

Terms	NIST Definition	Definition Source
132-45A Penetration Testing	Security testing services in which assessors mimic real-world attacks to identify methods for circumventing the security features of an application, system, or network. One of the HACS SINS.	Highly Adaptive Cybersecurity Services (HACS) GSA web page
132-45B Incident Response	Services help organizations impacted by a cybersecurity compromise determine the extent of the incident, remove the adversary from their systems, and restore their networks to a more secure state. One of the HACS SINS.	Highly Adaptive Cybersecurity Services (HACS) GSA web page
132-45C Cyber Hunt	Responses to crisis or urgent situations within the pertinent domain to mitigate immediate and potential threats. Cyber Hunt activities start with the premise that threat actors known to target some organizations in a specific industry, or specific systems, are likely to also target other organizations in the same industry or with the same systems. One of the HACS SINS.	Highly Adaptive Cybersecurity Services (HACS) GSA web page
132-45D Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	Assessments of threats and vulnerabilities, determines deviations from acceptable configurations, enterprise or local policy, assesses the level of risk, and develops and/or recommends appropriate mitigation countermeasures in operational and non-operational situations. One of the HACS SINS.	Highly Adaptive Cybersecurity Services (HACS) GSA web page
Account Management (User)	User account management involves (1) the process of requesting, establishing, issuing, and closing user accounts; (2) tracking users and their respective access authorizations; and (3) managing these functions.	NIST SP 800-12
Assessment and Authorization (A&A)	Assessment is the comprehensive evaluation of the technical and non-technical security features of an information system and other safeguards, made in support of the accreditation process, to establish the extent to which a particular design and implementation meet a set of specified security requirements. Authorization is a formal declaration by the Authorizing Official (AO) that an information system is approved to operate in a particular security mode using a prescribed set of safeguards at an acceptable level of risk to the agency.	NIST Special Publication 800-53 (Rev. 4)
Antivirus Software	A program that monitors a computer or network to identify all major types of malware and prevent or contain malware incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-94 • NIST SP 800-83 Rev. 1
Application	The system, functional area, or problem to which information technology is applied. The application includes related manual procedures as well as automated procedures. Payroll, accounting, and management information systems are examples of applications.	NIST SP 800-16
Assessor	The individual responsible for conducting assessment activities under the guidance and direction of a Designated Authorizing Official. The Assessor is a third party.	NIST SP 800-79-2
Assets	A major application, general support system, high impact program, physical plant, mission critical system, personnel, equipment, or a logically related group of systems.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Assurance	Grounds for confidence that the other four security goals (integrity, availability, confidentiality, and accountability) have been adequately met by a specific implementation. "Adequately met" includes (1) functionality that performs correctly, (2) sufficient protection against unintentional errors (by users or software), and (3) sufficient resistance to intentional penetration or by-pass.	NIST SP 800-27 Rev. A
Audit	Independent review and examination of records and activities to assess the adequacy of system controls, to ensure compliance with established policies and operational procedures, and to recommend necessary changes in controls, policies, or procedures.	NIST SP 800-32 (CNSSI 4009)
Backup	A copy of files and programs made to facilitate recovery, if necessary.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (NIST SP 800-34 Rev. 1)
Backup (system)	The process of copying information or processing status to a redundant system, service, device or medium that can provide the needed processing capability when needed.	NIST SP 800-152
Best in Class (BIC)	BIC means that something has been designated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a preferred government-wide solution that: 1) Allows acquisition experts to take advantage of pre-vetted, government-wide contract solutions; 2) Supports a government-wide migration to solutions that are mature and market-proven; 3) Assists in the optimization of spend, within the government-wide category management framework; and 4) Increases the transactional data available for agency level and government-wide analysis of buying behavior.	Best-In-Class GSA web page
Boundary Protection	Monitoring and control of communications at the external boundary of an information system to prevent and detect malicious and other unauthorized communications, through the use of boundary protection devices (e.g., gateways, routers, firewalls, guards, encrypted tunnels).	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4

Terms	NIST Definition	Definition Source
