Network security is a critical issue facing the deployment of next generation networks and services. Effective security policies must be developed and implemented in a systematic, consistent and rigorous manner for new networks and the services they support. It is the reason that the ATIS Technology and Operations (TOPS) Council established a Network Security Focus Group to establish an industry standardization work plan designed to address these concerns. The ATIS Network Security Work Plan was publicly announced June 2004.

Work Plan Recommendations

The Network Security work plan identifies, assesses, and recommends specific actions and timelines pertaining to eighteen security issues categorized under the following three main topics: 1) transport issues, to include SS7 firewall, packet filtering, optical control, lawful intercept, and 802.11 related issues; 2) application-related security issues, to include voice application, messaging, firewall/NAT translation and transparency; and 3) overall security management systems.

In 2005 the Security Focus Group prepared two addenda to the work plan, creating a priority assignment procedure for key topics and their associated actionable items. The group identified eight issue areas as “Phase 1” high priority based on industry concerns:

- Transport: Packet Filtering
- Transport: SS7 Firewall & Interface
- Transport: Wireless Security
- Transport: Secure Transport Control and Signaling
- Security Management: Element Management System Interfaces
- Security Management: Configuration Management
- Security Management: Security Event Management and Attack Determination and Mitigation
- Security Management: Security Management System Framework

In first quarter 2006, the TOPS Security Focus Group transitioned to the ATIS Inter-Committee Security Review Group (ISRG), which serves as a forum for ATIS committee leaders to coordinate on-going security work, identify new concerns within the industry, submit issues to appropriate ATIS committees, and track work items from the TOPS Network Security Work Plan and its addenda.
Work Plan Status

Work is ongoing in all areas, with significant completion in the areas of packet filtering, configuration management, and security event management and attack determination and mitigation. ATIS committees involved in security issues include the Packet Technologies and Systems Committee and the Telecom Management and Operations Committee.

Copies of the ATIS Work Plan for Network Security are available to ATIS member companies.

ATIS – 1200 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
www.atis.org

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