

INFORMATION SECURITY AND PRIVACY ADVISORY BOARD

*Established by the Computer Security Act of 1987
[Amended by the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002]*

July 22, 2015

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

Dear Dr. May:

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board (ISPAB or Board). The ISPAB was originally created by the Computer Security Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-235) as the Computer System Security and Privacy Advisory Board, and amended by Public Law 107-347, The E-Government Act of 2002, Title III, The Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) of 2002. The statutory objectives of the Board include identifying emerging managerial, technical, administrative, and physical safeguard issues relative to information security and privacy.

At the Board's June 10-12, 2015 meeting, we heard a comprehensive discussion of a coming realignment inside the Information Technology Laboratory to add another Division, the Applied Cybersecurity Division, devoted to cybersecurity¹. We heard both a detailed presentation from NIST personnel, and the views of a panel of outside experts, who endorsed the change.

The Board is well-informed on the security and privacy work within ITL. At every meeting the Board hears about the work of Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) related to both cybersecurity and privacy. Traditionally this work has been done in the Computer Security Division (CSD) and some newer initiatives, such as NCCoE (National Center of Excellence for Cybersecurity), have been managed directly at the Laboratory level.

¹ [Presentation](http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/SMA/ispab/documents/minutes/2015-06/ispab_june-10_realignment_ddodson.pdf) - Information Technology Laboratory Realignment: Proposed Applied Cybersecurity Division http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/SMA/ispab/documents/minutes/2015-06/ispab_june-10_realignment_ddodson.pdf

CSD has been growing organically, including getting new funding for important work on cryptography. Several other significant computer security projects, of which NCCoE is an example, have matured and need a regular organizational home. It is inappropriate to continue managing the day-to-day operation of a developed organization at the current NIST's Laboratory level.

With that background, we heartily endorse the realignment within ITL to add another Division devoted to cybersecurity. The realignment gives both the existing work from CSD and the newer projects the necessary organizational support for continued success. The future is certain to bring more cybersecurity work to NIST; this realignment prepares ITL to more effectively handle the coming, indeterminate cybersecurity challenges that are expected to arrive on ITL's front steps.

Sincerely,



Peter Weinberger, Ph.D.
Chair
Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board