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The following information was posted with the attached DRAFT document:

April 5, 2016

NIST requests comments on Draft Special Publication (SP) 800-175A, Guideline for Using Cryptographic Standards in the Federal Government: Directives, Mandates and Policies

NIST requests comments on Draft Special Publication (SP) 800-175A, Guideline for Using Cryptographic Standards in the Federal Government: Directives, Mandates and Policies. The SP 800-175 publications are intended to be a replacement for SP 800-21, Guideline for Implementing Cryptography in the Federal Government. SP 800-175A provides guidance on the determination of requirements for using cryptography. It includes a summary of the laws and regulations concerning the protection of the Federal government's sensitive information, guidance regarding the conduct of risk assessments to determine what needs to be protected and how best to protect that information, and a discussion of the relevant security-related documents (e.g., various policy and practice documents). Please provide comments on SP 800-175A by Monday, May 9, 2016. Comments may be sent to SP800-175@nist.gov, with "Comments on SP 800-175A" as the subject.

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4 **Guideline for Using**
5 **Cryptographic Standards in the**
6 **Federal Government:**
7 *Directives, Mandates and Policies*

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Draft NIST Special Publication 800-175A

**Guideline for Using
Cryptographic Standards in the
Federal Government:**
Directives, Mandates and Policies

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April 2016



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U.S. Department of Commerce
Penny Pritzker, Secretary

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Willie May, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director

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Authority

65 This publication has been developed by NIST in accordance with its statutory responsibilities under the
66 Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) of 2014, 44 U.S.C. § 3541 *et seq.*, Public Law
67 (P.L.) 113-283. NIST is responsible for developing information security standards and guidelines, including
68 minimum requirements for federal information systems, but such standards and guidelines shall not apply
69 to national security systems without the express approval of appropriate federal officials exercising policy
70 authority over such systems. This guideline is consistent with the requirements of the Office of Management
71 and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130.

72 Nothing in this publication should be taken to contradict the standards and guidelines made mandatory and
73 binding on federal agencies by the Secretary of Commerce under statutory authority. Nor should these
74 guidelines be interpreted as altering or superseding the existing authorities of the Secretary of Commerce,
75 Director of the OMB, or any other federal official. This publication may be used by nongovernmental
76 organizations on a voluntary basis and is not subject to copyright in the United States. Attribution would,
77 however, be appreciated by NIST.

78 National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-175A
79 Natl. Inst. Stand. Technol. Spec. Publ. 800-175A, 32 pages (April 2016)
80 CODEN: NSPUE2

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Certain commercial entities, equipment, or materials may be identified in this document in order to describe
an experimental procedure or concept adequately. Such identification is not intended to imply
recommendation or endorsement by NIST, nor is it intended to imply that the entities, materials, or equipment
are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

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There may be references in this publication to other publications currently under development by NIST in
accordance with its assigned statutory responsibilities. The information in this publication, including concepts
and methodologies, may be used by Federal agencies even before the completion of such companion
publications. Thus, until each publication is completed, current requirements, guidelines, and procedures,
where they exist, remain operative. For planning and transition purposes, Federal agencies may wish to closely
follow the development of these new publications by NIST.

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Organizations are encouraged to review all draft publications during public comment periods and provide
feedback to NIST. Many NIST cybersecurity publications, other than the ones noted above, are available at
<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications>.

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Public comment period: April 5, 2016 through May 9, 2016

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All comments are subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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Reports on Computer Systems Technology

103 The Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) at the National Institute of Standards and
104 Technology (NIST) promotes the U.S. economy and public welfare by providing technical
105 leadership for the Nation's measurement and standards infrastructure. ITL develops tests, test
106 methods, reference data, proof of concept implementations, and technical analyses to advance the
107 development and productive use of information technology. ITL's responsibilities include the
108 development of management, administrative, technical, and physical standards and guidelines for
109 the cost-effective security and privacy of other than national security-related information in federal
110 information systems. The Special Publication 800-series reports on ITL's research, guidelines, and
111 outreach efforts in information system security, and its collaborative activities with industry,
112 government, and academic organizations.

113

114

Abstract

115 This document is part of a series intended to provide guidance to the Federal Government for using
116 cryptography and NIST's cryptographic standards to protect sensitive, but unclassified digitized
117 information during transmission and while in storage. Special Publication (SP) 800-175A provides
118 guidance on the determination of requirements for using cryptography. It includes a summary of
119 laws and regulations concerning the protection of the Federal Government's sensitive information,
120 guidance regarding the conduct of risk assessments to determine what needs to be protected and
121 how best to protect that information, and a discussion of the relevant security-related documents
122 (e.g., various policy and practice documents).

123

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Keywords

125 authentication; confidentiality; critical infrastructure; cryptographic guideline; cryptography;
126 Executive Orders; integrity; key management; laws; mandates; policy; Presidential Directives; risk
127 assessment; standards.

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132 document was derived, including Annabelle Lee, along with those colleagues that reviewed drafts
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135 constructive comments improved the quality and usefulness of this publication.

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose

179 Cryptographic publications of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
180 provide guidance regarding how cryptographic protection is to be implemented, but do not
181 specify when cryptographic protection is required. The decision regarding whether or not to
182 employ cryptographic protection rests with the owner of the information to be protected.
183 Decisions concerning the use of cryptographic protection are generally based on a thorough risk
184 analysis that establishes the sensitivity of the information to be protected and the security
185 controls that need to be used to protect that information, both during transmission and while in
186 storage. This document provides guidance on the basis for determining requirements for using
187 cryptography. It includes a summary of the laws, directives, standards, and guidelines concerning
188 the protection of the Federal government's sensitive but unclassified information; guidance
189 regarding the conduct of risk assessments to determine what information needs to be protected
190 and how best to protect that information; and a discussion of application-relevant security
191 documentation (e.g., various policy and practice documents). While the use of this guideline
192 outside the Federal Government is strictly voluntary, many of the processes and references
193 included herein may be useful in non-federal contexts.

