As the nation's cyber defense agency, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) spearheads the national effort to defend against cyber threat actors that target U.S. critical infrastructure, federal and SLTT governments, the private sector and the American people.

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OVERVIEW

CISA established the Secure Cloud Business Application (SCuBA) project to provide guidance and resources to secure federal civilian executive branch (FCEB) agencies' cloud environments. The primary goal of the project is to protect federal information created, accessed, shared and stored in those environments. SCuBA will enhance the security of FCEB cloud business application environments through additional configurations, settings and security products.

Through ongoing dialogue and collaboration with industry and government stakeholders, CISA developed initial guidance documents as a part of the SCuBA project, which aims to help agencies adopt necessary security and resilience practices for utilizing cloud services. These guidance documents include:

- **SCuBA Technical Reference Architecture (TRA)**: a security guide that agencies can use to adopt technology for cloud deployment, adaptable solutions, secure architecture and zero trust frameworks.
- **Extensible Visibility Reference Framework (eVRF) Guidebook**: an overview of the eVRF framework, which enables organizations to identify visibility data that can be used to mitigate threats, understand the extent to which specific products and services provide that visibility data, and identify potential visibility gaps.
- **Microsoft 365 (M365) Security Configuration Baselines**: recommended cybersecurity M365 configuration baselines to help improve the security of cloud business application environments across the federal government. Google Workspace (GWS) security configuration baselines are currently under development as well.

BENEFITS

The SCuBA project is intended to enhance cloud cybersecurity practices across FCEB agencies, drive maturation of shared cybersecurity services, and provide a baseline of cloud security guidance across public and private organizations.

TIMELINE

SCuBA is currently in its development phase. Test pilots with FCEB agencies will launch in the first half of FY23 to assess visibility, configuration, and security-hardened product-specific security baselines. This pilot will allow FCEB agencies the opportunity to provide hands-on feedback on guidance implementation.

HOW CAN MY AGENCY GET INVOLVED?

Key components of SCuBA, such as the product-specific security baselines for M365, were developed with input from interagency partners. As more supporting information is created, there will be additional requests for information, comment periods, and stakeholder engagements in which CISA will invite agencies to participate.

Any agency interested in learning more about the opportunities to participate in SCuBA pilots or in receiving additional information should contact CISA's Cybersecurity Shared Services Office (formerly Cyber QSMO) at QSMO@cisa.dhs.gov.

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