The Division of Information Technology
University Information Security Standards

Information Security Standard – Guidelines on Network Scanning (Legacy TAC 202)
Approved: April 15, 2005
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Next Scheduled Review: August 2018

1. General

Network scanning is frequently used in attempts to penetrate information resource security. To further responsible computing, these guidelines restrict network- scanning activity except in limited circumstances.

2. Applicability

This security standard applies to all University information resources. The purpose of this security standard is to provide a set of measures that will mitigate information security risks associated with network use. There may also be other or additional measures that department heads or deans will provide to further mitigate risks. The intended audience is all users of University information resources.

3. Definitions

> 3.1   Network scanning is the process of transmitting data through a network to elicit responses in order to determine configuration state about an information system.

> 3.2   Network vulnerability scanning is the process of network scanning to determine the presence of security vulnerabilities in an information system.

4. Guidelines

> 4.1   Network Services will, from time to time, conduct network scans and network vulnerability scans of devices attached to the West Texas A&M University network, including remote offices located in Amarillo. Information gathered will be used for network management, including notifying owners of vulnerabilities, determining incorrectly configured systems, validating firewall access requests, and gathering network census data.

4.2   Except as provided in 4.1, network scans or network vulnerability scans may only be conducted by the information security officer (ISO), network services personnel or third parties that have been authorized by the information resources manager (IRM).

4.3   Network scans and network vulnerability scans may not be conducted by students or student systems in the West Texas A&M University residence halls.

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY: The Division Information Technology

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