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MIC announces Information Security Management Guidelines for Telecommunications

The MIC has compiled the Information Security Management Guidelines for Telecommunications as a contribution to the establishment of information security management in the telecommunications business.

Background

Nowadays, with the increase in information security threats such as viruses, cyber-attacks and information leaks, organizations are being required to put in place information security management. With regard to this point, the Study Group on Next Generation IP-based Infrastructure (chaired by SAITO Tadao, Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo) stated in its second report (announced on July 7, 2005) that there was a need to establish and promote the guidelines for information security management for telecommunications business.

The MIC set up the Task Force on ISMS-T* (chaired by NAKAO Koji, General Manager, Information Security Department, KDDI Corporation) in February 2005. The group considered topics that should be taken into account in line with the implementation of information security management for telecommunications organizations. These have now been compiled as the

Information Security Management Guidelines for Telecommunications (referred to below as "the guidelines").

* Information Security Management System for Telecommunications

Outline of the guidelines

The guidelines comprise control, implementation guidance, etc, in 11 areas of information security management, to establish information security management within telecommunications organizations.

Future plans

The MIC will work in cooperation with telecommunications carriers and relevant industry organizations to implement the guidelines, and will propose these guidelines to the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) as a contribution to considering the information security management guidelines for telecommunications.

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http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_tsusin/eng/newsletter.html

Presentation materials of MIC are available at:
http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_tsusin/eng/presentation.html

E-mail distribution of this newsletter is possible if desired.

Background of Investigation

Increasing awareness of the importance of information security management within organizations

- Spread of computer viruses on a global scale, and increase in cyber-crime
- Damage to information systems in critical infrastructures that form the base for people's lives and socio-economic activities
- Increase in cases of personal information leakage

An International Trend

- In July 2004, the ITU recommended the ISMS-T (X.1051) which is an information security management system for telecommunications business



* ITU: International Telecommunication Union

* ISMS-T: Information Security Management System for Telecommunications

Recommendations from the Study Group on Next Generation IP-based Infrastructure

- The Study Group on Next Generation IP-based Infrastructure (chaired by SAITO Tadao, Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo) which was held in MIC stated in its second report (announced on July 7, 2005) that there was a need to establish and promote guidelines for information security management for telecommunications business.



* The second report the The Study Group on Next Generation IP-based Infrastructure

http://www.soumu.go.jp/s-news/2005/050707_2.html

Formulation of Information Security Management Guideline for Telecommunications (ISM-TG)

* ISM-TG: Information Security Management Guideline for Telecommunications

Comparison of Control in International Standards

- The ISO formulated an international standard (ISO/IEC17799) in 2000 as a code of practice for information security management for general organizations.
- The ITU, taking the 2000 ISO/IEC17799 into consideration, recommended in 2004 its ISMS-T which is aimed at telecommunications carriers.
- A revision to the ISO/IEC17799 was issued in June 2005