194 The primary policy documents that apply to federal cryptographic systems include Public Laws,
195 Presidential Executive Orders and Directives, and other guidance from Executive Office of the
196 President organizations. Some Department of Commerce and NIST publications are identified in
197 these policy documents as being mandatory for Federal organizations. Relevant NIST
198 cryptographic publications are discussed in Special Publication (SP) 800-175B, *Guideline for*
199 *Using Cryptographic Standards in the Federal Government: Cryptographic Mechanisms.*

1.2 Terms and Definitions

201 Authentication	A process that provides assurance of the source and integrity 202 of information that is communicated or stored.
203 Authorization	The official management decision given by a senior 204 organizational official to authorize the operation of an 205 information system and to explicitly accept the risk to 206 organizational operations and assets, individuals, other 207 organizations, and the Nation, based on the implementation 208 of an agreed-upon set of security controls.
209 Breach	The loss of control, compromise, unauthorized disclosure, 210 unauthorized acquisition, unauthorized access, or any 211 similar term referring to situations where persons other than 212 authorized users or for an other than authorized purpose 213 have access or potential access to sensitive information, 214 whether physical or electronic.
215 Categorization	The process of determining the security category for 216 information or an information system. Security

217		categorization methodologies are described in CNSS
218		Instruction 1253 for national security systems and in FIPS
219		Publication 199 for other than national security systems.
220	Ciphertext	Data in its encrypted form.
221	Confidentiality	The property that sensitive information is not disclosed to
222		unauthorized entities .
223	Critical Infrastructure	The essential services that support a society and serve as the
224		backbone for the society's economy, security and health.
225	Cryptographic Key	A parameter used in conjunction with a cryptographic
226		algorithm that determines its operation in such a way that an
227		entity with knowledge of the key can reproduce or reverse
228		the operation, while an entity without knowledge of the key
229		cannot.
230	Cryptography	The science of information hiding and verification. It
231		includes the protocols, algorithms and methodologies to
232		securely and consistently prevent unauthorized access to
233		sensitive information and enable verifiability of the
234		information. The main goals include confidentiality,
235		integrity and authentication.
236	Digital Infrastructure	The Digital Infrastructure is defined as the ability to store
237		and exchange data through a centralized communication
238		system. Data communication and exchange are all
239		simplified with the right software and hardware equipment.
240	Encryption	The process of transforming plaintext into ciphertext for the
241		purpose of security or privacy.
242	Entity	An individual (person), organization, device or process.
243	Executive Office of the President	The President's immediate staff, along with entities such as
244		the Office of Management and Budget, the National
245		Security Staff, the Office of Science and Technology Policy,
246		and the Office of Personnel Management.
247	Executive Orders	Legally binding orders given by the President, acting as the
248		head of the Executive Branch, to Federal Administrative
249		Agencies. Executive Orders are generally used to direct
250		federal agencies and officials in their execution of
251		congressionally established laws or policies.
252	Identity Management	Broadly refers to the administration of individual identities
253		within a system, such as a company, a network or even a
254		country. In enterprise IT, identity management is about
255		establishing and managing the roles and access privileges of
256		individual network users.

257	Integrity	The property that protected data has not been modified or
258		deleted in an unauthorized and undetected manner.
259	Key Establishment	The procedure that results in keying material that is shared
260		among different parties.
261	Keying Material	The data (e.g., keys) necessary to establish and maintain
262		cryptographic keying relationships .
263	Key Management	The activities involving the handling of cryptographic keys
264		and other related security parameters (e.g., counters) during
265		the entire life cycle of the keys, including the generation,
266		storage, establishment, entry and output, and destruction.
267	Low-Impact	The loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be
268		expected to have a limited adverse effect on organizational
269		operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
270	Mandate	A mandatory order or requirement under statute.
271	Plaintext	Intelligible data that has meaning and can be understood
272		without the application of cryptography .
273	Policy	The set of basic principles and associated guidelines,
274		formulated and enforced by the governing body of an
275		organization, to direct and limit its actions in pursuit of
276		long-term goals.
277	Presidential Directive	A form of an executive order issued by the President of the
278		United States with the advice and consent of the National
279		Security Council; also known as a Presidential Decision
280		Directive (or PDD).
281	Reciprocity	The mutual agreement among participating organizations to
282		accept each other's security assessments in order to reuse
283		information-system resources and/or to accept each other's
284		assessed security posture in order to share information.
285	Risk Analysis	See risk assessment .
286	Risk Assessment	The process of identifying risks to organizational operations
287		(including mission, functions, images, and reputation),
288		organizational assets, individuals, other organizations, and
289		the Nation, resulting from the operation of an information
290		system. Part of risk management , incorporates threat and
291		vulnerability analyses, and considers mitigations provided
292		by security controls planned or in place.
293	Risk Management	The program and supporting processes to manage
294		information security risk to organizational operations
295		(including mission, functions, images, and reputation),
296		organizational assets, individuals, other organizations, and

297		the Nation, and includes: (i) establishing the context for
298		risk-related activities, (ii) assessing risk, (iii) responding to
299		risk once determined, and (iv) monitoring risk over time.
300	Security Control	A safeguard or countermeasure prescribed for an
301		information system or an organization designed to protect
302		the confidentiality , integrity , and availability of its
303		information and to meet a set of defined security
304		requirements.
305	Security Policy	A set of criteria for the provision of security services.
306	Security Strength	A number associated with the amount of work (that is, the
307		number of operations) that is required to break a
308		cryptographic algorithm or system.
309	Standard	A document that provides requirements, specifications,
310		guidelines or characteristics that can be used consistently to
311		ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit
312		for their purpose.
313	Two-Factor Authentication	Proof of possession of a physical or software token in
314		combination with some memorized secret knowledge.

315

316 **1.3 Acronyms**

317 C&A – Certify and Accredited

318 CIO – Chief Information Officer

319 CNSS – Committee for National Security Systems

320 DHS – Department of Homeland Security

321 DNSSEC – Domain Name System Security Extensions

322 DOD – Department of Defense

323 EOP – Executive Office of the President

324 FIPS – Federal Information Processing Standard

325 FISMA – Federal Information Security Management Act

326 GSA – General Services Administration

327 HHS – Health and Human Services

328 HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

329 HITECH – Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health

330 HSPD – Homeland Security Presidential Directive

331 IC – Intelligence Community

332 IG – Inspector General
333 ITL – Information Technology Laboratory
334 JTFTI – Joint Task Force Transformation Initiative
335 NIST – National Institute of Standards and Technology
336 NPIVP– NIST Personal Identity Verification Program
337 NSA – National Security Council
338 ODNI – Office of the Director of National Intelligence
339 OMB – Office of Management and Budget
340 PHI – Protected Health Information
341 PIV – Personal Identity Verification
342 SP – Special Publication
343 U.S.C. – United States Code
344

345 **1.4 Document Organization**

346 This publication is organized as follows:

- 347 • Section 1 provides an introduction to this document, including its background and
348 purpose, a definition of terms, and a list of acronyms used herein.
- 349 • Section 2 describes 1) legislative mandates that are relevant to the cryptographic
350 standards and guidelines that are developed by NIST, or in the development of which
351 NIST participates.
- 352 • Section 3 discusses directives from the Executive Office of the President (EOP) that are
353 relevant to cryptographic standards and guidelines that are developed by NIST, or in the
354 development of which NIST participates.
- 355 • Section 4 provides a brief treatment of organization-specific policies that may prescribe
356 the cryptographic services that need to be provided and the level of protection needed.
- 357 • Section 5 provides a brief treatment of the risk management process that determines
358 security control requirements – including cryptographic requirements.
- 359 • Appendix A includes a list of references.

