



At a Glance

Catalyst for Improving the Environment

Why We Did This Review

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) contracted with Williams, Adley & Company, LLP to conduct the annual audit of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act. OIG contractors conducted network vulnerability testing of the Agency's local area network located at EPA's Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Background

The network vulnerability testing was conducted to identify any network risk vulnerabilities and present the results to the appropriate EPA officials to promptly remediate or document planned actions to resolve the vulnerability.

For further information, contact our Office of Congressional, Public Affairs and Management at (202) 566-2391.

Results of Technical Network Vulnerability Assessment: EPA Headquarters

What Williams, Adley & Company, LLP Found

Test results identified 391 Internet Protocol (IP) addresses that contained vulnerabilities and EPA could only identify 118 of the IP addresses. This prevented EPA from taking immediate actions to address the identified vulnerabilities. On September 23, 2008, the OIG issued Report No. 08-P-0273, *Management of EPA Headquarters Internet Protocol Addresses Needs Improvement*.

Field work disclosed weaknesses in the quality of information EPA uses to track the ownership of IP addresses. Specifically, network administrators were not updating the IP registry database with descriptive information to identify their assigned IP addresses, nor were they adhering to EPA's naming convention policy when describing the equipment or device in the database. Also, there is no evidence that EPA conducted data quality reviews to ensure the IP address database is accurate and complete.

This report summarizes discussions with EPA since the OIG issued report 08-P-0273, and transmits the full contents of the EPA Headquarters network vulnerability test results. This report also forwards several medium-risk vulnerabilities identified at the EPA Region 9 office that require action by Headquarters personnel to remediate. Region 9 officials were unable to resolve these weaknesses because the network assets in question are managed by EPA Headquarters personnel.

What Williams, Adley & Company, LLP Recommends

Williams, Adley & Company, LLP recommends that EPA should:

- Develop and implement procedures to update the IP registry database with information that identifies the owner of the network resource and review the database regularly for accuracy and completeness;
- Take steps to remediate all unresolved security weaknesses at EPA Headquarters and Region 9 and created a Plan of Actions and Milestones; and
- Perform a technical vulnerability assessment test of Headquarters network and managed assets at Region 9.

Due to the sensitive nature of this report's technical findings, the full report is not available to the public.