



## **Fact Sheet: Initial Suite of Technical Standards for the Information Sharing Environment Address Information Assurance, Core Transport, and Identity and Access Management**

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*“Today, the sharing of terrorism-related information takes place within multiple independent sharing environments that serve five communities – intelligence, law enforcement, defense, homeland security, and foreign affairs. Historically each community developed its own policies, rules, standards, architectures, and systems to channel information to meet mission requirements. These environments were insulated from one another, which resulted in gaps . . . Our objective is to establish a framework for federal agencies in the fulfillment of their individual roles and responsibilities and forge a coordinated and trusted interagency partnership and process across all five communities.”*

– National Strategy for Information Sharing, October 2007

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### **Initial Suite of Technical Standards Released**

- In the fall of 2008, Ambassador Thomas E. McNamara, Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE), released the initial suite of technical standards under the *Common Terrorism Information Sharing Standards (CTISS)* program.
- The ISE Guidance Issuances for Information Assurance, Core Transport, and the Identity and Access Management Framework identify the voluntary technical standards and processes needed to facilitate services, such as discovery, security, storage and collaboration, within the infrastructure that moves information from one ISE participant to another, also known as the ISE Core.
  - ISE Core is the infrastructure made up of enterprise services, networks and systems that interconnect the individual ISE Shared Spaces into a functioning unified network.
- Additionally, the ISE Guidance Issuances for Information Assurance and Identity and Access Management identify technical standards for the implementation of ISE Shared Spaces, where information is shared based upon clearly identified ISE mission need and commonly agreed to business processes and information flows.
  - ISE Shared Spaces and ISE Core allow ISE participants to leverage, for information-sharing purposes, their technologies and processes that are tightly coupled to their mission to support the larger national counterterrorism mission.
- The three ISE Guidance Issuances apply to all agencies that possess or use terrorism and/or homeland security information, operate systems that support or interface with the ISE, or otherwise participate or expect to participate in the ISE, consistent with section 1016(i), Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, as amended.



### **Information Assurance Technical Standard, ISE-G-106**

- On October 24, 2008 Ambassador Thomas E. McNamara, PM-ISE, issued the *Information Sharing Environment Guidance (ISE-G)-106 Technical Standard – Information Assurance, Version 1.0*, which identifies technical standards for providing information assurance services within the ISE Core.
- Information Assurance (IA) addresses those measures that protect and defend information and information systems by ensuring their availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality, and non-repudiation.
- A foundational principle of the ISE is to build trusted partnerships, and these IA technical standards and processes will promote a trusted environment for ISE participants to share information.

### **Core Transport Technical Standard, ISE-G-107**

- On October 16, 2008 Ambassador Thomas E. McNamara, PM-ISE, issued the *Information Sharing Environment Guidance (ISE-G) 107 Technical Standard – Core Transport, Version 1.0*, which identifies technical standards for providing core transport services.
- ISE Core Transport involves the underlying telecommunications and information technology infrastructure in the ISE Core which moves information from one ISE Shared Space to another ISE Shared Space.

### **Identity and Access Management Technical Standard, ISE-G-108**

- On December 19, 2008 Ambassador Thomas E. McNamara, Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment (ISE), issued the *Information Sharing Environment Guidance-108 (ISE-G-108) Identity and Access Management Framework for the ISE, Version 1.0*.
- Recognizing there are a variety of different approaches to identity and access management throughout the ISE, this Framework provides a common approach for the identification of ISE participants and the authorization to access ISE participants' terrorism and/or homeland security information.
- ISE Identity and Access Management (IdAM) Framework:
  - Identifies and organizes those current IdAM standards, technologies, and operational principles that ISE participants are implementing or will implement to support both discovery and access to terrorism and/or homeland security information.
  - Provides common definitions and requirements to guide ISE participants on leveraging and integrating existing efforts toward a common identity and access management solution for the ISE.



## **The Common Terrorism Information Sharing Standards Program**

- On October 31, 2007, Ambassador McNamara established the CTISS program (ISE-AM-300) consistent with the direction provided by the President in Guideline 1 of his December 2005 Memorandum, and section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.
- The CTISS program allows for business process-driven, performance-based "common standards" for preparing terrorism information for maximum distribution and access, to enable the acquisition, access, retention, production, use, management, and sharing of terrorism information within the ISE. Two categories of common standards are formally identified under CTISS:
  - Functional Standards – Functional standards describe the rules, conditions, guidelines and characteristics of focused mission areas that use ISE business processes and information exchanges to share information.
  - Technical Standards – Technical standards document specific technical methodologies and practices to design and implement information sharing capability into ISE systems.
- Visit [www.ise.gov/pages/ctiss.html](http://www.ise.gov/pages/ctiss.html) to view ISE-G-106, ISE-G-107, and ISE-G-108 in their entirety.

## **Information Sharing Environment Background**

- The *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004*, as amended by the *9/11 Commission Act*, calls for the development of an ISE to facilitate the sharing of terrorism and homeland security information among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and, as appropriate, foreign partners and the private sector.
- The Information Sharing Council was directed by the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004* and established by Executive Order 13388 to advise the President and the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, and to provide for coordination among the federal agencies participating in the ISE.