Business Continuity Plans	The documentation of a predetermined set of instructions or procedures that describe how an organization's mission/business processes will be sustained during and after a significant disruption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-34 Rev. 1 • CNSSI 4009-2015 (NIST SP 800-34 Rev. 1)
Certificate	A digital representation of information which at least: 1) identifies the certification authority issuing it, 2) names or identifies its subscriber, 3) contains the subscriber's public key, 4) identifies its operational period, and 5) is digitally signed by the certification authority issuing it.	SP 800-32
Certification And Accreditation (C&A)	A comprehensive assessment of the management, operational, and technical security controls in an information system, made in support of security accreditation, to determine the extent to which the controls are implemented correctly, operating as intended, and producing the desired outcome with respect to meeting the security requirements for the system. Accreditation is the official management decision given by a senior agency official to authorize operation of an information system and to explicitly accept the risk to agency operations (including mission, functions, image, or reputation), agency assets, or individuals, based on the implementation of an agreed-upon set of security controls. This process is now called Assessment and Authorization (see definition above) to follow the language of the Risk Management Framework. This is the previous industry term for A&A.	NIST SP 800-64 Rev. 2 (NIST SP 800-37)
Certificate Authority (CA)	A trusted entity that issues and revokes public key certificates.	NIST SP 800-63-2
Certificate Policy	A specialized form of administrative policy tuned to electronic transactions performed during certificate management. A Certificate Policy addresses all aspects associated with the generation, production, distribution, accounting, compromise recovery, and administration of digital certificates. Indirectly, a certificate policy can also govern the transactions conducted using a communications system protected by a certificate-based security system. By controlling critical certificate extensions, such policies and associated enforcement technology can support provision of the security services required by particular applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI-4009 • SP 800-32
Cloud Infrastructure	The collection of hardware and software that enables the five essential characteristics of cloud computing. The cloud infrastructure can be viewed as containing both a physical layer and an abstraction layer. The physical layer consists of the hardware resources that are necessary to support the cloud services being provided, and typically includes server, storage and network components. The abstraction layer consists of the software deployed across the physical layer, which manifests the essential cloud characteristics. Conceptually the abstraction layer sits above the physical layer.	NIST SP 800-146
Code	A set of instructions for a computer.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Commercial Supplier Agreement (CSA)	GSA's CSAs define the terms and conditions for selling technology products through GSA Multi-Award Schedules. Before DHS reviews products for potential inclusion in the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation Approved Product List, a vendor must have a CSA in place with GSA.	GSA.gov
Communications Security (COMSEC)	A component of Information Assurance that deals with measures and controls taken to deny unauthorized persons information derived from telecommunications and to ensure the authenticity of such telecommunications. COMSEC includes cryptographic security, transmission security, emissions security, and physical security of COMSEC material.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (CNSSI 4005)
Compartmentalization	A non-hierarchical grouping of information used to control access to data more finely than with hierarchical security classification alone.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Compliance	Conformity in fulfilling official requirements.	NIST SP 800-146
Configuration Management	A collection of activities focused on establishing and maintaining the integrity of information technology products and information systems, through control of processes for initializing, changing, and monitoring the configurations of those products and systems throughout the system development life cycle.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4) NIST SP 800-171 (Updates to version published June 2015) NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4
Configuration Settings	The set of parameters that can be changed in hardware, software, or firmware that affect the security posture and/or functionality of the information system.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4) NIST SP 800-171 (Updates to version published June 2015) NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4
Contingency Plan	Management policy and procedures used to guide an enterprise response to a perceived loss of mission capability. The Contingency Plan is the first plan used by the enterprise risk managers to determine what happened, why, and what to do. It may point to the continuity of operations plan (COOP) or disaster recovery plan (DRP) for major disruptions.	CNSSI 4009-2015