360

361

SECTION 2: APPLICABLE PUBLIC LAWS

362 This section describes elements of legislative mandates that are relevant to the cryptographic
363 standards and guidelines that are developed by NIST, or in the development of which NIST
364 participates.

365 2.1 E-Government Act of 2002 (FISMA)

366 [Title III of Public Law 107-347](#) is cited as the Federal Information Security Management Act of
367 2002 and has been incorporated into Sections 20 and 21 of the [NIST Organic Act](#).

368 Paragraph 3543 of the Act provides for the Executive Office of the President to coordinate the
369 development of standards and guidelines by the National Institute of Standards and Technology
370 (NIST) (under Section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act [[15 U.S.C.](#)
371 [278g–3](#)]) with agencies and offices operating or exercising control of national security systems
372 (including the National Security Agency) to assure, to the maximum extent feasible, that such
373 standards and guidelines are complementary with standards and guidelines developed for
374 national security systems.

375 Section 302 of the Act directs the Secretary of Commerce (under [Section 11331 of Title 40](#)
376 United States Code (U.S.C.)) to prescribe standards and guidelines pertaining to federal
377 information systems, based on standards and guidelines developed by NIST. Section 302 of the
378 Act makes these standards compulsory and binding to the extent determined necessary by the
379 Secretary to improve the efficiency of the operation or security of federal information systems,
380 and also states that the standards shall include information security standards that—

- 381 (1) Provide minimum information security requirements as determined under Section 20(b)
382 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g– 3(b)); and
383 (2) Are otherwise necessary to improve the security of federal information and information
384 systems.

385 Only the President is assigned the authority to disapprove or modify these standards.

386 The heads of executive agencies may employ standards for the cost-effective information
387 security of information systems within or under the supervision of that agency that are more
388 stringent than the standards prescribed by the Secretary of Commerce if the more stringent
389 standards — (1) contain at least the applicable standards made compulsory and binding by the
390 Secretary; and (2) are otherwise consistent with policies and guidelines issued under Section
391 3543 of [Title 44 U.S.C.](#)

392 Section 302 also requires that the Secretary of Commerce promulgate any standard under the
393 section not later than six months after the submission of the proposed standard to the Secretary
394 by NIST, as provided under Section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology
395 Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3).

396 Section 303 of the Act amends Section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology
397 Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3), to require NIST to:

- 398 (1) Have the mission of developing standards, guidelines, and associated methods and
399 techniques for information systems;

400 (2) Develop standards and guidelines, including minimum requirements, for information
401 systems other than national security systems (as defined in Section 3542(b)(2) of Title 44,
402 United States Code) that are used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an
403 agency or other organization on behalf of an agency, other than national security systems
404 (as defined in Section 3542(b)(2) of Title 44, United States Code); and

405 (3) Develop standards and guidelines, including minimum requirements, for providing
406 adequate information security for all agency operations and assets; such standards and
407 guidelines do not apply to national security systems.

408 Section 303 requires the standards and guidelines to include, among other things:

409 (1) Standards to be used by all agencies to categorize all information and information
410 systems collected or maintained by or on behalf of each agency, based on the objectives
411 of providing appropriate levels of information security according to a range of risk levels;

412 (2) Guidelines recommending the types of information and information systems to be
413 included in each such category;

414 (3) Minimum information-security requirements for information and information systems in
415 each category; and

416 (4) A definition of and guidelines concerning the detection and handling of information-
417 security incidents.

418 To the maximum extent practicable, NIST is required, by Section 303 of the Act, to:

419 (1) Ensure that its security standards and guidelines do not require the use or procurement of
420 specific products, including any specific hardware or software;

421 (2) Ensure that such standards and guidelines provide for sufficient flexibility to permit
422 alternative solutions to provide equivalent levels of protection for identified information-
423 security risks; and

424 (3) Use flexible, performance-based standards and guidelines that permit the use of off-the-
425 shelf commercially developed information-security products.

426 Among other requirements of Section 303 of the Act, NIST is required to:

427 (1) Submit standards developed to the Secretary of Commerce for promulgation under
428 Section 11331 of Title 40, United States Code, along with recommendations as to the
429 extent to which these standards should be made compulsory and binding;

430 (2) Provide technical assistance to agencies, upon request, regarding complying with the
431 standards and guidelines, detecting and handling information-security incidents, and
432 information-security policies, procedures, and practices;

433 (3) Conduct research, as needed, to determine the nature and extent of information-security
434 vulnerabilities and techniques for providing cost-effective information security;

435 (4) Develop and periodically revise performance indicators and measures for agency
436 information-security policies and practices;

437 (5) Evaluate private-sector information-security policies and practices and commercially
438 available information technologies to assess the potential application by agencies to

- 439 strengthen information security;
- 440 (6) Assist the private sector, upon request, in using and applying the results of activities
441 under this section;
- 442 (7) Evaluate security policies and practices developed for national security systems to assess
443 potential application by agencies to strengthen information security; and
- 444 (8) Periodically assess the effectiveness of standards and guidelines developed under this
445 section and undertake revisions, as appropriate.

446 **2.2 Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH)** 447 **Act**

448 The [Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health \(HITECH\) Act of 2009](#) is
449 an example of sector-specific legislation that provides for the encryption of information using
450 NIST standards. The HITECH Act was enacted, as part of the [American Recovery and](#)
451 [Reinvestment Act of 2009](#), to promote the adoption and meaningful use of health information
452 technology. Subtitle D of the HITECH Act addresses the privacy and security concerns
453 associated with the electronic transmission of health information, in part, through several
454 provisions that strengthen the civil and criminal enforcement of the rules enacted by the [Health](#)
455 [Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\) of 1996](#). The HITECH Act mandates the
456 notification of a breach of unsecured protected health information (PHI), but provided that
457 breaches do not have to be reported if the data involved is rendered unreadable via encryption¹.

