



The University of Georgia

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Identity Management Committee

FROM: Information Technology Security Advisory Committee

COPY: Barbara White

DATE: April 27, 2005

SUBJECT: Recommendation Regarding Centralized ID Management System

The chairman of the ID Management Committee's subcommittee on definitions, Jeff Teasley, met with the Information Security Committee to discuss the committee's definition of ID Management. Our discussions were fruitful.

As the Information Technology Security Advisory Committee works on its risk assessment and action plan, the subject of ID Management is frequently discussed relevant to user access control, user validation, and protection of sensitive information. The committee has concluded that a sound, secure, centrally managed ID Management process is a critically important component required to reduce information security risks facing UGA's staff, faculty, students, and affiliates. The committee also recommends that a centrally managed ID Management process be defined and considered for implementation as a first step toward analyzing and improving other UGA business processes.

The Committee has a sense of urgency about this issue for the following reasons:

1. Attempts to break into systems containing sensitive personal information are increasing.
2. The practice of using SSNs at UGA as a method of personal identity remains prevalent and should be replaced with another method of personal identity.
3. Some departments have taken the initiative to replace SSNs in their system with some other identity number with no campus-wide guidance or standards. While doing so cannot be discouraged, converting to a campus-wide identity number becomes more problematic as a result.

We recommend that steps be taken to define an ID management process such that the process is capable of integrating with and otherwise supporting UGA business processes, including existing processes that may be months and years from redesign or replacement. The process should accommodate the following:

1. Facilitate the conversion of SSN's in existing enterprise and departmental level systems to an identifier accepted throughout the enterprise.
2. Protect sensitive personal information in a centrally managed, very secure manner.
3. Provide a centralized ID management system that provides the following services:
 - a. Assignment of unique, permanent UGA IDN's (id numbers) and collection of critical information to persons affiliated with UGA.
 - b. Validation and credential services to persons attempting to access physical and logical UGA resources.
 - c. Retrieval of protected information based on the access rights of the process, organization or person requesting the information.
 - d. Updating of protected information by authoritative sources and processes.
4. Formulate policies and practices designed to protect sensitive personal information.
5. Provide and support, in the near term, practices and tools for ID conversion and access to ID Management services.

The Information Security Committee expresses its unanimity that establishment of a centralized ID Management service is a very high priority, exceeded only by the need to educate our community about the proper use of our IT resources.