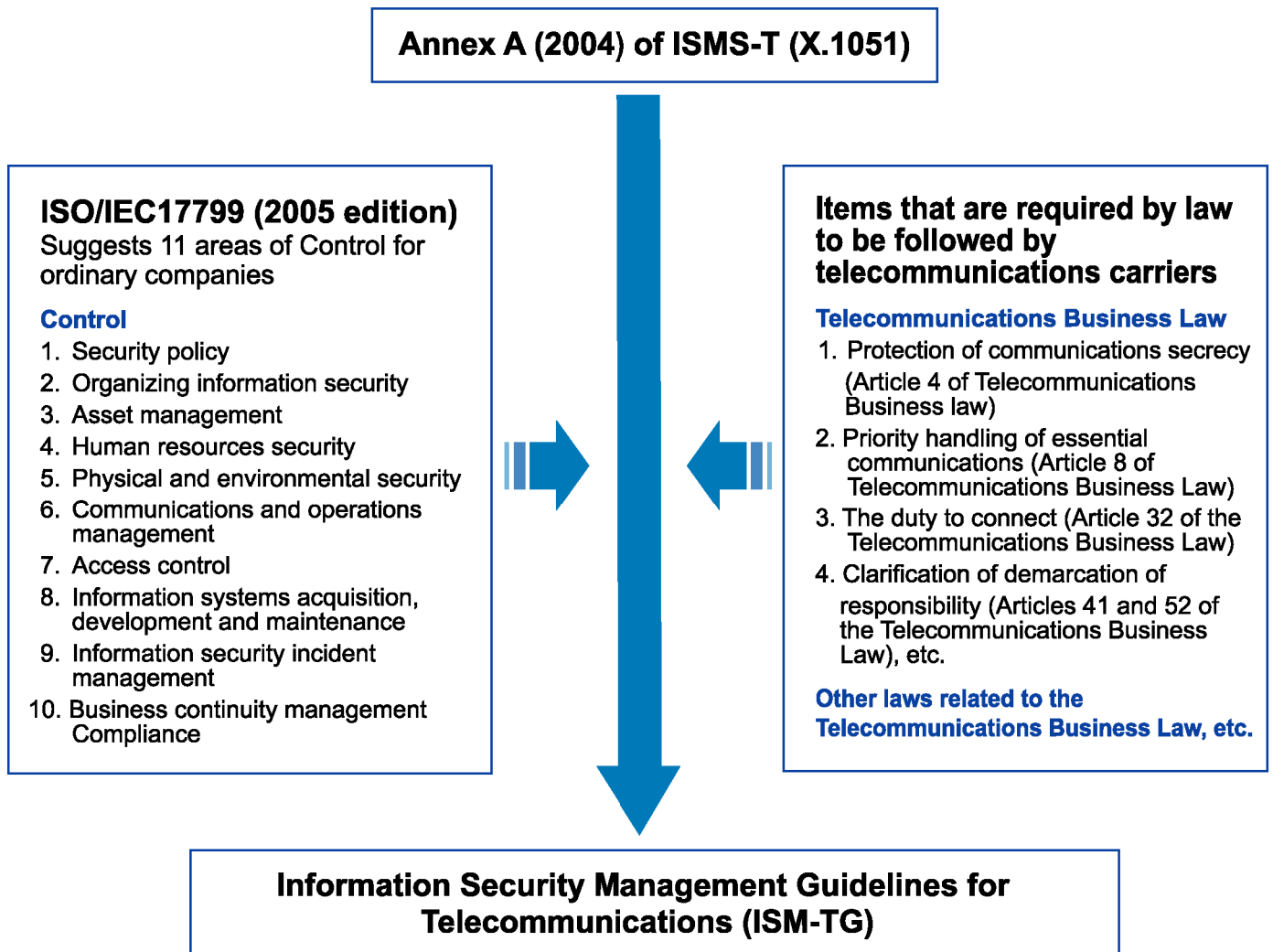
● Comparison of Control

ISO/IEC17799 (2000)	ISO/IEC17799 (2005)	ISMS-T(X.1051) Annex. A
Security Policy	Security Policy	Relayed on ISMS
Organization information Security	Organization information Security	Organization information Security
Asset management	Asset management	Asset management
Human resources security	Human resources security	Human resources security
Physical and environmental security	Physical and environmental security	Physical and environmental security
Communications and operations management	Communications and operations management	Communications and operations management
Access control	Access control	Access control
Information system acquisition, development and maintenance	Information system acquisition, development and maintenance	ISMS-T does not describe anything
	Information security incident management	
Business continuity management	Business continuity management	
Compliance	Compliance	

ISMS-T describes only particular parts of control, implementation guidance, etc, for telecommunications business

Information Security Management Guideline for Telecommunications

- The Information Security Management Guidelines were compiled to be followed in particular by telecommunications carriers. This takes into consideration the items that are required by law to be followed by telecommunications carriers, as well as international practical standards for information security management, and is based on the information security management standards (X.1051) that were recommended in June 2004 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).



Organization of the Guidelines

●11 Security Management Areas (same structure as ISO/IEC 17799(2005))

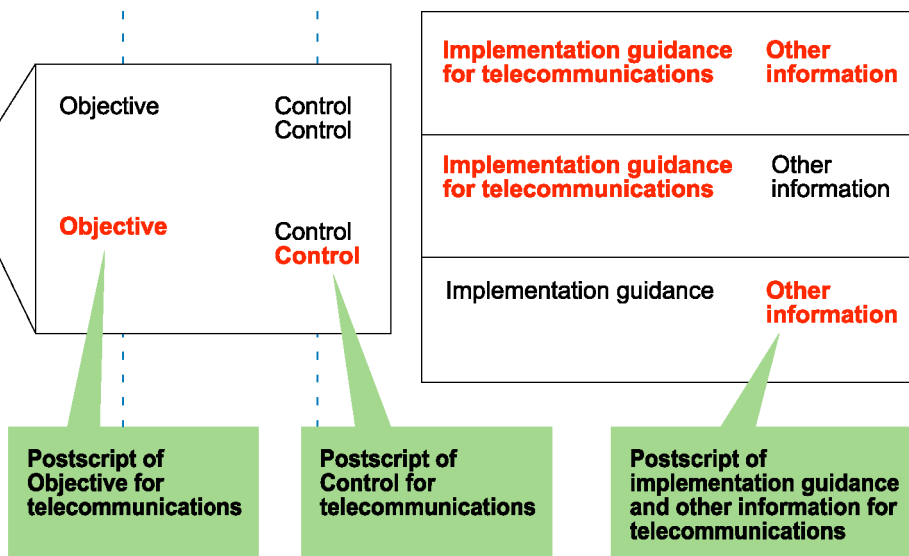
5. Security policy
6. Organizing information security
7. Asset management
8. Human resources security
9. Physical and environmental security
10. Communications and operations management
11. Access control
12. Information systems acquisition, development and maintenance
13. Information security incident management
14. Business continuity management
15. Compliance

