Implementing DFARS Clause 252.204-7012, Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting

August 21, 2018
Cybersecurity threats targeting government unclassified information have dramatically increased.

Cybersecurity incidents have surged 38% since 2014

*The Global State of Information Security® Survey 2016*

Cyber attacks cost companies $400 billion every year

*Inga Beale, CEO, Lloyds*

Cybercrime will cost businesses over $2 trillion by 2019

*Juniper Research*

Impacts of successful attacks included downtime (46%), loss of revenue (28%), reputational damage (26%), and loss of customers (22%)

*AT&T Cybersecurity Insights Vol. 4*

61% of breach victims are businesses with <1,000 employees

*2017 Data Breach Investigations Report, Verizon*

80% of breaches leverage stolen, weak, and/or guessable passwords

In a study of 200 corporate directors, 80% said that cyber security is discussed at most or all board meetings. However, two-thirds of CIOs and CISOs say senior leaders in their organization don’t view cyber security as a strategic priority.

*NYSE Governance Services and security vendor Veracode*
What DoD Is Doing

DoD has a range of activities that include both regulatory and voluntary programs to improve the collective cybersecurity of the nation and protect U.S. interests

- Securing DoD’s information systems and networks
- Codifying cybersecurity responsibilities and procedures for the acquisition workforce in defense acquisition policy
- Contractual requirements implemented through the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS)
- DoD’s DIB Cybersecurity Program for voluntary cyber threat information sharing
- Leveraging security standards such as those identified in National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-171 “Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Information Systems and Organizations” (Revision 1 published Dec 2016)
Protecting the DoD’s Unclassified Information

Contractor’s Internal System

DFARS Clause 252.204-7012, and/or FAR Clause 52.204-21, and security requirements from NIST SP 800-171 apply.

- Federal Contract Information
- Controlled Unclassified Information (USG-wide)

- Covered Defense Information (includes Unclassified Controlled Technical Information)

Internal Cloud
NIST SP 800-171

External CSP
Equivalent to FedRAMP Moderate

DoD Owned and/or Operated Information System

Controller Unclassified Information

System Operated on Behalf of the DoD

Cloud Service Provider

DoD Information System

- Security requirements from CNSSI 1253, based on NIST SP 800-53, apply

Cloud Service Provider

- When cloud services are provided by DoD, the DoD Cloud Computing SRG applies

When cloud services are used to process data on the DoD's behalf, DFARS Clause 252.239-7010 and DoD Cloud Computing SRG apply.

Controlled Unclassified Information

Statement A: Approved for Release. Distribution is unlimited.
Covered Defense Information – Term used to identify information that requires protection under DFARS Clause 252.204-7012

- Unclassified controlled technical information (CTI) or other information, as described in the CUI Registry, that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls pursuant to and consistent with law, regulations, and Government-wide policies and is –
  1) Marked or otherwise identified in the contract, task order, or delivery order and provided to contractor by or on behalf of, DoD in support of the performance of the contract; **OR**
  2) Collected, developed, received, transmitted, used, or stored by, or on behalf of, the contractor in support of the performance of the contract\(^ 2\)

\(^1\) Referenced only to point to information that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls pursuant to and consistent with law, regulations, government-wide policies

\(^2\) “In support of the performance of the contract” is not meant to include the contractor’s internal information (e.g., human resource or financial) that is incidental to contract performance
When should DFARS Clause 252.204-7012 flow down to subcontractors?

• The clause is required to flow down to subcontractors only when performance will involve operationally critical support or covered defense information.

• The contractor shall determine if the information required for subcontractor performance is, or retains its identify as, covered defense information and requires safeguarding.

• Flowdown is a requirement of the terms of the contract with the Government, which must be enforced by the prime contractor as a result of compliance with these terms.
  – If a subcontractor does not agree to comply with the terms of DFARS Clause 252.204–7012, then covered defense information shall not be shared with the subcontractor or otherwise reside on it’s information system.

The Department’s emphasis is on the deliberate management of information requiring protection. Prime contractors should minimize the flowdown of information requiring protection.
To provide adequate security to safeguard covered defense information:

DFARS 252.204-7012 (b) Adequate Security. ... the contractor shall implement, at a minimum, the following information security protections:

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(b)(2)(ii)(A): The contractor shall implement NIST SP 800-171, Protecting CUI in Nonfederal Systems and Organizations, as soon as practical, but not later than December 31, 2017

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(b)(3): Apply other information systems security measures when the Contractor reasonably determines that information systems security measures, in addition to those identified in paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) of this clause, may be required

DFARS 252.204-7012 directs how the contractor shall protect covered defense information; The requirement to protect it is based in law, regulation, or Government wide policy.
Implementing NIST SP 800-171 Security Requirements

Most requirements in NIST SP 800-171 are about policy, process, and configuring IT securely, but some may require security-related software or hardware. For companies new to the requirements, a reasonable approach would be to:

1. Examine each of the requirements to determine
   - Policy or process requirements
   - Policy/process requirements that require an implementation in IT (typically by either configuring the IT in a certain way or through use of specific software)
   - IT configuration requirements
   - Any additional software or hardware required

   The complexity of the company IT system may determine whether additional software or tools are required

2. Determine which requirements can readily be accomplished by in-house IT personnel and which require additional research or assistance

3. Develop a plan of action and milestones to implement the requirements
Demonstrating Implementation of NIST SP 800-171 — System Security Plan and Plans of Action

