



ComSec Inc.
Sage Security Advice

Critical Regulatory Issues For Financial Institutions

"Independence provides credibility to the test results. To be considered independent, testing personnel should not be responsible for the design, installation, maintenance, and operation of the tested system, as well as the policies and procedures that guide its operation." -FFIEC IT Exam. Handbook Page 80

Ensure independence of your security assessors. Manufacturers of the products deployed within your environment should not be assessing your security posture. Several organizations are deploying security assessment tools within environments and then providing the assessment service. As the products deployed are partially manufactured by these organizations there is inadequate separation between those designing systems deployed within the environment from those whom are to be independently testing.

"Determine whether appropriate security testing is required and performed on any code, system, or service delivered under the contract." - FFIEC IT Exam. Handbook Page A-21

When implementing products into the network ensure there has been adequate testing conducted to ensure the programs have had adequate independent review. Even when organizations are diligent with patching significant risk may be present in the environment if review of the applications has not been accomplished. Especially when applications come from smaller organizations, ensure independent testing has been conducted.

"High-risk systems should be subject to an independent diagnostic test at least once a year." - FFIEC IT Exam. Handbook Page 81

It is important to continually test in order to ensure effective management of risks and vulnerabilities within the organization. ComSec provides yearly assessments in conjunction with consulting services. Our customers attain a team player with extensive security expertise. We assist organizations by easing remediation burdens and providing insight enabling prudent business decisions. Our engineers have been conducting assessments and providing product recommendations since 1994.

Penetration Tests- "The benefit of a penetration test is to identify the extent to which a system can be compromised..." - FFIEC IT Exam. Handbook Page 80

Assessments- "An assessment is a study to locate security vulnerabilities and identify corrective actions." - FFIEC IT Exam. Handbook Page 80

When looking for security advice ensure the provider clearly understands your needs. The distinction between penetration tests and assessments has been vague, causing organizations to receive deliverables missing project goals, or inaccurate bidding to occur.

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