

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes July 2, 2018 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Plato Smith, Laurie Taylor (email input)

Agenda

The agenda item was the review and discussion, over the coming month until the next meeting August 6th, of the drafts for revised policy and two standards pertaining to IT risk assessments. Committee member who cannot attend are asked to send their comments. This is an important topic and there is time to give input. After RCAC the draft will go to several more committees, groups and forums.

The current policies can be found at

1. Risk management policy v2.0 -> v3.0

<https://it.ufl.edu/policies/information-security/risk-management-policy/>

2. Information Security Risk Assessment Standard v1.0 – v 2.0

<https://it.ufl.edu/policies/information-security/related-standards-and-documents/risk-assessment-standard/>

3. System Security Plan Standard v1.0 -> no changes suggested yet

<https://it.ufl.edu/policies/information-security/related-standards-and-documents/system-security-plans-standard/>

The current policy has scope that can and has been interpreted very broadly such that its implementation became very obstructive to business processes of the university, especially the ones involving research and in particular research without any restricted data, where the risk is minimal and the value of risk assessment imposed by the policy is questionable. That consideration is the main motivation for the proposed changes, with the goal to make the process more focused and less burdensome.

Discussion

- The new language was considered acceptable.
- The proposed policy focusses on workflows, rather than systems and on advice to decision makers instead of providing decisions.
- The proposed policy distinguishes between basic and advanced risk assessment.
 - o Basic risk assessment consists of verifying that all university policies regarding information technology are followed and that no restricted data is being processed or stored. The decision can be made by faculty and staff.
 - o Advanced risk assessment requires making a risk assessment request at <https://riskmanagement.it.ufl.edu>.
- The proposed requirement to introduce new training for all faculty and staff on basic risk assessment was questioned. It is yet another imposition on time without a clear benefit.

- A good communication campaign of the value that risk assessment brings is crucial. Both video for younger generation, and text for communication need to be provided.
- The information security risk assessment standard changes were not discussed.

Please send comments and thoughts by next August 6th!

Organization

- Next meeting will be on Monday August 6, 2018 in the usual conference room NPB 2304 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom enabled for virtual attendance.