

PRESS RELEASE

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR COORDINATING COUNCIL



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IT Industry Releases First IT Sector Baseline Risk Assessment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Information Technology Sector Coordinating Council (IT SCC), in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, as well as other Sector Specific Agencies, released today the first IT Sector Baseline Risk Assessment. This assessment uses an all-hazards approach to identify and prioritize national-level risks to critical IT functions. It also highlights strategies to address those risks and thus enhance the resiliency and security of the IT Sector.

“Owners and operators manage risk to their individual infrastructure every day, but industry and government needed to understand risk across the entire Sector. The IT Sector Baseline Risk Assessment informs IT Sector security decision making and enables us to manage risk at the national-level.” said Robert Dix, Chairman of the IT SCC and Vice President of Government Affairs, Juniper Networks.

The IT Sector Baseline Risk Assessment was developed jointly by industry and government IT experts. Its completion is a key achievement that demonstrates the value of the partnership between private sector owners and operators of critical infrastructure and the government.

As threats to critical IT Sector functions continue to evolve, the assessment validated the resiliency of key elements of the IT Sector’s infrastructure, and also highlighted areas for enhanced risk management. In addition, because the IT Sector provides hardware, software and services that are vital components to national and economic security and other critical infrastructure sectors, an important benefit of the assessment is the potential for improved resiliency and security of the other sectors. The assessment can assist companies with refining security policies, practices, business continuity and preparedness planning to capitalize on strengths and opportunities identified in the report.

Informed by the findings of the IT Sector Baseline Risk Assessment, the owners and operators of private and public IT infrastructure are working to determine what additional risk mitigations should be put in place. These include research and development (R&D), developing protective programs, and measuring the effectiveness of existing and future mitigations.

“We are already working on applying the findings of the IT Sector Baseline Risk Assessment to better mitigate risk, making the IT Sector and the Nation more resilient and secure,” said Cheri McGuire, Vice-Chair of the IT SCC and Principal Security Strategist for Trustworthy Computing, Microsoft.

For more information or to read the IT Sector Baseline Risk Assessment, please visit www.it-scc.org or http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1188479464996.shtm

About the IT SCC

The Information Technology Sector Coordinating Council (IT SCC) brings together companies and associations of the IT industry to coordinate strategic activities and communicate the sector’s views on infrastructure protection, response and recovery. The IT SCC also serves as the base of IT sector representation to the Partnership for Critical Infrastructure Security (PCIS), which is formally recognized by the U.S. Government as the Cross-Sector Council under the U.S. National Infrastructure Protection Plan. The IT SCC regularly engages with its government partners to convey the opinions and perspectives of the private sector on a wide range of national cyber and physical infrastructure policy and operational issues.

For more information about the IT SCC, please visit www.it-scc.org.