●Objective

●Control (Control to achieve Objective)

●Implementation guidance (Guidance for implementation of Control)

●Other Information



* In the guidelines, description in ISO/IEC 17799 that can be applied to this guideline has been abbreviated, with only a notice to refer to ISO/IEC17799, and only items that should be particularly considered in telecommunications business are described.

●Example of “Objective” and “Control” that have been added for telecommunications

Objective	“9.3 Security under the control of other party” (1)
Control	“9.3.1 Equipment sited in other carrier premises” “9.3.2 Equipment sited in user premises” “9.3.3 Interconnected telecommunications services” “9.1.4 Securing communication centre” “9.1.5 Securing telecommunications equipment room” “9.1.6 Securing physically isolated operation area” “10.6.3 Response to SPAM” “10.6.4 Response to DoS/DDoS attack” “11.4.8 Telecommunications carrier identification and authentication by users” “15.1.7 Secrecy of Communication” “15.1.8 Essential communication” “15.1.9 Legality of emergency actions” (12)

"FY2005 Competition Review in the Telecommunications Field" -- Release of "Market Definition of Fixed Telephone Segment"

Upon implementation of the "FY2005 Competition Review in the Telecommunications Field," MIC invited public comments and held the open conference on the "Market Definition of Fixed Telephone Segment" for defining objective markets.

Background

During the period from February 22 through March 15, 2006, MIC invited public comments on the "FY2005 Competition Review in the Telecommunications Field 'Market Definition of Fixed Telephone Segment (draft).'" During said period, MIC received nine comments.

In addition, on March 22, 2006, MIC held the open conference on the "Market Definition of Fixed Telephone Segment" for exchanging opinions with stakeholders, including telecommunications carriers and specialists. Based upon those results, MIC defined the objective markets for review.

Future plans

Based upon the "Basic Approach of Competition Review in the Telecommunications Field" and the "FY2005 Details for Implementation of Competition Review in the Telecommunications Field," MIC will analyze the markets as defined for review. In summer of 2006, MIC will publicize the "FY2005 Competition Review in the Telecommunications Field."

In FY2005, MIC will analyze mainly the fixed telephone segment, in parallel with such segments as the mobile communications and the Internet access.

Main points of "Market Definition of Fixed Telephone Segment"

The FY2005 Competition Review targets the fixed telephone segment carries out a new analysis, the main points governing ideas on the market definition are as follows. Concerning the segments such as

"Internet access" and "mobile communications," the results of market definition for FY 2003 and 2004 are adopted.

Settling the market structure of fixed telephones

- "Access" and "Call" will not be differentiated, both being taken together in making up the market.
- "Access" can be selected from (1) NTT East/West telephony service, (2) Direct access telephony service, (3) Cable telephony service or (4) OABJ (geographical number) type IP telephony service.
- "Call" can be selected from (5) PSTN call service, (6) 050 (location free number) type IP telephony service or (7) Internet telephony service. In the case of (1) "Call" is unbundled from "Access" and call service carriers can be selected freely. But in the case of (2) to (4), "Call" is bundled to "Access" and call service carriers are limited.

Market definition of fixed telephone segment (service market)

- The range of the market has been defined as (1) NTT East/West telephony service, (2) Direct access telephony service, (3) Cable telephony service and (4) OABJ type IP telephony service.
- [Reason] (1) to (4) options offer a high level of demand-side substitution little difference in functions, and comparable with each other when contracting, etc).

Handling of NTT East/West telephony service

- The (1) NTT East/West telephony service will be handled as a sub-market, and in addition to

analyzing the demand structure of the service, we will also analyze the state of competition in (5) PSTN call service and (6) 050 type IP telephony service.

[Reason] NTT East/West telephony service have a high level of independence "Access" and "Call" are structurally separated, and there exists much switching cost when changing the service, etc.) We did not define the market for (7) Internet telephony service, for the demand for the service has not taken off yet. So analysis will be conducted where data is available.

Definition of geographical market

- The administrative division into prefectures is the smallest unit for analysis.
 - Taking the state of competition into account, geographical markets have been set into 2 areas of eastern and western Japan according to the service areas of NTT East/West, or for 10 regional blocks nationwide according to the service areas of the electric power companies.
- [Reason] In terms of the possibility of obtaining data, the division is the minimum unit. Since we define the geographical market based on the state of competition, it is necessary to analyze the market divided into 2 areas according to the service areas of NTT East/West or the market divided into 10 areas according to the service areas of the electric power companies.

