Open Forum 2021

NICC — UK Interoperability Standards

16th November 2021

Security Task Group (STG)

TG chair – Dave Evans BT

Presentation by Alan Kelly - Sky

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ND1446 V0.0.12

A General Security Standard for providers of Public Electronic Communication Services and Networks (PECS&N)

- Replacing proposed security text in every ND
- A single reference document containing URLs to NICC and industry security standards and guides

ND1525 V1.1.4

NICC Standards Ltd. members' response to incoming telecom security legislation

- An ND containing the collective responses from major UK Communication Providers to DCMS, Ofcom, and NCSC to the draft Telecommunications Security Requirements document version 0.92.
- The document was sent in early November 2021.

ND1525 - MEMBERS RESPONSE TO INCOMING LEGISLATION

- The Security Task Group reviewed the impact of the Telecom Security Requirements v0.92 (N.B. to be replaced by a Code of Practice) and highlighted /documented collective impacts on the major providers of PECS&N in the UK.

- The impacts included cost of implementation, scope & terminology, UK focus of national resilience, timescales, tiering, network signalling, monitoring & logging, patching, skills & resources and threat analysis.

- The ND was sent to DCMS, Ofcom and NCSC in early November 2021.

- There was an immediate response which indicated that the feedback would be considered along with other responses during the consultation on the CoP which will follow Royal Assent of the Telecoms Security Bill.

NEW ACTIVITY

Standardised requirements for Privileged Access Workstations (PAWs)

- PAWs is a very complex subject, however, access to critical network functions needs additional protection to prevent a breach by a capable adversary.

- Input for this ND will be taken from the Telecom Security Act and associate documentation, along with input from the NSIE Working Group that is focused on PAWs.

- The aim is to develop a minimum set of requirements for a PAW solution that could, with agreement, become an NICC ND standard. Each Communication Provider (CP) or Operator can then develop a solution either in-house or via a third-party supplier. Significant advantages of a standard should mean that major vendors to the providers of PECS&N don't need to have multiple PAW devices when servicing the networks of several CPs and a solution based upon the standard should be compliant to the new regulations.

Questions?

Thank You