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Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM)	The CDM program is a dynamic approach to fortifying the cybersecurity of government networks and systems. CDM provides federal departments and agencies with capabilities and tools that identify cybersecurity risks on an ongoing basis, prioritize these risks based upon potential impacts, and enable cybersecurity personnel to mitigate the most significant problems first.	Continuous Diagnostics & Mitigation (CDM) Program webpage on GSA.gov
Continuous Monitoring	Maintaining ongoing awareness to support organizational risk decisions.	CNSSI 4009-2015 NIST SP 800-137
Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)	An effort within individual executive departments and agencies to ensure that Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents and technological or attack-related emergencies.	National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan (NCPIP) and the National Security Presidential Directive51/Homeland Security Presidential Directive20 (NSPD-51/HSPD-20)
Countermeasures	Actions, devices, procedures, techniques, or other measures that reduce the vulnerability of an information system. Synonymous with security controls and safeguards.	NIST SP 800-137
Critical Infrastructure	System and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.	NIST SP 800-30
Cryptographic Security	Component of COMSEC that results from the provision of technically sound cryptographic systems and their proper use.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (NSA/CSS Manual Number 3-16 [COMSEC])
Database	A repository of information that usually holds plant-wide information including process data, recipes, personnel data, and financial data.	NIST SP 800-82 Rev. 2 (NISTIR 6859)
DHS CDM APL (CDM Approved Products List)	The hardware and software products and associated services under the Continuous Diagnostics & Mitigation Tools SIN. These products undergo a product qualification process by Department of Homeland Security in order to be added to the list.	Continuous Diagnostics & Mitigation (CDM) Program webpage
Demilitarized Zone	Perimeter network segment that is logically between internal and external networks. Its purpose is to enforce the internal network's Information Assurance (IA) policy for external information exchange and to provide external, untrusted sources with restricted access to releasable information while shielding the internal networks from outside attacks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-82 Rev. 2 • CNSSI 4009-2015
Disaster Recovery Plan	A written plan for processing critical applications in the event of a major hardware or software failure or destruction of facilities.	NIST SP 800-82 Rev. 2 (NIST SP 800-34)
E-authentication	The process of establishing confidence in user identities electronically presented to an information system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-63-2 • CNSSI 4009-2015 (NIST SP 800-63-2)
eBuy	An electronic Request for Quote (RFQ) / Request for Proposal (RFP) system designed to allow government buyers to request information, find sources, and prepare RFQs/RFPs, online, for millions of services and products offered through GSA's Multiple Award Schedule and GSA Technology Contracts. eBuy Open is only available to Federal government users registered on the Acquisition Gateway.	www.ebuy.gsa.gov Home Page
eMod	A web-based application that allows Multiple Award Schedule contractors to electronically prepare and submit contract modifications to Federal Acquisition Services.	www.eoffer.gsa.gov ABOUT EMOD webpage
Emissions Security (EMSEC)	The component of communications security that results from all measures taken to deny unauthorized persons information of value that might be derived from intercept and analysis of compromising emanations from crypto-equipment and information systems.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (JP 6-0)
End-Point Protection Platform	Safeguards implemented through software to protect end-user machines such as workstations and laptops against attack (e.g., antivirus, anti-spyware, anti-adware, personal firewalls, host-based intrusion detection and prevention systems, etc.).	NIST SP 800-128
Enterprise	An organization with a defined mission/goal and a defined boundary, using information systems to execute that mission, and with responsibility for managing its own risks and performance. An enterprise may consist of all or some of the following business aspects: acquisition, program management, financial management (e.g., budgets), human resources, security, and information systems, information and mission management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI 4009-2015 • NIST SP 800-30 (CNSSI 4009)
Enterprise Risk Management	The methods and processes used by an enterprise to manage risks to its mission and to establish the trust necessary for the enterprise to support shared missions. It involves the identification of mission dependencies on enterprise capabilities, the identification and prioritization of risks due to defined threats, the implementation of countermeasures to provide both a static risk posture and an effective dynamic response to active threats; and it assesses enterprise performance against threats and adjusts countermeasures as necessary.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (JP 6-0)
Exploitable Channel	A channel that allows the violation of the security policy governing an information system and is usable or detectable by subjects external to the trusted computing base.	CNSSI 4009-2015

