U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK

Security and System Upgrades

NIBIN will be conducting acceptance testing of two system upgrades this year. The first is for Domain Services in June 2014 followed by combined testing of TRAX versions 2.4 and 3.0 in September 2014. The upgrade to Domain Services is a prerequisite for deploying the TRAX upgrades so it is first on the list.

Security

Information security is a fact of life, impacting your work and personal data. Law requires every federal government system processing or storing data to implement security controls to secure and protect data. As new threats are identified, like the recent Heartbleed security flaw, new standards are defined and mandated for implementation.

These are a few of the requirements:
- NIST 800-53
- NIST USGCB (Government Computer Baseline)
- DISA STIG (Security Tech. Implementation Guide)
- FISMA (Federal Info. Security Mgmt Act)
- FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standards)

Every federal system in production must be granted an Authority To Operate (ATO) by the agency CIO. The decision to grant the ATO is based on the implementation of these and other mandated security controls.

Domain Services Upgrade

Domain Services deals with the security infrastructure in NIBIN. It includes hardware and software that manages passwords, user access and authentication and enforces security controls throughout NIBIN. When you enter your password to log in, Domain Services grants you access. Security patches, anti-virus and TRAX user roles are managed through Domain Services. This upgrade is critical for NIBIN to retain its ATO.

The most noticeable change for users will be the requirement that passwords be a minimum of 14 characters, a big difference from the 8 character minimum today. Other changes will be transparent or have minimal impact to NIBIN users. Estimated deployment of the Domain Services upgrade is in Q3/Q4 2014.

TRAX versions 2.4 and 3.0 Upgrade

This upgrade will be the first TRAX software upgrade in NIBIN since TRAX 2.3 and the International Correlation Server in 2011/2012.

This combined upgrade brings big changes and new capabilities to NIBIN affecting acquisition, correlation reviews, reporting and more. One of the highlights will be High Definition 3D cartridge case imaging, which requires an upgraded HD3D acquisition unit. Also included:
- New correlation options
- Improved acquisition workflow
- New CC and bullet viewer functionality
- New lighting options
- Proficiency test tool
- Modify migrated heritage hits and image outlines
- Archiving of correlation requests
- New reports
- and more…

As we get closer to the deployment, further details about the changes will be provided. Deployment of the TRAX upgrades is expected in Q4 of 2014.

NIBIN and Forensic Technology are working closely to make preparations for conducting acceptance testing, ensuring approvals are obtained for deploying the upgrades and coordinating the deployment schedules. NIBIN is committed to keeping our users up to date on the progress of these major projects until they are completed.

If you have any questions regarding NIBIN Security and System Upgrades, please contact Barrett Cronkhite at barrett.cronkhite@atf.gov.