ITU-T The leader in standards for Communication Systems Security

ITU-T Study Group 17 is the lead ITU-T Study Group for communication systems security matters.

Current important security work in ITU-T includes:

Telebiometrics

Focusing on telebiometric devices connected to open networks, and the need to model taxonomy of telebiometric methods, devices and solutions for security purposes.

Security Management

Identifying which security controls should be in place requires careful planning and attention to detail. This work addresses the study of information security management systems (ISMS) such as risk assessment, identification of assets and implementation characteristics for telecommunication operators.

Mobility Security

The consideration of security problems resulting from mobile device restrictions such as low power, small memory size, small display, with the intent to develop security solution based on the requirements for the mobile environment.

Emergency Telecommunications

The study of the security issues for emergency telecommunication services, considering the vulnerabilities of these systems and networks, and the solutions required.

For further information on ITU-T Study Groups: http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/studygroups

A list of security-related ITU-T Recommendations and a compendium of ITU-T approved security definitions can be found at: http://www.itu.int/itudoc/itu-t/com17/activity

Examples of key ITU-T Recommendations on security issues

X.509 - The Directory: Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks

- X.509 public-key certificates are widely used. In every secure browser session using SSL, a certificate is used to authenticate the web server and to agree on the encryption key that will be used to protect the information exchanged in the session. The certificate is also used to authenticate and protect e-mail and is the cornerstone of time-stamping services. Many countries now allow electronic documents to be considered equivalent to a paper document. An electronic document with a digital signature that is supported by an X.509 certificate is recognized in many countries as the most credible form of electronic document.

H.235 – Security and encryption for H-Series multimedia terminals

- defines the security infrastructure and security services such as authentication and privacy, i.e. data encryption, for use by the H.3xx series of multimedia terminals in both point-to-point and multipoint applications, e.g. the increasingly common H.323 terminals for operation on IPbased networks. The Recommendation utilizes the general facilities supported in Recommendation H.245 and, as such, any standard which operates in conjunction with this control protocol may use this security framework.

J.170 - IPCablecom security specification

- defines the security requirements for the IPCablecom architecture, which details how cable television operators can deliver a two-way capability to provide a variety of IP time critical services, including voice communications.



International Telecommunication Union

ITU-T Security Building Blocks

Network Management Security

- M.3010 Principles for a telecommunications management network
- M.3016 Overview of TMN security
- M.3210 Security management for IMT-2000
- M.3320 Management requirements framework for the TMN X interface
- M.3400 TMN management functions

Directory Services & Authentication

- X.500 Overview of concepts models and services
- X.501 Models
- X.509 Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks
- X.519 Protocol specification

Systems Management

- X.733 Alarm reporting function
- X.735 Log control function
- X.736 Security alarm reporting function
- X.740 Security audit trail function
- X.741 Objects and attributes for access control

Security Architecture Framework

- X.800 Security architecture for OSI for ITU applications
- X.802 Lower layers security model
- X.803 Upper layers security model
- X.810 Security frameworks for open systems overview
- X.811 Security frameworks for open systems authentication framework
- X.812 Security frameworks for open systems access control framework
- X.813 Security frameworks for open systems non-repudiation framework
- X.814 Security frameworks for open systems confidentiality framework
- X.815 Security frameworks for open systems integrity framework
- X.816 Security frameworks for open systems security audit and alarms framework

Protocols

- X.273 OSI Network layer security protocol
- X.274 OSI Transport layer security protocol

Facsimile

T.30 Annex G

 Procedures for secure G3 document facsimile transmission using the HKM and HFX system

T.30 Annex H

- Procedures for security in facsimile Group 3 based on the RSA algorithm
- T.36 Security capabilities for use with Group 3 facsimile terminals
- T.503 A document application profile for the interchange of Group 4 facsimile documents
- T.563 Terminal characteristics for Group 4 facsimile apparatus

Security in Frame Relay

X.272 – Data compression and privacy over frame relay networks

Televisions and Cable Systems

- J.91 Technical methods for ensuring privacy in long-distance international television transmission
- J.93 Requirements for conditional access in the secondary delivery of digital television or cable television systems
- J.170 IPCablecom security specification

Security Techniques

- X.841 Security information objects for access control
- X.842 Guidelines for the use and management of Trusted Third Party (TTP) services
- X.843 Specification of TTP services to support the application of digital signatures

Multimedia Communications

- H.233 Confidentiality system for audiovisual services
- H.234 Encryption key management and authentication system for audiovisual services
- H.235 Security and encryption for H-series multimedia terminals
- H.323 Annex J
 - Packet based multimedia communications systems Security for simple endpoint types

ITU-T Recommendations are available from the ITU website. See: http://www.itu.int/publications/bookshop/how-to-buy.html (this site includes information on limited free access to ITU-T Recommendations)