- To document implementation of NIST SP 800-171, companies should have a system security plan in place, in addition to any associated plans of action:
  - **Security Requirement 3.12.4 (System Security Plan):** Requires the contractor to develop, document, and periodically update, system security plans that describe system boundaries, system environments of operation, how security requirements are implemented, and the relationships with or connections to other systems.
  - **Security Requirement 3.12.2 (Plans of Action):** Requires the contractor to develop and implement plans of action designed to correct deficiencies and reduce or eliminate vulnerabilities in their systems, and to describe how and when any unimplemented security requirements will be met.
DFARS Clause 252.204-7012 requires contractors/subcontractors to:

1. Provide adequate security to safeguard covered defense information that resides on or is transiting through a contractor’s internal information system or network

2. Report cyber incidents that affect a covered contractor information system or the covered defense information residing therein, or that affect the contractor’s ability to perform requirements designated as operationally critical support

3. Submit malicious software discovered and isolated in connection with a reported cyber incident to the DoD Cyber Crime Center

4. If requested, submit media and additional information to support damage assessment

5. Flow down the clause in subcontracts for operationally critical support, or for which subcontract performance will involve covered defense information
Contractor Compliance — Implementation of DFARS Clause 252.204-7012

• By signing the contract, the contractor agrees to comply with the terms of the contract and all requirements of the DFARS Clause 252.204-7012

• It is the contractor’s responsibility to determine whether it has implemented the NIST SP 800-171 (as well as any other security measures necessary to provide adequate security for covered defense information)
  – DoD will not certify that a contractor is compliant with the NIST SP 800-171 security requirements
  – Third party assessments or certifications of compliance are not required, authorized, or recognized by DoD

• Per NIST SP 800-171, federal agencies may consider the submitted system security plan and plans of action as critical inputs to an overall risk management decision to process, store, or transmit CUI on a nonfederal organization
How Can a Contractor’s System Security Plan and/or Internal System Impact a Procurement Action?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACQUISITION SCENARIO</th>
<th>SOLICITATION/RFP</th>
<th>SOURCE SELECTION</th>
<th>CONTRACT</th>
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</table>
| 1. Evaluate implementation of NIST SP 800-171 at source selection  
  – Alternative 1A: Go/No Go decision based on implementation status of NIST SP 800-171  
  – Alternative 1B: Assess NIST SP 800-171 implementation as a separate technical evaluation factor |
| 2. In addition to the security requirements in NIST SP 800-171, also evaluate any added protections that may be required |
| 3. Assess/track implementation of NIST SP 800-171 security requirements after contract award  
  – The government may also monitor compliance of NIST SP 800-171 with continuous monitoring or an independent government review |
| 4. Contractors ‘self-attest’ to compliance with DFARS 252.204-7012 and implementation of NIST SP 800-171 |
Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Oversight of DFARS Clause 252.204-7012

Actions DCMA will take in response to DFARS Clause 252.204-7012:

• Encourage industry to adopt corporate, segment, or facility-level system security plans as may be appropriate in order to ensure more consistent implementations and to reduce costs

• Verify that system security plans and any associated plans of action are in place (DCMA will not assess plans against the NIST 800-171 requirements)

• If potential cybersecurity issue is detected – notify contractor, DoD program office, and DoD CIO

• During the normal Contract Receipt and Review process - verify that DFARS Clause 252.204-7012 is flowed down to sub-contractors/suppliers as appropriate

• For contracts awarded before October 2017 - verify that contractor submitted to DoD CIO notification of security requirements not yet implemented

• Verify contractor possesses DoD-approved medium assurance certificate to report cyber incidents

• When required, facilitate entry of government assessment team into contractor facilities via coordination with cognizant government and contractor stakeholders
Welcome to the DIBNet portal
DoD’s gateway for defense contractor cyber incident reporting and voluntary participation in DoD’s Cybersecurity Program

Report a Cyber Incident

A DoD-approved Medium Assurance Certificate is required to access the reporting module. To obtain a DoD-approved Medium Assurance Certificate, please click here.

Do you know what to report? See below.

Need assistance?
Contact DoD Cyber Crime Center (DC3)

Email: DCISE@dc3.mil
Hotline: (410) 961-0104
Toll Free: (877) 838-2174

DoD’s DIB Cybersecurity (CS) Program

The DIB CS Program is a voluntary cyber threat information sharing program established by DoD to enhance and supplement DIB participants’ capabilities to safeguard DoD information that resides on or transits DIB unclassified networks or information systems.

To apply to the DIB CS Program, a DoD-approved Medium Assurance Certificate is required. To obtain a DoD-approved Medium Assurance Certificate, please click here.

Apply Now!

Need assistance?
Contact the DIB CS Program Office

Email: OSD-DIRCSIA@mail.mil
Phone: (703) 604-3167
Toll Free: (855) DoD-IACS
Fax: (571) 372-5434

Access to this page requires a DoD-approved medium assurance certificate. For more information please visit the ECA website.

https://www.DIBNet.dod.mil
Resources

- Cybersecurity in DoD Acquisition Regulations page - Regulations, Policy, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and Resources  https://dodprocurementtoolbox.com/


- Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs)
  - Nationwide network of centers/counselors experienced in government contracting, many of which are affiliated with Small Business Development Centers and other small business programs  http://www.dla.mil/HQ/SmallBusiness/PTAP.aspx

- Cybersecurity Evaluation Tool (CSET) - No-cost application, developed by DHS, provides step-by-step process to evaluate information technology network security practices  https://ics-cert.us-cert.gov/Downloading-and-Installing-CSET

Questions? Submit via email at osd.dibcsia@mail.mil
Questions