



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6000

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

APR 14 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Approval of Identity Federation Service Providers – Secure Administration Authentication Gateway and Enterprise Privileged User Authentication Service

Reference: Draft National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-63C

Identity Federation Services (IFS) serve as trusted intermediaries between users that seek to obtain data from a system, application, or device, and the system, application, or device on which the data is stored. IFS also often facilitate strong authentication to systems, applications, and devices that are unable to process strong authentication technology directly. The reference document focuses on the different ways that IFS can be configured and implemented, and the impact this has on the reliability and trustworthiness of identity authentication.

The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Enterprise Privileged User Authentication Service (EPUAS) was developed for DISA Defense Enterprise Computing Centers (DECC) privileged users. The DECC privileged users utilize an Out-of-Band (OOB) network to manage and administer DoD Information Technology (IT) resources. EPUAS will help facilitate stronger authentication within the OOB to these IT resources. EPUAS will also drastically reduce the number of privileged user accounts in the OOB and sharply limit the extent of individual privileged user access to crucial DoD IT resources.

The Army developed the Secure Administration Authentication Gateway (SAAG) to improve protection of privileged-user accounts. The SAAG helps privileged users authenticate to resources that cannot support direct PKI or other types of strong authentication. SAAG is not an isolated network, but rather an isolated network segment of the common-user networks (e.g. NIPRNet, SIPRNet). SAAG restricts privileged user access to resources such as e-mail and internet-browsing while they perform their administrative tasks. SAAG also encrypts all communication between the privileged-user workstation and the device being managed.

This memorandum certifies EPUAS and SAAG as DoD-approved IFS that meet high standards of reliability and trust for facilitating user authentication to DoD systems. By reducing privileged user latitude and closely tracking privileged user access, EPUAS will help ensure no single privileged user can gain access to more resources than they need to do their job. By reducing privileged user exposure to the internet and common user traffic, SAAG helps protect privileged user accounts from malicious actors.

While EPUAS and SAAG primarily facilitate indirect PKI authentication, there are instances where DoD users will need to use a DoD-approved IFS to facilitate authentication with a DoD-approved alternate (i.e. non-PKI) MFA technology. A forthcoming DoD CIO memo will certify Rivest Shamir and Adleman (RSA) SecurID tokens and the Yubico YubiKey Universal Two Factor (UTF) tokens as DoD-approved alternate MFAs.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Essye B. Miller" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Essye B. Miller
Deputy Chief Information Officer
for Cybersecurity and DoD Senior
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Attachments:

As stated

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