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Failover	The capability to switch over automatically (typically without human intervention or warning) to a redundant or standby information system upon the failure or abnormal termination of the previously active system.	CNSSI 4009-2015 NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4
Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS)	A standard for adoption and use by federal departments and agencies that has been developed within the Information Technology Laboratory and published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. A FIPS covers some topic in information technology in order to achieve a common level of quality or some level of interoperability.	NIST SP 800-161 (NIST SP 800-64 Rev. 2)
Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA)	The Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) requires agencies to integrate IT security into their capital planning and enterprise architecture processes at the agency, conduct annual IT security reviews of all programs and systems, and report the results of those reviews to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).	NIST
Firewall	A system designed to prevent unauthorized access to or from a private network. Firewalls can be implemented in both hardware and software, or a combination of both.	NIST SP 800-47
Forensics	The practice of gathering, retaining, and analyzing computer-related data for investigative purposes in a manner that maintains the integrity of the data.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Government-wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs)	GWACs provide access to IT solutions such as systems design, software engineering, information assurance, and enterprise architecture solutions. Small business set-aside GWACs also provide socioeconomic credit. More information about GSA Government-wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs) can be found at www.gsa.gov/gwacs .	Data To Decision Customer GSA web page
GSA Advantage!	An online shopping and ordering system that provides access to thousands of contractors and millions of supplies (products) and services. Anyone may browse on GSA Advantage!® to view and compare the variety of products and services offered. HACS and CDM Tools can be purchased on GSA Advantage.	GSA Advantage! web page on GSA.gov
Government-wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) Prices Paid Suite	The GWAC Prices Paid Suite of tools provide customer agencies with data that will aid in conducting (a) realistic price analysis; (b) negotiations; (c) independent government cost estimates (IGCE); and (d) aid in benchmarking competitive pricing. The GWAC Prices Paid Suite of tools provide agencies with price range (low, average, & high) for each functional labor category on the Alliant and Alliant Small Business GWAC by using the Life of Contract Analysis Dashboard and the Labor Analysis Dashboard, both of which can aid federal agency users in price analysis and negotiations. Agency users can conduct improved market research and develop more realistic independent government cost estimates (IGCE) by using the Labor Analysis Dashboard. These provide customers a more detailed view of the prices paid on labor categories for Time and Material (T&M) and Labor Hour (LH) contract types.	Data To Decision Customer GSA web page
Hacker	Unauthorized user who attempts to or gains access to an information system.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Highly Adaptive Cybersecurity Services (HACS)	Pre-vetted support services that will expand agencies' capacity to test their high-priority IT systems, rapidly address potential vulnerabilities, and stop adversaries before they impact their networks.	Highly Adaptive Cybersecurity Services (HACS) GSA web page
High Availability	A failover feature to ensure availability during device or component interruptions.	NIST SP 800-113
Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12)	HSPD-12 established the policy for which FIPS 201-2 was developed.	NIST SP 800-79-2
Identity	The set of physical and behavioral characteristics by which an individual is uniquely recognizable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIPS 201-2 • NIST SP 800-79-2
Identity-Based Authentication	A process that provides assurance of an entity's identity by means of an authentication mechanism that verifies the identity of the entity. Contrast with role-based authentication.	NIST SP 800-152
Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM)	Programs, processes, technologies, and personnel used to create trusted digital identity representations of individuals and non-person entities (NPEs), bind those identities to credentials that may serve as a proxy for the individual or NPE in access transactions, and leverage the credentials to provide authorized access to an agency's resources.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (FICAM Roadmap and Implementation Guidance V2.0)
Incident	An occurrence that actually or potentially jeopardizes the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system or the information the system processes, stores, or transmits or that constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of security policies, security procedures, or acceptable use policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIPS 200 • NIST SP 800-128 (FIPS 200) • NIST SP 800-137 (FIPS 200) • NIST SP 800-171 (Updates to version published June 2015) (FIPS 200) • NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 (FIPS 200) • NIST SP 800-82 Rev. 2 (FIPS 200, NIST SP 800-53)

