybersecurity: Continued Efforts Are Needed to Protect Information Systems from Evolving Threats (November 2009)
Recent GAO Reports

- GAO-10-28, Actions Needed to Better Manage, Protect, and Sustain Improvements to Los Alamos National Laboratory’s Classified Computer Network (October 2009)
- GAO-10-2, Information Security: NASA Needs to Remedy Vulnerabilities in Key Networks (October 2009)
- GAO-09-546, Information Security: Agencies Continue to Report Progress, but Need to Mitigate Persistent Weaknesses (July 2009)
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Questions and Answers