



Network Security Information Exchange

Issue Background

Industry and government coordinate through the Network Security Information Exchange (NSIE) to voluntarily share sensitive information on threats to operations, administration, maintenance, and provisioning systems supporting the telecommunications infrastructure. Government NSIE members include Federal departments and agencies that use national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) communications services, represent law enforcement, or have information relating to network security threats and vulnerabilities. The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) NSIE representatives include industry subject matter experts engaged in the prevention, detection, and/or investigation of communications software penetrations.

History of the NSIE

In April 1990, the NSTAC established the Network Security Task Force in response to a request from the White House's National Security Council to identify what actions industry and Government should jointly pursue to protect critical NS/EP telecommunications. The task force recommended the creation of separate—but closely coordinated—NSIEs. In May 1991, the NSIE charters were finalized, and NSTAC companies and government departments and agencies designated NSIE representatives, chairmen, and vice-chairmen. The NSTAC and Government NSIEs held their first joint meeting in June 1991.

In 2003, NSIE representatives worked closely with British Telecom to assist with the establishment of an NSIE-like entity in the United Kingdom. Since then, NSIE representatives have also assisted Canada, New Zealand, and Australia in establishing similar entities in their countries. The NSTAC and Government NSIEs continue to work with these global partners to share information and enhance network security worldwide.

Recent NSIE Activities

As of mid-2017, the NSIE has held 156 meetings, including eight multilateral meetings with their international partners. The multilateral meetings have been hosted in the United Kingdom in 2007 and 2011, Canada in 2008 and 2012, the United States in 2010 and 2015, Australia in 2014, and New Zealand in 2017. The next NSIE multilateral meeting will be hosted by the United Kingdom in 2018. The multilateral sessions are valuable opportunities to share information and improve international network security policies and practices.

Periodically, the NSIE assess the risks to the public network. In December 2014, the NSIE completed *An Assessment of the Risk to the Cybersecurity of the Public Network*, which focused on how changes in technology have affected the public network and recommended effective mitigation strategies. In November 2015, the NSIE completed a *Voice over Wifi and Voice over LTE Reference Paper*, which focused on the security aspects that might be associated with the call flows handover process used in Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) and Voice over LTE (VoLTE) call processing. The report maps the call flows handover process and analyzes baseline information regarding the processing of VoWiFi and VoLTE calls.