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Incident Handling	The mitigation of violations of security policies and recommended practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI 4009-2015 • NIST SP 800-61 Rev. 2
Incident Response Plans	The documentation of a predetermined set of instructions or procedures to detect, respond to, and limit consequences of a malicious cyber attacks against an organization's information system(s).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI 4009-2015 • NIST SP 800-34 Rev. 1
Information Assurance	Measures that protect and defend information and information systems by ensuring their availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality, and non-repudiation. These measures include providing for restoration of information systems by incorporating protection, detection, and reaction capabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-161 (CNSSI 4009) • NIST SP 800-59 (CNSSI 4009)
Information Security Continuous Monitoring	Maintaining ongoing awareness of information security, vulnerabilities, and threats to support organizational risk management decisions. Note: The terms "continuous" and "ongoing" in this context mean that security controls and organizational risks are assessed and analyzed at a frequency sufficient to support risk-based security decisions to adequately protect organization information.	NIST SP 800-137
Information System Contingency Management Plan	Policy and procedures designed to maintain or restore business operations, including computer operations, possibly at an alternate location, in the event of emergencies, system failures, or disasters.	NIST SP 800-34 Rev. 1
Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)	The capability provided to the consumer is to provision processing, storage, networks, and other fundamental computing resources where the consumer is able to deploy and run arbitrary software, which can include operating systems and applications. The consumer does not manage or control the underlying cloud infrastructure but has control over operating systems, storage, and deployed applications; and possibly limited control of select networking components (e.g., host firewalls).	Source(s): NIST SP 800-145
Incident Handling	The mitigation of violations of security policies and recommended practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI 4009-2015 • NIST SP 800-61 Rev. 2
Insider Threat	An entity with authorized access (i.e., within the security domain) that has the potential to harm an information system or enterprise through destruction, disclosure, modification of data, and/or denial of service.	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 (CNSSI 4009)
Interface	A logical entry or exit point of a cryptographic module that provides access to the module for logical information flows representing physical signals.	FIPS 140-2
Intrusion	A security event, or a combination of multiple security events, that constitutes a security incident in which an intruder gains, or attempts to gain, access to a system or system resource without having authorization to do so.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (IETF RFC 4949 Ver 2)
Intrusion Detection	The process of monitoring the events occurring in a computer system or network and analyzing them for signs of possible incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI 4009 • NIST SP 800-94
Intrusion Prevention	The process of monitoring the events occurring in a computer system or network, analyzing them for signs of possible incidents, and attempting to stop detected possible incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI 4009-2015 • NIST SP 800-94
Intrusion Prevention Systems	A system that can detect an intrusive activity and can also attempt to stop the activity, ideally before it reaches its targets.	NIST SP 800-82 Rev. 2
Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6)	IPv6 is the protocol for transmission of data from source to destinations in packet-switched communications networks and interconnected systems of such networks.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Least Privilege	The principle that a security architecture should be designed so that each entity is granted the minimum system resources and authorizations that the entity needs to perform its function.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Malware	A computer program that is covertly placed onto a computer with the intent to compromise the privacy, accuracy, or reliability of the computer's data, applications, or OS. Common types of malware threats include viruses, worms, malicious mobile code, Trojan horses, rootkits, and spyware.	NIST SP 800-114
Managed Interface	An interface within an information system that provides boundary protection capability using automated mechanisms or devices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI 4009-2015 (NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4) • NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4
