



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

*Post Office Box 7407 • Austin, Texas 78713-7407
(512) 232-9610 • FAX (512) 232-9607 • E-mail: vpit@its.utexas.edu*

To: Deans' Council
Department Chairs
Vice Presidents' Council
Associate Vice Presidents

From: Brian E Roberts, Vice President for Information Technology
Rudolph H Green, Director, Office of Institutional Compliance

Date: March 16, 2007

Subject: Required risk analysis of information resources

Assessing the risk of information resources on campus based on the data they contain helps us identify the appropriate level of protections required to protect those resources. I write to inform you of a new process that will gather measurable information to help us assess such risk and manage it appropriately.

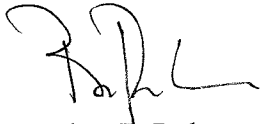
Texas Administrative Code Rule §202.72 requires that high-risk information resources have annual risk assessments. The annual risk assessment process at UT is being implemented campus-wide by the Information Security Office (ISO) to meet this regulatory requirement. It will also help us fulfill UT System compliance and administration requirements. The ISO has created a web-based tool, the Information Security Office Risk Assessment (ISORA), and a process whereby reports from the tool can be reviewed and actions taken accordingly. After the last social security number incident, President Powers and Chancellor Yudof requested a mechanism for the campus to clearly demonstrate how its overall risk profile has changed. Reports from ISORA will document these changes.

ISORA was developed by the ISO specifically for the UT Austin community. Managing the annual risk assessment internally will allow the university to retain control of the assessment process by showing that the university is proactively taking steps to identify and reduce risk over time. The process and tools have been tailored to meet the unique needs of the university community.

The risk assessment will begin on April 9th with the release of ISORA to the technical support community. Additional notification will be sent to department heads, as well as those responsible for providing information for the risk assessments. The process involves ranking information resources on the network according to the type of data they contain. Many members of the university community will be asked to participate in this process: the technical support community, faculty and staff. Department heads will be required to acknowledge receipt of the survey results for the information resources in their area of responsibility. We are asking everyone to complete the ranking in ISORA by July 9, 2007.

Once all the data have been gathered, reports for each area will be available to the responsible parties. These reports will provide actionable information and enable informed decisions about the risk of information resources in your department.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping the university complete this important process.



Brian E. Roberts, Ph.D.

Vice President for Information Technology



Rudolph H Green, J.D.

Director, Office of Institutional Compliance