458 **2.3 Federal Information Systems Modernization Act of 2014**

459 The [Federal Information Systems Modernization Act of 2014](#) moves some of the Office of
460 Management and Budget (OMB) responsibilities mandated by the [Federal Information Security](#)
461 [Management Act of 2002](#) from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to the
462 Secretary for Homeland Security. Paragraph 3553 requires the Secretary for Homeland Security
463 to:

- 464 (1) Coordinate the development of standards and guidelines by NIST (under Section 20 of
465 the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act ([15 U.S.C. 278g-3](#))) with
466 agencies and offices operating or exercising control of national security systems
467 (including the National Security Agency) to assure, to the maximum extent feasible, that
468 such standards and guidelines are complementary with standards and guidelines
469 developed for national security systems;

¹ Data encryption, however, must be validated for compliance with NIST Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) [140-2](#), according to the Interim Final Rule that further spelled out breach notification requirements. This HHS guidance is also to be used to render identifiable health information unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable for purposes of the temporary breach notification requirements that apply to vendors of Personal Health Records (PHRs), the requirements for which are to be administered by the Federal Trade Commission (which in turn issued proposed regulations, on April 16, 2009, addressing consumer notices for breaches of electronic health information by PHRs). The HHS guidance provides two methods of securing information for the purposes of the HITECH Act: destruction and encryption. Destruction may secure information that was found in either paper format or in electronic media. In order to satisfy the destruction method, the paper or other hard-copy media must be shredded or destroyed such that the PHI cannot be read or otherwise reconstructed. Electronic media must be cleared, purged, or destroyed in accordance with the specifications set forth in NIST SP [800-88](#). (See [74 Fed. Reg. at 19010](#).)

- 470 (2) Coordinate Government-wide efforts on information security policies and practices,
471 including consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council (established under
472 Section 3603 of the Act) and the Director of NIST;
- 473 (3) Develop and oversee the implementation of binding operational directives for agencies to
474 implement the policies, principles, standards, and guidelines developed by the
475 Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and consider any applicable standards or
476 guidelines developed by NIST and issued by the Secretary of Commerce under [Section](#)
477 [11331 of Title 40](#);
- 478 (4) Consult with the Director of NIST regarding any binding operational directive issued by
479 DHS that implements standards and guidelines developed by NIST; and
- 480 (5) Ensure that the binding operational directives do not conflict with the standards and
481 guidelines issued under Section 11331 of Title 40.

482 Paragraph 3553 of the Act also provides that nothing in the subchapter is to be construed as
483 authorizing the Secretary for Homeland Security to direct the Secretary of Commerce in the
484 development and promulgation of standards and guidelines under Section 11331 of Title 40; and
485 that nothing in this subchapter, (Section 11331 of Title 40), or Section 20 of the National
486 Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3) may be construed as affecting the authority of
487 the President, the Office of Management and Budget or the Director thereof, the National
488 Institute of Standards and Technology, or the head of any agency, with respect to the authorized
489 use or disclosure of information, including information related to the protection of personal
490 privacy under Title 5 or [Title 44 U.S.C.](#)

491 **2.4 Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014**

492 The [Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014](#) extends NIST's security standards activity to
493 include direct support to the private sector. The security standards' responsibility extension
494 includes cryptographic standards. This extension is significant in that it specifically authorizes
495 cybersecurity support for organizations outside the U.S. Federal government.

496 Specifically, the Act's *Title I: Public-Private Collaboration on Cybersecurity* - (Sec. 101)
497 amends the [National Institute of Standards and Technology Act](#) to permit the Secretary of
498 Commerce, acting through the Director of NIST, to facilitate and support the development of a
499 voluntary, consensus-based, industry-led set of standards and procedures to cost-effectively
500 reduce cyber risks to a critical infrastructure. The Act requires the NIST Director, in carrying out
501 such activities, to:

- 502 (1) Coordinate regularly with, and incorporate the industry expertise of, relevant private-
503 sector personnel and entities, critical infrastructure owners and operators, sector-
504 coordinating councils, Information Sharing and Analysis Centers, and other relevant
505 industry organizations;
- 506 (2) Consult with the heads of agencies with national security responsibilities, sector-specific
507 agencies, state and local governments, governments of other nations, and international
508 organizations;
- 509 (3) Identify a prioritized, flexible, repeatable, performance-based, and cost-effective
510 approach, including information-security measures and controls, that may be voluntarily

511 adopted by owners and operators of a critical infrastructure to help identify, assess, and
512 manage cyber risks; and

513 (4) Include methodologies to mitigate impacts on business confidentiality, protect individual
514 privacy and civil liberties, incorporate voluntary consensus standards and industry best
515 practices, align with international standards, and prevent duplication of regulatory
516 processes.

517 However, the Act prohibits the Director from prescribing a specific solution or requiring that
518 products or services be designed or manufactured in a particular manner, and it prohibits
519 information provided to NIST for purposes of developing cyber-risk standards from being used
520 by federal, state, tribal, or local agencies to regulate the activity of any entity.

521 The Act's *Title II: Cybersecurity Research and Development* - (Sec. 201) directs agencies to
522 build upon existing programs to meet cybersecurity objectives, such as how to:

523 (1) Guarantee individual privacy, verify third-party software and hardware, and address
524 insider threats;

525 (2) Determine the origin of messages transmitted over the Internet; and

526 (3) Protect information stored using cloud computing or transmitted through wireless
527 services.

528 Title II also requires agencies to describe how they will focus on technologies to protect
529 consumer privacy and enhance the security, reliability, resilience, and trustworthiness of the
530 digital infrastructure.

531 The Act's *Title V: Advancement of Cybersecurity Technical Standards* - (Sec. 502) requires
532 NIST to ensure the coordination of federal agencies engaged in the development of international
533 technical standards related to information system security and instructs NIST to ensure
534 consultation with appropriate private-sector stakeholders.

535 Section 503 requires consideration to be given to activities that support (in consultation with the
536 private sector) the development of appropriate security frameworks and reference materials, and
537 the identification of best practices, for federal agencies to use in addressing security and privacy
538 requirements.

