Executive Summary

Authority for the Project

The audit is included in the 2000/01 Audit and Review Branch (ARB) Annual Plan that was approved by the Audit and Review Committee (ARC) on February 1, 2000.

Objective

To audit the adequacy of PWGSC's Management Control Framework (MCF) associated with three key security components/services supporting the delivery of the department's programs and services in an Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) environment.

Scope

An assessment of the adequacy of the MCF including an objective examination of risk management, control and governance within the following areas: (A) Public Key Infrastructure (PKI): (B) Secure Remote Access (SRA): and (C) the departmental intrusion detection and management system.

Key Findings and Conclusions

The audit was performed from August 2000 to March 2001. The environment of the three areas audited is ever-changing and continual improvement.

A.   Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

Findings:

As we move from a small number of users in a pilot environment to a production environment applicable to a large number of users, it will be crucial to that the support methodology to assign and revoke keys are in line with applicable policies.

There is a need to ensure that security risk is being addressed consistently across all applications and that consistent oversight occurs at the Departmental level.

Secure Services is in the process of developing a Local Registration Authority (LRA) strategy to address the broader range of departmental directions and processes required to support the growing use of PKI.

Conclusions

The successful assignment of PKI certificates to an increased number of users will be dependent on an appropriate methodology to authenticate users and control the distribution and the revoking of keys.

B.   Secure Remote Access

SRA (PKI) is based upon the proven encryption and authentication practices for the Government of Canada and the use of Secure Applications and Key Management Services (SAKMS) as the Certification Authority for PWGSC. Accordingly, findings and conclusions are included under PKI.

C.   Departmental intrusion detection and management system

Findings:

New and emerging technology and cross sector initiatives need to be managed effectively to ensure risk isn't elevated.

Severed - Section 16(2) of the Access to Information Act

Conclusions

The development of competing or complementary initiatives can be a healthy and productive management approach, however, the failure to eventually bring the initiatives together under a single organizational strategy is an invitation to excessive development cost, duplication of effort, and security gaps.

Severed - Section 16(2) of the Access to Information Act

Recommendations

There are no recommendations: observations have been brought forward to the working level managers.

There is no detailed report associated with this audit.