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Information technology — Security techniques — Cybersecurity and ISO and IEC Standards

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National foreword

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *IT Security techniques*.

Introduction

Security on the Internet and other networks is a subject of growing concern. Organizations around the world, in both government and industry sectors, are seeking ways to address and manage cybersecurity risks, including via baseline cybersecurity measures that can be implemented as requirements or guidance. The demonstrated security and economic value of utilising existing best practices to develop approaches to cyber risk management has led organizations to assess how to use and improve upon existing approaches.

Perspectives, and consequent approaches, to risk management are affected by the terminology used, e.g. "cybersecurity" versus "information security". Where similar risks are addressed, this different perspective can result in "cybersecurity" approaches focusing on external threats and the need to use information for organizational purposes, while, in contrast, "information security" approaches consider all risks whether from internal or external sources. There can also be a perception that cybersecurity risks are primarily related to antagonistic threats, and that a lack of "cybersecurity" can create worse consequences to the organization than a lack of "information security". Thus, cybersecurity can be perceived as more relevant to the organization than information security. This perception can cause confusion and also reduces the effectiveness of risk assessment and treatment.

Regardless of perception, the concepts behind information security can be used to assess and manage cybersecurity risks. The key question is how to manage cybersecurity risk in a comprehensive and structured manner, and ensure that processes, governance and controls exist and are fit for purpose. This can be done through a management systems approach. An Information Security Management System (ISMS) as described in ISO/IEC 27001 is a well proven way for any organization to implement a risk-based approach to cybersecurity.

This document demonstrates how a cybersecurity framework can utilize current information security standards to achieve a well-controlled approach to cybersecurity management.

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Information technology — Security techniques — Cybersecurity and ISO and IEC Standards

1 Scope

This document provides guidance on how to leverage existing standards in a cybersecurity framework.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
information security
preservation of confidentiality, integrity and availability of information

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27000:2016 2.33]

4 Document structure

This document provides background on the reasons why having a risk-based, prioritized, flexible, outcome-focused, and communications-enabling framework for cybersecurity is important. It then describes the objectives of a strong cybersecurity framework and includes mapping to existing standards that can be used to achieve these objectives.

5 Background

5.1 General

Cybersecurity is a relatively new discipline. ISO, IEC, and ISO/IEC standards developed over the last 25 years can be applied to help solve the challenges of cybersecurity. Existing and emerging cybersecurity frameworks throughout the world reference ISO, IEC, and ISO/IEC standards as useful sources of information.

Implementing cybersecurity framework, or a cybersecurity programme, requires a consistent and iterative approach to identifying, assessing, and managing risk and evaluating implementation of the framework. ISO/IEC 27001 already provides a risk management framework that can be applied to prioritize and implement cybersecurity activities within an organization.