539 Section 504 requires NIST to continue a program to support the development of voluntary and
540 cost-effective technical standards, metrology, testbeds, and conformance criteria with regard to
541 identity management research and development.
542

543

SECTION 3: EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

544 This section describes directives from the Executive Office of the President (EOP) that are
545 relevant to cryptographic standards and guidelines that are developed by NIST, or in the
546 development of which NIST participates.

547 **3.1 Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7): Critical Infrastructure** 548 **Identification, Prioritization, and Protection**

549 [HSPD-7](#) establishes a national policy for federal departments and agencies to identify and
550 prioritize United States critical infrastructure and key resources and to protect them from terrorist
551 attacks. The Directive directs the Department of Commerce, in coordination with the Department
552 for Homeland Security, to work with the private sector, research, academic, and government
553 organizations to improve technology for cyber systems and promote other critical infrastructure
554 efforts, including using its authority under the [Defense Production Act](#) to assure the timely
555 availability of industrial products, materials, and services to meet homeland security
556 requirements.

557 **3.2 HSPD-12: Policies for a Common Identification Standard for Federal** 558 **Employees and Contractors**

559 This directive mandates the development of a federal standard for secure and reliable forms of
560 identification. HSPD-12 directs the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate, in accordance with
561 applicable law, a federal standard for secure and reliable forms of identification in consultation
562 with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of
563 Homeland Security, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the
564 Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Secretary of Commerce is
565 directed to periodically review the Standard and update the Standard, as appropriate, in
566 consultation with the affected agencies. For purposes of this directive, "Secure and reliable
567 forms of identification" means identification that:

- 568 (a) Is issued, based on sound criteria for verifying an individual employee's identity;
- 569 (b) Is strongly resistant to identity fraud, tampering, counterfeiting, and terrorist
570 exploitation;
- 571 (c) Can be rapidly authenticated electronically; and
- 572 (d) Is issued only by providers whose reliability has been established by an official
573 accreditation process.

574 The Standard to be developed is directed to include graduated criteria, from least secure to
575 most secure, to ensure flexibility in selecting the appropriate level of security for each
576 application.

577 **3.3 Executive Order 13636: Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity**

578 Section 7 of [Executive Order 13636](#), titled "Baseline Framework to Reduce Cyber Risk to
579 Critical Infrastructure," requires the Secretary of Commerce to direct the Director of NIST to

580 lead the development of a framework to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructures (the
581 [Cybersecurity Framework](#)). The *Cybersecurity Framework* was required to:

- 582 • Include a set of standards, methodologies, procedures, and processes that align policy,
583 business, and technological approaches to address cyber risks;
- 584 • Incorporate voluntary consensus standards and industry best practices to the fullest
585 extent possible;
- 586 • Be consistent with voluntary international standards when such international standards
587 will advance the objectives of this order; and
- 588 • Meet the requirements of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act, as
589 amended ([15 U.S.C. 271](#) et seq.), the National Technology Transfer and Advancement
590 Act of 1995 ([Public Law 104-113](#)), and [OMB Circular A-119](#), as revised.

591 The *Cybersecurity Framework* was required to:

- 592 • Provide a prioritized, flexible, repeatable, performance-based, and cost-effective
593 approach, including information-security measures and controls;
- 594 • Help owners and operators of critical infrastructures identify, assess, and manage cyber
595 risk;
- 596 • Focus on identifying cross-sector security standards and guidelines applicable to critical
597 infrastructure;
- 598 • Identify areas for improvement that should be addressed through future collaboration
599 with particular sectors and standards-developing organizations;
- 600 • In order to enable technical innovation and account for organizational differences, to
601 provide guidance that is technology neutral and that enables critical infrastructure sectors
602 to benefit from a competitive market for products and services that meet the standards,
603 methodologies, procedures, and processes developed to address cyber risks; and
- 604 • Include guidance for measuring the performance of an entity in implementing the
605 *Cybersecurity Framework*.

606 The *Cybersecurity Framework* was also required to include methodologies to identify and
607 mitigate impacts of the *Cybersecurity Framework* and associated information-security measures
608 or controls on business confidentiality, and to protect individual privacy and civil liberties.

609 In developing the *Cybersecurity Framework*, NIST was directed to engage in an open public
610 review and comment process. The Director is also required to consult with the Secretary for
611 Homeland Security, the National Security Agency, Sector-Specific agencies and other interested
612 agencies, including OMB, owners and operators of critical infrastructure, and other stakeholders.

613 **3.4 OMB Circular A-119: Federal Participation in the Development and Use of** 614 **Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities**

615 [OMB Circular A-119](#) establishes policies on the Federal use and development of voluntary
616 consensus standards and on conformity assessment activities. [Public Law 104-113](#), the "National
617 Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995," codified existing policies in A-119,

618 established reporting requirements, and authorized the National Institute of Standards and
619 Technology to coordinate conformity assessment activities of the agencies. OMB is issuing this
620 revision of the Circular in order to:

- 621 • Make the terminology of the Circular consistent with the [National Technology Transfer](#)
622 [and Advancement Act of 1995](#),
- 623 • Issue guidance to the agencies on making their reports to OMB,
- 624 • Direct the Secretary of Commerce to issue policy guidance for conformity assessment,
625 and
- 626 • Make changes for clarity.

627 **3.5 OMB Circular A-130: Management of Federal Information Resources**

628 [OMB Circular A-130](#) establishes policy for the management of federal information resources. A-
629 130 includes procedural and analytic guidelines for implementing specific aspects of these
630 policies as appendices. Section 8 of the Circular requires that agencies' Information Technology
631 Capital Plans explain any planned or actual variance from National Institute of Standards and
632 Technology (NIST) security guidance. Specifically, the Circular directs the certification and
633 accreditation of federal information systems and mandates Agency-wide Information Security
634 Program development and implementation.

635 **3.6 OMB Memorandum M-06-16: Protection of Sensitive Agency Information**

636 [OMB Memorandum M-06-16](#) notes that NIST provided a checklist for the protection of remote
637 information. The intent of implementing the checklist is to compensate for the lack of physical
638 security controls when information is removed from, or accessed from outside the agency
639 location. In addition to using the NIST checklist, OMB M-06-16 recommended that all
640 departments and agencies encrypt all data on mobile computers/devices that carry agency data
641 unless the data is determined to be non-sensitive, in writing, by a Deputy Secretary or an
642 individual he/she may designate in writing; and allow remote access only with two-factor
643 authentication where one of the factors is provided by a device separate from the computer
644 gaining access.