Handling of 050 type IP telephony service (relationship with Internet access market)

- With regard to 050 type IP telephony service, we analyze from many aspects such as a sub-market of the Internet access market and also as a part of the IP telephony (050 type and 0ABJ type IP telephony) market, in addition to the analysis as a part of the fixed telephone market.

[Reason] 050 type IP telephony

service substitute the functions of PSTN call service, but many users consider the service as an additional service to Internet access. In addition, they can hardly distinguish the service from the 0ABJ type IP telephony service, and see both as the IP telephony service.

Relationship with mobile communications market

- Fixed telephone market and mobile communications market are

separate markets (observe the leverage from the other market and the trend in FMC services).

[Reason] Although there is a definite substitution between fixed and mobile, there is also a complementarity as they are used together. So it is unsuitable for them to be considered as the same market.

Preparatory Meeting Held for the Establishment of Hotline Center

The Internet Association Japan held a preparatory meeting to put together standards from experts and related people from industry organizations and the like, in order to make the preparations necessary for the establishment of "Hotline Center" (provisional name).

Aims

Illegal materials on the Internet, such as child pornography and information on covert sale of drugs and the like, as well as sites that are not immediately seen as illegal, such as suicide sites and those showing the manufacturing process for explosive devices, and harmful information regarding contracts for murders and other illegal acts have been circulating on the Internet and have become a major societal problem.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, and in order to promote effective measures against illegal activity and harmful information on the Internet, information provided by Internet users concerning illegal and harmful information will be collected and classified according to predetermined standards. The police will be informed concerning illegal information and requests will be made to the administrators of the providers or electronic notice boards asking that measures be taken to block the transmissions.

A preparatory meeting for the establishment of hotline center was held so that providers can fulfill their responsibility in the face of harmful information by taking action and making the preparations necessary to set up "Hotline Center" (provisional name).

Outline**Date and Time:**

April 4, 2006 (Tuesday) 2-3pm

Place:

Shinbashi Internet Association Japan, Shinbashi Frontier Bldg. 6th floor, 3-4-5, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Organizer:

Internet Center Japan

Proceedings:

- Preparatory meeting for the establishment of hotline centers
- Invitation to comment on the range of illegal and harmful information handled by the hot lines and procedure for determining this

Outline of "Hotline Center" (provisional name)**Background of establishment**

At present, the circulation of child pornography on the Internet, information on restricted drugs and the like, as well as sites that are not immediately seen as illegal, such as suicide sites and those showing the manufacturing process for explosive devices, and harmful information regarding contracts for illegal activities such as murders, have become a major societal problem.

Countermeasures to deal with this illegal and harmful information on the Internet, such as arrests by the police and requests to administrators of providers and electronic notice board operators to voluntarily take measures to stop these transmissions, have been taken. But since vast amounts of new information circulate on the Internet every day, it is clear that there are limits to such countermeasures.

Against such a background, and in order to promote effective and efficient measures against illegal and harmful information on the Internet, the Study Group to Address Illegal and Harmful Information on the Internet also stated in its interim report (announced on January 26, 2006) that an investigation should be carried out on policies to support and promote effective measures by providers and electronic notice board operators to stop such transmissions.

In addition, the National Police Agency, in its fiscal year 2005 General Security Countermeasures Conference, stated that it receives a large number of notices from users concerning illegal and harmful information on the Internet, and proposed that decisions concerning the information received should be made based on predetermined standards, and that there was a need to request of adminis-

trators at providers and electronic notice board operators for "hotlines" and a framework for their operation in response to the information.

At present, operation guidelines are being investigated at "Hotline Center" (provisional name) which will be the implementation bodies for these hotlines.

Responsibilities

"Hotline Center" (provisional name) will receive information concerning illegal and harmful information on the Internet from Internet users and will categorize them according to predetermined standards that consider the balance between fundamental human rights such as freedom of expression and public welfare. A decision will be made based on predetermined standards, followed by a notice to the police and a request to administrators at providers and electronic

notice board operators to erase the information.

[Reference]

Meeting of the Study Group to Address Illegal and Harmful Information on the Internet

http://www.soumu.go.jp/s-news/2005/050728_5.html

Midterm report of the Study Group to Address Illegal and Harmful Information on the Internet

http://www.soumu.go.jp/s-news/2006/060126_1.html

Operation form

The Center will be operated by a private entity and it is planned that a certain number of experts provide the hotline services, after installing service bases and preparing necessary reference material and equipment.