

July 27, 2006

OTS 06-033 - Federal Financial Regulators Release Updated Information Security Booklet

Office of Thrift Supervision

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For further information

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Federal Financial Regulators Release Updated Information Security Booklet

The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council today issued revised guidance for examiners and financial institutions to use in identifying information security risks and evaluating the adequacy of controls and applicable risk management practices of financial institutions. The Information Security Booklet is one of twelve that, in total, comprise the *FFIEC IT Examination Handbook*. In addition to the revised Information Security Booklet, the agencies also released an Executive Summary that contains high level synopses of each of the twelve booklets and describes the handbook development and maintenance processes.

The security of financial institutions' systems and information is essential to maintaining the privacy of customer information and safe and sound operations. The Information Security Booklet describes how an institution should protect and secure the systems and facilities that process and maintain information. The booklet calls for financial institutions and technology service providers (TSPs) to maintain effective security programs tailored to the complexity of their operations.

The guidance updates the 2002 Information Security Booklet and addresses changes in technology, risk assessments, mitigation strategies, and regulatory guidance. The discussion of risk assessment has been expanded to reflect the maturation of that process related to information security. New or revised material is included regarding authentication, monitoring programs, and software trustworthiness. Many additional topics including malware, wireless, remote access, and trust services have also been incorporated or revised.

Electronic versions of the Information Security Booklet and Executive Summary are available at www.ffiec.gov/guides.htm.

The FFIEC was established in March 1979 to prescribe uniform principles, standards and report forms for the federal examination of financial institutions and to promote uniformity in the supervision of financial institutions. The Council has five member agencies: the Board of

Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of Thrift Supervision. The Council's activities are supported by interagency task forces and by an advisory State Liaison Committee, comprised of five representatives of state agencies that supervise financial institutions.

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The Office of Thrift Supervision, an office of the Department of the Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS's mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of, and compliance with consumer protection laws by, thrift institutions, and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. OTS also oversees the activities and operations of thrift holding companies that own or control thrift institutions. Copies of OTS news releases and other documents are available at the OTS web page at www.ots.treas.gov.