NIST CSRC Drafts Provide Valuable Reading

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Although everyone chuckles at the corny line, “Hi, I’m from the government and I’m here to help you,” our skepticism has to exclude the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), which truly does contribute excellent work to a wide range of fields, including information security.


Their announcement read in part, “The document is intended to assist the users and system administrators of Windows 2000 Professional systems in configuring their hosts by providing configuration templates and security checklists. The document introduces secure configuration recommendations for setting up some popular Windows applications, such as Symantec Norton AntiVirus, Network Associates McAfee, and F-Secure Anti-Virus virus scanners, Microsoft IE and Netscape Communicator web browsers, Microsoft Outlook and Eudora e-mail clients, and Microsoft Office 2000 Professional productivity software.”

The URL above includes a number of draft documents of interest to network and security administrators, including (among others)

* Contingency Planning Guide for Information Technology Systems;
* Security for Telecommuting and Broadband Communications;
* Security Guide for Interconnecting Information Technology Systems; and

In addition, the Draft Publications page provides links to
* a handy list of acronyms relating to government computer security projects,
* recent security alerts from many different US and international government security organizations, and
* many other useful security pages and sites.

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