645 **3.7 OMB Memorandum M-06-18, Acquisition of Products and Services for** 646 **Implementation of HSPD-12**

647 [OMB Memorandum M-06-18](#) provides updated direction for the acquisition of products and
648 services for the implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 ([HSPD-12](#)),
649 "*Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors*" and also
650 provides the status of implementation efforts.

651 HSPD-12 notes that both NIST and the General Services Administration (GSA) have established
652 evaluation programs for the testing and evaluation of specific products and services needed for
653 the implementation of HSPD-12, and that NIST has established the NIST Personal Identity
654 Verification Program (NPIVP) to test and validate Personal Identity Verification (PIV)
655 components and sub-systems required by Federal Information Processing Standard ([FIPS](#)) [201](#).
656 At the time that the Memorandum was signed, an NPIVP validation program provided for the
657 testing and validation of PIV card applications and PIV middleware for conformance to FIPS

658 201 and the interface specifications of [NIST SP 800-73](#), *Interfaces for Personal Identity*
659 *Verification*. NIST was also noted as having published derived test requirements as NIST [SP](#)
660 [800-85A](#): *PIV Card Application and Middleware Test Guidelines*. All of the tests under NPIVP
661 are handled by third-party test laboratories that are now designated as interim NPVIP Test
662 Facilities.

663 [FIPS 140-2](#): *Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules*, requires the testing and
664 validation of the cryptographic modules of PIV cards and other products performing
665 cryptographic functions. This testing is performed by the accredited third-party facilities
666 designated to perform NPIVP testing.

667 **3.8 OMB Memorandum M-07-16, Safeguarding Against and Responding to the** 668 **Breach of Personally Identifiable Information**

669 OMB Memorandum [M-07-16](#) requires agencies to develop and implement a breach² notification
670 policy within 120 days from the OMB Memorandum's having been signed. The Memorandum
671 specifically recommends using encryption, strong authentication procedures, and other security
672 controls to make information unusable by unauthorized individuals. The attachments to this
673 memorandum outline the framework within which agencies must develop this breach notification
674 policy, while ensuring that proper safeguards are in place to protect the information. Elements of the
675 framework include requirements to:

- 676 a. Assign an impact level to all information and information systems. Agencies must follow the
677 processes outlined in [FIPS 199](#), *Standards for Security Categorization of Federal*
678 *Information and Information Systems*, to categorize all information and information systems
679 according to the standard's three levels of impact (i.e., low, moderate, or high). Agencies
680 should generally consider categorizing sensitive, personally identifiable information (and
681 information systems within which such information resides) as moderate or high impact.
- 682 b. Implement minimum security requirements and controls. For each of the impact levels
683 identified above, agencies must implement the minimum security requirements and minimum
684 (baseline) security controls set forth in [FIPS 200](#), *Minimum Security Requirements for*
685 *Federal Information and Information Systems*, and NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-53,
686 *Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems*, respectively.
- 687 c. Certify and accredit information systems. Agencies must certify and accredit (C&A) all
688 information systems supporting the operations and assets of the agency, including those
689 provided or managed by another agency, contractor, or other source. The specific procedures
690 for conducting C&A are set out in NIST SP [800-37](#), *Guide for the Security Certification and*
691 *Accreditation of Federal Information Systems*,³ and include guidance for the continuous
692 monitoring of certain security controls. Agencies' continuous monitoring should assess a
693 subset of the management, operational, and technical controls used to safeguard such
694 information (e.g., Privacy Impact Assessments).

² For the purposes of this policy, the term "breach" is used to include the loss of control, compromise, unauthorized disclosure, unauthorized acquisition, unauthorized access, or any similar term referring to situations where persons other than authorized users or for an other than authorized purpose have access or potential access to personally identifiable information, whether physical or electronic.

³ Since reissued as *Guide for Applying the Risk Management Framework for Federal Information Systems: A Security Life Cycle Approach*.

695 The Memorandum's requirements include 1) encryption using only NIST-certified cryptographic
696 modules⁴ for all data on mobile computers/devices carrying agency data, unless the data is
697 determined to not be sensitive, in writing, by a Deputy Secretary⁵ or a senior-level individual he/she
698 may designate in writing; and 2) allowing remote access only with two-factor authentication where
699 one of the factors is provided by a device separate from the computer gaining access.

700 **3.9 OMB Memorandum M-08-23: Securing the Federal Government's Domain** 701 **Name System Infrastructure (DNS)**

702 OMB Memorandum [M-08-23](#) requires the Federal Government to deploy Domain Name System
703 Security Extensions (DNSSEC) to the top-level .gov domain by January 2009. The top-level .gov
704 domain includes the registrar, registry, and DNS server operations. This policy requires that the top-
705 level .gov domain will be DNSSEC-signed, and processes to enable secure delegated sub-domains
706 will be developed. Signing the top-level .gov domain is a critical procedure necessary for broad
707 deployment of DNSSEC, increases the utility of DNSSEC, and simplifies lower-level deployment by
708 agencies.

709 The Memorandum also required agencies to develop plans of action and milestones for the
710 deployment of DNSSEC to all applicable information systems. Appropriate DNSSEC capabilities
711 were required to be deployed and operational by December 2009. The plans were to follow
712 recommendations in NIST SP [800-81](#), *Secure Domain Name System (DNS) Deployment Guide*, and
713 address the particular requirements described in NIST SP [800-53r1](#), *Recommended Security Controls*
714 *for Federal Information Systems*. The plans were also to report agencies' current levels of
715 compliance with the current DNSSEC requirements of NIST SP 800-53r1, and document plans of
716 action and milestones that assume the scope of the requirement to operate DNSSEC signed zones. SP
717 800-53's control SC-20 was required to be expanded to cover all FISMA information systems
718 (including low-impact systems) in its revision 3. The plans were to ensure that all agency .gov
719 domains were DNSSEC-signed by December 2009.

720 **3.10 OMB Memorandum M-11-33: FY 2011 Reporting Instructions for the Federal** 721 **Information Security Management Act and Agency Privacy Management**

722 OMB Memorandum [M-11-33](#) includes "Frequently Asked Questions on Reporting for the
723 Federal Information Security Management Act and Agency Privacy Management." The
724 following frequently asked questions included with the Memorandum are relevant to
725 cryptographic applications:

726 **Must the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Office of the Director of National** 727 **Intelligence (ODNI) follow OMB policy and NIST guidelines?**

728 Yes, for non-national security systems, DOD and ODNI are to incorporate OMB policy
729 and NIST guidelines into their internal policies.

