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MICROSOFT (MS) WORD 2013 SECURITY TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE (STIG) OVERVIEW

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Executive Summary

This Security Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) provides the technical security policies, requirements, and implementation details for applying security concepts to Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) applications.

The nearly universal presence of systems on the desktops of all levels of staff provides tremendous opportunities for office automation, communication, data sharing, and collaboration. Unfortunately, this presence also brings about dependence and vulnerabilities. Malicious and mischievous forces have attempted to take advantage of the vulnerabilities and dependencies to disrupt the work processes of the Government. Compounding this problem is the fact that the vendors of software applications have not expended sufficient effort to provide strong security in their applications. Where applications do offer security options, the default settings typically do not provide a strong security posture.

There are multiple STIG packages for Microsoft Office 2013, each contains technology-specific guidelines for the respective package. The Microsoft Office System 2013 must also be applied when any Office package is installed. The individual packages are:

- Microsoft Access 2013.
- Microsoft Excel 2013.
- Microsoft Groove 2013.
- Microsoft InfoPath 2013.
- Microsoft Lync 2013.
- Microsoft Office System 2013.
- Microsoft OneNote 2013.
- Microsoft Outlook 2013.
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2013.
- Microsoft Project 2013.
- Microsoft Publisher 2013.
- Microsoft SharePoint Designer 2013.
- Microsoft Visio 2013.
- Microsoft Word 2013.

This STIG contains security technical implementation guidance for Microsoft Office Word 2013 only.

1.2 Authority

Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 8500.01 requires that “all IT [information technology] that receives, processes, stores, displays, or transmits DOD information will be [...] configured [...] consistent with applicable DOD cybersecurity policies, standards, and architectures.” The instruction tasks that DISA “develops and maintains control correlation identifiers (CCIs), security

requirements guides (SRGs), security technical implementation guides (STIGs), and mobile code risk categories and usage guides that implement and are consistent with DOD cybersecurity policies, standards, architectures, security controls, and validation procedures, with the support of the NSA/CSS [National Security Agency/Central Security Service], using input from stakeholders, and using automation whenever possible.” This document is provided under the authority of DODI 8500.01.

Although the use of the principles and guidelines in these SRGs/STIGs provides an environment that contributes to the security requirements of DOD systems, applicable NIST SP 800-53 cybersecurity controls must be applied to all systems and architectures based on the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Instruction (CNSSI) 1253.

1.3 Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

Severity Category Codes (referred to as CAT) are a measure of vulnerabilities used to assess a facility or system security posture. Each security policy specified in this document is assigned a Severity Category Code of CAT I, II, or III.

Table 1-1: Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

| | DISA Category Code Guidelines |
|---------|--|
| CAT I | Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which will directly and immediately result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity. |
| CAT II | Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which has a potential to result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity. |
| CAT III | Any vulnerability, the existence of which degrades measures to protect against loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity. |

1.4 STIG Distribution

Parties within the DOD and federal government’s computing environments can obtain the applicable STIG from the DOD Cyber Exchange website at <https://cyber.mil/>. This site contains the latest copies of STIGs, SRGs, and other related security information. Those without a Common Access Card (CAC) that has DOD Certificates can obtain the STIG from <https://public.cyber.mil/>.

1.5 Document Revisions

Comments or proposed revisions to this document should be sent via email to the following address: disa.stig_spt@mail.mil. DISA will coordinate all change requests with the relevant DOD organizations before inclusion in this document. Approved changes will be made in accordance with the DISA maintenance release schedule.

1.6 Other Considerations

DISA accepts no liability for the consequences of applying specific configuration settings made on the basis of the SRGs/STIGs. It must be noted that the configuration settings specified should be

evaluated in a local, representative test environment before implementation in a production environment, especially within large user populations. The extensive variety of environments makes it impossible to test these configuration settings for all potential software configurations.

For some production environments, failure to test before implementation may lead to a loss of required functionality. Evaluating the risks and benefits to a system's particular circumstances and requirements is the system owner's responsibility. The evaluated risks resulting from not applying specified configuration settings must be approved by the responsible AO. Furthermore, DISA implies no warranty that the application of all specified configurations will make a system 100 percent secure.

Security guidance is provided for the DOD. While other agencies and organizations are free to use it, care must be given to ensure that all applicable security guidance is applied at both the device hardening level and the architectural level due to the fact that some settings may not be configurable in environments outside the DOD architecture.

1.7 Product Approval Disclaimer

The existence of a STIG does not equate to DOD approval for the procurement or use of a product.

STIGs provide configurable operational security guidance for products being used by the DOD. STIGs, along with vendor confidential documentation, also provide a basis for assessing compliance with cybersecurity controls/control enhancements, which supports system assessment and authorization (A&A) under the DOD Risk Management Framework (RMF). Department of Defense AOs may request available vendor confidential documentation for a product that has a STIG for product evaluation and RMF purposes from disa.stig_spt@mail.mil. This documentation is not published for general access to protect the vendor's proprietary information.

AOs have the purview to determine product use/approval in accordance with (IAW) DOD policy and through RMF risk acceptance. Inputs into acquisition or pre-acquisition product selection include such processes as:

- National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) evaluation for National Security Systems (NSS) (<https://www.niap-ccevs.org/>) IAW CNSSP #11.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cryptographic Module Validation Program (CMVP) (<https://csrc.nist.gov/groups/STM/cmvp/>) IAW federal/DOD mandated standards.
- DOD Unified Capabilities (UC) Approved Products List (APL) (<https://www.disa.mil/network-services/ucco>) IAW DODI 8100.04.