

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



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**Office of the Chief Information Officer**

TO: Distribution

FROM: Deputy CIO for Information Technology Security

SUBJECT: Supplemental FY08 Guidance for Agency Security Configurations Standards and  
FDCC Reporting

REF: See Attached List

This memorandum provides updated guidance related to the Agency Security Configuration Standards (ASCS) and the Federal Desktop Core Configurations (FDCC) compliance activities for NASA organizations for this fiscal year.

Further discussions between the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have clarified the scope of the mandated FDCC controls to be:

*The primary targets of FDCC are general-purpose systems such as managed desktops and laptops. Embedded computers, process control systems, specialized scientific or experimental systems, and similar systems using Windows XP or Vista are out of scope for FDCC.*

-- NIST reference: [http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc/fdcc\\_faqs\\_20080128.html](http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc/fdcc_faqs_20080128.html)

For NASA organizations, general-purpose Windows XP and Vista systems are defined by NASA-STD-2804 to be those systems which perform any of the following interoperability functions: office automation word processing, spreadsheet, presentation graphics, Internet web browsing, or electronic mail. Windows XP and Vista systems dedicated solely to scientific, research, or mission operational functions must complete the normal Certification and Accreditation (C&A) process, and should use the FDCC settings as the standard list of NIST 800-53 controls addressed during the development of their system security plans. However, scientific, research, or mission operational systems that do not perform any of the listed interoperability functions are considered out of scope for FDCC setting deployment and compliance reporting.

Lockheed Martin Government Services/OAO has been directed to deploy the FDCC settings to all ODIN-managed Windows XP (and any future Vista) full seat systems by July 31, 2008, without exception. All ODIN Delivery Order Contracting Officer Technical Representatives

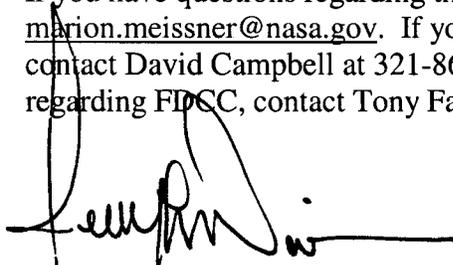
(DOCOTR) for each NASA ODIN Delivery Orders will ensure full compliance with this policy for their respective Delivery Orders.

All other general-purpose systems within NASA are subject to the same FDCC deployment requirement and deadline. In keeping with the goals defined in the "Agency Security Configuration Standards: FDCC" memo from this office, dated November 15, 2007, 85% of applicable NASA systems are expected to have deployed the FDCC settings by July 31, 2008, with 100% by April of 2009. Any NASA general-purpose Windows XP or Vista system that has not implemented the FDCC settings by April of 2009 will not receive an Authorization to Process during their subsequent C&A review. All NASA IT Security Managers will ensure full compliance with this policy.

The NASA FDCC reporting mechanism will be Lumension's Patchlink 6.4 product. Deployment of the needed software and infrastructure is underway by the Agency Software Update Service (ASUS) project. The capability for automated reporting is expect to become available in the April timeframe. To ensure appropriate FDCC compliance progress and to meet an OMB reporting requirement, a manual reporting for FDCC compliance will occur for all NASA organizations on or about March 15, 2008. This reporting requirement will appear on the CIO Action Registry with complete instructions.

The ASCS project will continue to coordinate FDCC deliverables and milestones with existing ASCS Points of Contact. Please verify appropriate participation in this important activity.

If you have questions regarding this memo, contact Marion Meissner at 202-358-0585 or [marion.meissner@nasa.gov](mailto:marion.meissner@nasa.gov). If you have questions regarding the ASUS project or Patchlink, contact David Campbell at 321-861-7392 or [david.campbell@nasa.gov](mailto:david.campbell@nasa.gov). If you have questions regarding FDCC, contact Tony Facca at 216-433-8318 or [Tony.Facca@nasa.gov](mailto:Tony.Facca@nasa.gov).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry L. Davis", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jerry L. Davis

## References

National Institute of Standards and Technology FDCC FAQs:

[http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc/fdcc\\_faqs\\_20080128.html](http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc/fdcc_faqs_20080128.html)

[http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc/fdcc\\_faqs\\_20071207.html](http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc/fdcc_faqs_20071207.html)

[http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc/fdcc\\_faqs\\_20070731.html](http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc/fdcc_faqs_20070731.html)

Applicable OMB Memoranda:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-11.pdf>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-18.pdf>

Karen Evans memo to Agency CIOs (July 31st, 2007)

[http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/ASCS/docs/July31\\_CIO\\_FDCC\\_memo.pdf](http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/ASCS/docs/July31_CIO_FDCC_memo.pdf)

NASA FY08 ASCS FDCC Compliance Goals

[http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/ASCS/docs/FDCC\\_Signed\\_11\\_15\\_07-1.pdf](http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/ASCS/docs/FDCC_Signed_11_15_07-1.pdf)

NASA Guidance FDCC compliance requirements and processes:

[http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/ASCS/ASCS\\_NASA-FDCC.shtml](http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/ASCS/ASCS_NASA-FDCC.shtml)

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