730 For national security systems, the Joint Task Force Transformation Initiative (JTFTI)
731 Interagency Working Group, with representatives from the Civil, Defense and
732 Intelligence Communities (IC) started an on-going effort in FY2009 to produce a unified

⁴ See NIST's website at <http://csrc.nist.gov/cryptval/> for a discussion of the validated encryption modules.

⁵ Non-cabinet agencies should consult the equivalent of a Deputy Secretary.

733 information-security framework for the Federal Government. Under this effort, DoD,
734 ODNI and NIST jointly issued the following publications:

- 735 • NIST SP [800-37](#), Revision 1, *Guide for Applying the Risk Management*
736 *Framework to Federal Information Systems*, February 2010.
- 737 • NIST SP [800-38A](#), *Recommendation for Block Cipher Modes of Operation*,
738 December 2001.
- 739 • NIST SP [800-39](#), *Managing Information Security Risk: Organization, Mission,*
740 *and Information System View*, March 2011.
- 741 • NIST SP [800-53](#), Revision 3, *Recommended Security Controls for Federal*
742 *Information Systems and Organizations*, August 2009.

743 Because these guidelines are jointly issued, DOD and ODNI policies for national security
744 systems should incorporate these guidelines.

745 **Is use of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) publications required?**

746 Yes. For non-national security programs and information systems, agencies must follow
747 NIST standards and guidelines unless otherwise stated by OMB. For legacy information
748 systems, agencies are expected to be in compliance with NIST standards and guidelines
749 within one year of the publication date unless otherwise directed by OMB. The one year
750 compliance date for revisions to NIST publications applies only to the new and/or updated
751 material in the publications. For information systems under development or for legacy
752 systems undergoing significant changes, agencies are expected to be in compliance with the
753 NIST publications immediately upon deployment of the information system.

754 **Are NIST guidelines flexible?**

755 Yes. While agencies are required to follow NIST standards and guidelines in accordance with
756 OMB policy, there is flexibility within NIST's guidelines (specifically in the 800-series) in
757 how agencies apply them. However, NIST Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS)
758 publications are mandatory. Unless specified by additional implementing policy by OMB,
759 NIST guidelines generally allow agencies latitude in their application. Consequently, the
760 application of NIST guidelines by agencies can result in different security solutions that are
761 equally acceptable and compliant with the guidelines.

762 **FISMA, OMB policy, and NIST standards and guidelines require agency security** 763 **programs to be risk-based. Who is responsible for deciding the acceptable level of risk (e.g.,** 764 **the CIO, program officials and system owners, or the IG)? Are the IGs' independent** 765 **evaluations also to be risk-based? What if they disagree?**

766 The agency head ultimately is responsible for deciding the acceptable level of risk for their
767 agency. System owners, program officials, and CIOs provide input for this decision. Such
768 decisions must reflect policies from OMB and standards and guidelines from NIST
769 (particularly [FIPS publication 199](#), *Standards for Security Categorization of Federal*
770 *Information and Information Systems*, and [FIPS publication 200](#), *Minimum Security*
771 *Requirements for Federal Information and Information Security*, as well as [SP 800-39](#),
772 *Managing Information Security Risk*). An information system's Authorizing Official takes
773 responsibility for accepting any residual risk, thus they are held accountable for managing the
774 security for that system.

775 IG evaluations are intended to independently assess that the agency is applying a risk-based
776 approach to their information security programs and the information systems that support the
777 conduct of agency missions and business functions. For example, when reviewing the
778 assessment in support of an individual security authorization, the IG would generally assess
779 whether: 1) the assessment was performed in the manner prescribed in NIST guidelines and
780 agency policy; 2) controls are being implemented as stated in any planning documentation;
781 and 3) continuous monitoring is adequate given the system impact level of the system and
782 information.

783 **Are there security requirements specific for mobile devices (e.g. smartphones and tablets)?**

784 All existing Federal requirements for data protection and remote access are applicable to
785 mobile devices. For example, the security requirements in [OMB Circular A-130](#), [FIPS 140-2](#),
786 *Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules*, [FIPS 199](#), *Standards for Security*
787 *Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems*, and [FIPS 200](#), *Minimum*
788 *Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems*, apply (including
789 appropriate security controls specified in [SP 800-53](#)). Agencies should specify security
790 requirements during the acquisition process and ensure that procurements capture the
791 requirements of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (e.g. [52.225-5](#), Trade Agreements), OMB
792 policy (e.g., [M-06-16](#) and [M-07-16](#)), and NIST standards and guidelines. Additional guidance
793 regarding the use and management of mobile devices will be developed, as appropriate.

794 **3.11 OMB Memorandum M-16-03, Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Guidance on Federal** 795 **Information Security and Privacy Management Requirement**

796 OMB Memorandum [M-16-03](#) notes that, in early FY 2015, OMB and the National Security
797 Council (NSC) staff created a quarterly cybersecurity assessment organized according to the
798 functions in the [NIST Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity](#) (*Identify,*
799 *Protect, Detect, Respond, and Recover*)⁶ and associated outcomes to comprehensively assess
800 agency cybersecurity performance. The assessment builds on the existing foundation of FISMA
801 metrics and the [Cybersecurity Cross Agency Priority \(CAP\)](#)⁷ goals, and is reviewed by agency
802 senior leadership. Moving forward, the Memorandum states that this assessment will be the
803 cornerstone initiative for how OMB measures Federal agency cybersecurity performance.

804

⁶ <http://www.nist.gov/cyberframework/>

⁷ *GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111-352*, <https://www.performance.gov/cap-goals-list>

805

SECTION 4: ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES

806 Every federal organization has (or should have) policies that address the information that they
807 collect or create, including an Information Management Policy and an Information Security
808 Policy. Organizations utilizing cryptography should also have a Key Management Policy.

809 4.1 Information Management Policy

810 An organization's Information Management Policy specifies what information is to be collected
811 or created, and how it is to be managed. An organization's management establishes this policy
812 using industry standards of good practices, legal requirements regarding the organization's
813 information, and organizational goals that must be achieved using the information that the
814 organization will be collecting and creating.

