

NASCIO 2003 RECOGNITION AWARDS NOMINATION

Title of Nomination: Secure Michigan Initiative Project

Project/System Manager: Dan Lohrmann

Job Title: Chief Information Security Officer

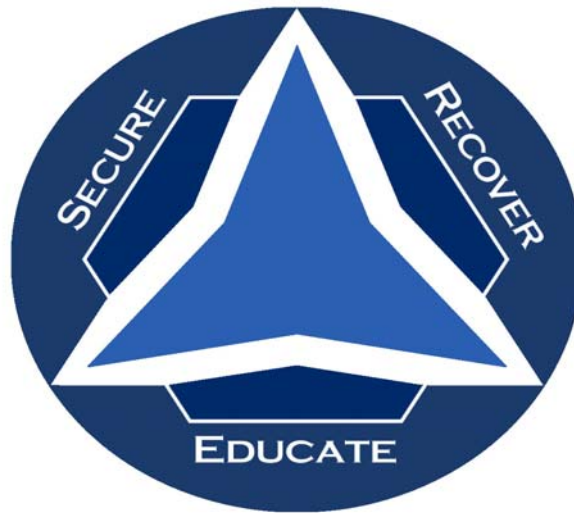
Agency: Office of Security and Disaster Recovery

Department: Michigan Department of Information Technology

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Category: Security and Business Continuity Category

Person nominating: same as above



OFFICE OF
SECURITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Secure Michigan Initiative Executive Summary

In May 2002, the Director of the new Department of Information Technology appointed a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to oversee the security of State of Michigan government information systems and networks. The new CISO was charged with assessing the risks, threats, and vulnerabilities of state computer systems and recommending a new security framework and strategic plan including organizational roles & responsibilities for the State of Michigan government. The *Secure Michigan Initiative* is the culmination of this effort. It offers other states a unique model of work plans, processes that include stakeholders and customers, and templates with an enterprise-wide perspective of the security processes.

There were five major phases to the Secure Michigan Initiative project: 1) “As Is” rapid risk assessment security study, 2) “To Be” security framework analysis using the recommended best practices from federal and state government and recognized leaders in the security arena, 3) “Gap” analysis using the results of the “As Is” study compared to the results of the “To Be” study defined the “gap” between the State’s current security and where State’s security needed to be, 4) development of the Secure Michigan Initiative document detailing the vulnerabilities identified in the risk assessment and the recommended solutions from the gap analysis to address the security risks, and 5) strategic plans for the implementation process of key recommendations from the Secure Michigan Initiative document.

An enterprise-wide rapid risk assessment was conducted by Information Technology (IT) security personnel from eleven different state government organizations who were led by the CISO. The risk assessment was based upon the guidance and principles from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Security Handbook, the International Standards Organization (ISO) 17799 Security standards, and the Federal Information Systems Controls Audit Manual from the General Accounting Office. The primary purpose of the risk assessment was to determine the highest risk issues in relation to the security of the State of Michigan’s IT infrastructure, policies, procedures, and applications/systems. The goal was to develop a risk analysis to administer to every agency within state government based upon State of Michigan requirements, federal guidelines, and IT industry best practices.

In order to establish the best possible security framework upon which State of Michigan government can build secure computer systems and communications infrastructure, recommended practices from Giga, Gartner, Meta, the federal government and other state government best practices were considered. The following six focus areas were identified that represent the greatest opportunity to reduce security risk and promote operational reliability.

- Security Roles and Responsibilities
- Awareness, Training, and Education
- Security Incident Management
- Computer Security Risk Management
- Disaster Recovery
- Certification and Accreditation of Applications and Computer Systems

The document entitled “The Secure Michigan Initiative” provided specific recommendations to improve security within each of the focus areas giving a three-tiered option for risk mitigation. The recommended projects support gubernatorial goals and priorities to improve the security, privacy, operational reliability, and accuracy of State of Michigan government processes.