EXTERNAL DEPENDENCIES MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY (CISA) OFFERS THE EXTERNAL DEPENDENCIES MANAGEMENT (EDM) ASSESSMENT ON A VOLUNTARY, NO-COST BASIS FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ORGAIZATIONS AND STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS. ADMINISTERED BY REGIONALLY-LOCATED CYBERSECURITY ADVISORS, THE ASSESSMENT PROVIDES AN ORGANIZATION WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THEY MANAGE RISKS ARISING FROM DEPENDENCES ON THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) SUPPLY CHAIN.

FORMAT AND GOALS

The EDM Assessment is conducted as a four-hour session at a location of your choosing and facilitated by trained DHS representatives. Your organization can use the assessment by itself and as the first step in an improvement effort. You also may use it in conjunction with CISA's External Dependencies Management Method, which provides a rigorous, repeatable way to identify and manage specific suppliers or other external entities that your organization depends on to support its mission.

The goals of the assessment are to:

- Evaluate the activities and practices your organization uses to manage risks arising from external dependencies.
- Provide an objective review of your organization's capabilities in the assessed areas and recommendations offering a roadmap for improvement based on industry-leading practices.

APPROACH

Risks associated with the ICT supply chain have grown dramatically with expanded outsourcing of technology and infrastructure. Failures in managing these risks have resulted in incidents affecting millions of people.

The EDM Assessment focuses on the relationship between your organization's high-value services and assets (people, technology, facilities, and information) and evaluates how you manage risks incurred from using the ICT supply chain to support these high-value services. The ICT supply chain consists of outside parties that operate, provide, or support information and communications technology. Common examples include externally provided web and data hosting, telecommunications services, and data centers, as well as any service that depends on the secure use of ICT.

Through the EDM Assessment, your organization will evaluate:

- Relationship Formation – how your organization considers third-party risks, selects external entities, and forms relationships with them so that risk is managed from the start.
- Relationship Management and Governance – how your organization manages ongoing relationships with external entities to support and strengthen your critical services at a managed level of risk and costs.

- Service Protection and Sustainment – how your organization plans for, anticipates, and manages disruption or incidents related to external entities.

The EDM Assessment evolved from the DHS Cyber Resilience Review (CRR) and, like the CRR, is based on the CERT Resilience Management Model (CERT-RMM), a process improvement model developed by Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute.

BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES

Through an EDM Assessment, your organization will gain a better understanding of your cybersecurity posture relating to external dependencies. The assessment provides:

- An opportunity for participants from different parts of you organization to discuss issues relating to vendors and reliance on external entities;
- Options for consideration that guide improvement efforts, using recognized standards and best practices drawn from such sources as the CERT-RMM, NIST standards, and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework; and
- A comprehensive report on your third-party risk management practices and capabilities.

DATA PRIVACY

The EDM Assessment report is created exclusively for your organization's internal use. All data collected and analysis performed during an EDM assessment is afforded protection under the CISA Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program. PCII program protection means that CISA employees are trained in the safeguarding and handling of PCII, CISA cannot publicly disclose PCII, and PCII cannot be used for regulatory purposes. To learn more, please visit www.dhs.gov/pcii.

PARTICIPANTS

To conduct an EDM assessment, CISA recommends that you involve a cross-functional team that includes those responsible for the functions shown in the following.

- IT security planning and management (e.g., Director of Information Technology)
- IT operations (e.g., configuration/change managers)
- Risk managers, in particular operations risk (e.g., enterprise/operations risk manager)
- Business continuity and disaster recovery planning (e.g., BC/DR manager)
- IT policy and governance (e.g., Chief Information Security Officer)
- Business management (e.g., operations manager)
- Procurement and vendor management (e.g., contracts and legal support managers)
- Legal

For further information, contact your Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) at iodregionaloperations@cisa.dhs.gov.