815 An Information Management Policy typically identifies management roles and responsibilities
816 and establishes the authorization required for people performing these information-management
817 duties. It also specifies what information is to be considered sensitive and how it is to be
818 protected. In particular, this policy specifies what categories of information need to be protected
819 against unauthorized disclosure, modification or destruction. These specifications form the
820 foundation for an Information Security Policy and dictate the levels of confidentiality, integrity,
821 availability, and source-authentication protections that must be provided for differing categories
822 of sensitive information (see [SP 800-130](#), *A Framework for Designing Cryptographic Key
823 Management Systems*).

824 Section 4.1 of SP 800-152, *A Profile for U.S. Federal Cryptographic Key Management Systems*,
825 provides requirements for the content of an Information Management Policy for federal agencies.

826 4.2 Information Security Policy

827 An organization's Information Security Policy is created to support and enforce portions of the
828 organization's Information Management Policy by specifying in more detail what information is
829 to be protected from anticipated threats and how that protection is to be attained. The rules for
830 collecting, protecting, and distributing sensitive information in both paper and electronic form are
831 specified in this policy. The inputs to the Information Security Policy include, but are not limited
832 to, the Information Management Policy specifications, the potential threats to the security of the
833 organization's information, and the risks involved with the unauthorized disclosure, modification,
834 and destruction or loss of the information.

835 The outputs of the Information Security Policy include the information sensitivity levels (e.g., low,
836 medium, and high) assigned to various categories of information and high-level rules for protecting
837 the information (see [SP 800-130](#), *A Framework for Designing Cryptographic Key Management
838 Systems*).

839 Section 4.2 of SP [800-152](#) provides requirements for the content of an Information Security Policy
840 for federal agencies.

841 4.3 Key Management Policies

842 Each organization that manages cryptographic systems that are intended to protect sensitive
843 information should base the management of the keys used in those systems on an organizational

844 policy statement. The Key Management Policy includes descriptions of the authorization and
845 protection objectives and constraints that apply to the generation, distribution, accounting,
846 storage, use, recovery and destruction of cryptographic keying material, and the cryptographic
847 services to be provided (e.g., message authentication, digital signature, and encryption).

848 Further information and requirements for Key Management Policies is provided in Section 3 of
849 SP 800-57 Part 2, *Recommendation for Key Management – Part 2: Best Practices for Key*
850 *Management Organization*.

851 Key-Management Systems manage the cryptographic keys used to protect an organization's
852 sensitive information. Federal organizations may operate their own key-management systems, or
853 may contract for key-management services. Information and requirements on the key
854 management systems that manage cryptographic keys is provided in [SP 800-152](#).

855

856

SECTION 5: RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

857 SP [800-37](#), *Guide for Applying the Risk Management Framework to Federal Information*
858 *Systems: A Security Lifecycle Approach*, provides guidelines for applying the Risk Management
859 Framework to federal information systems to include conducting the activities of security
860 categorization,⁸ security control selection and implementation, security control assessment,
861 information system authorization,⁹ and security control monitoring. The guidelines have been
862 developed:

863

- 864 • To ensure that managing information-system-related security risks is consistent with the
865 organization's mission/business objectives and overall risk strategy established by the
866 senior leadership through the risk executive (function);
- 867 • To ensure that information security requirements, including necessary security controls,
868 are integrated into the organization's enterprise architecture and system development life
869 cycle processes;
- 870 • To support consistent, well-informed, and ongoing security authorization decisions
871 (through continuous monitoring), transparency of security and risk management-related
872 information, and reciprocity;¹⁰ and
- 873 • To achieve more secure information and information systems within the federal
874 government through the implementation of appropriate risk mitigation strategies.

875 When dealing with cryptographic functions, the tasks involved in applying the Risk Management
876 Framework to information systems focus more on:

- 877 • The categorization of information and information systems and the selection of security
878 controls than on the implementation of security controls;
- 879 • The assessment of security control effectiveness;
- 880 • The authorization of the information system; and
- 881 • The ongoing monitoring of security controls and the security state of the information
882 system.

883 5.1 Categorization of Information and Information Systems

884

⁸ [FIPS 199](#) provides security-categorization guidance for non-national security systems. [CNSS Instruction 1253](#) provides similar guidance for national security systems.

⁹ System *authorization* is the official management decision given by a senior organizational official to authorize the operation of an information system and to explicitly accept the risk to organizational operations and assets, individuals, other organizations, and the Nation, based on the implementation of an agreed-upon set of security controls.

¹⁰ *Reciprocity* is the mutual agreement among participating organizations to accept each other's security assessments in order to reuse information-system resources and/or to accept each other's assessed security posture in order to share information. Reciprocity is best achieved by promoting the concept of transparency (i.e., making sufficient evidence regarding the security state of an information system available, so that an authorizing official from another organization can use that evidence to make credible, risk-based decisions regarding the operation and use of that system or the information it processes, stores, or transmits).

885 Categorization of information and information systems requires the organization to:

- 886 • Categorize the information system and document the results of the security categorization
887 in the security plan as described in [FIPS 199](#); [SP 800-30](#), [SP 800-39](#), [SP 800-59](#), [SP 800-](#)
888 [60](#), and [CNSS Instruction 1253](#);
- 889 • Describe the information system (including the system boundary) and document the
890 description in the security plan; and
- 891 • Register the information system with appropriate organizational program/management
892 offices.

893 **5.2 Selection of Security Controls**

894

895 The selection of security controls involves the following steps:

- 896 • Identify the security controls that are provided by the organization as common controls
897 for organizational information systems and document the controls in a security plan (or
898 equivalent document) in accordance with [FIPS 199](#), [FIPS 200](#), [SP 800-30](#), [SP 800-53](#) and
899 [CNSS Instruction 1253](#);
- 900 • Select the security controls for the information system and document the controls in the
901 security plan as described in FIPS 199, FIPS 200; SP 800-30, SP 800-53 and CNSS
902 Instruction 1253;
- 903 • Develop a strategy for the continuous monitoring of security-control effectiveness and
904 any proposed or actual changes to the information system and its environment of
905 operation as described in SP 800-30, [SP 800-39](#), SP 800-53, SP 800-53A, [SP 800-137](#)
906 and CNSS Instruction 1253; and
- 907 • Review and approve the security plan in accordance with SP 800-30, SP 800-53 and
908 CNSS Instruction 1253.

909

910

APPENDIX A: REFERENCES

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