Multifactor Authentication	Authentication using two or more different factors to achieve authentication. Factors include: (i) something you know (e.g., password/PIN); (ii) something you have (e.g., cryptographic identification device, token); or (iii) something you are (e.g., biometric).	NIST SP 800-171 (Updates to version published June 2015)

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Network Defense	Programs, activities, and the use of tools necessary to facilitate them (including those governed by NSPD-54/HSPD-23 and NSD-42) conducted on a computer, network, or information or communications system by the owner or with the consent of the owner and, as appropriate, the users for the primary purpose of protecting (1) that computer, network, or system; (2) data stored on, processed on, or transiting that computer, network, or system; or (3) physical and virtual infrastructure controlled by that computer, network, or system. Network defense does not involve or require accessing or conducting activities on computers, networks, or information or communications systems without authorization from the owners or exceeding access authorized by the owners.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (PPD 20)
Network Intrusion Detection System	Software that performs packet sniffing and network traffic analysis to identify suspicious activity and record relevant information.	NIST SP 800-86
Network Mapping	A process that discovers, collects, and displays the physical and logical information required to produce a network map.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (CNSSI 1012)
Operations Security (OPSEC)	Systematic and proven process by which potential adversaries can be denied information about capabilities and intentions by identifying, controlling, and protecting generally unclassified evidence of the planning and execution of sensitive activities. The process involves five steps: identification of critical information, analysis of threats, analysis of vulnerabilities, assessment of risks, and application of appropriate countermeasures.	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 (CNSSI 4009)
Penetration Testing	A test methodology in which assessors, using all available documentation (e.g., system design, source code, manuals) and working under specific constraints, attempt to circumvent the security features of an information system.	SP 800-53A
Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Card	A physical artifact (e.g., identity card, "smart" card) issued to an individual that contains a PIV Card Application which stores identity credentials (e.g., photograph, cryptographic keys, digitized fingerprint representation) so that the claimed identity of the cardholder can be verified against the stored credentials by another person (human readable and verifiable) or an automated process (computer readable and verifiable).	FIPS 201-2
Phishing	Tricking individuals into disclosing sensitive personal information through deceptive computer-based means.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-45 Version 2 • NIST SP 800-83 Rev. 1
Platform as a Service (PaaS)	The capability provided to the consumer is to deploy onto the cloud infrastructure consumer-created or acquired applications created using programming languages, libraries, services, and tools supported by the provider. The consumer does not manage or control the underlying cloud infrastructure including network, servers, operating systems, or storage, but has control over the deployed applications and possibly configuration settings for the application-hosting environment.	NIST SP 800-145
Private Key	The secret part of an asymmetric key pair that is typically used to digitally sign or decrypt data.	FIPS 201-2
Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)	A set of policies, processes, server platforms, software, and workstations used for the purpose of administering certificates and public-private key pairs, including the ability to issue, maintain, and revoke public key certificates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-32 • NIST SP 800-63-2
Remediation	The act of mitigating a vulnerability or a threat.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (Adapted from NIST SP 800-40 Rev. 2)
Request for Quotation (RFQ)	A procurement solicitation in which an organization asks vendors to submit a quote for specific products and services.	eBuy GSA web page
Risk	A measure of the extent to which an entity is threatened by a potential circumstance or event, and typically a function of: (i) the adverse impacts that would arise if the circumstance or event occurs; and (ii) the likelihood of occurrence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-137 (Adapted from FIPS 200) • NIST SP 800-30 (CNSSI 4009)
Risk Assessments	The process of identifying risks to organizational operations (including mission, functions, image, or reputation), organizational assets, individuals, other organizations, and the Nation, arising through the operation of an information system. Part of risk management, incorporates threat and vulnerability analyses and considers mitigations provided by security controls planned or in place. Synonymous with risk analysis.	CNSSI 4009-2015 (NIST SP 800-39)
Security Audit	Independent review and examination of a system's records and activities to determine the adequacy of system controls, ensure compliance with established security policy and procedures, detect breaches in security services, and recommend any changes that are indicated for countermeasures.	NIST SP 800-82 Rev. 2 (ISO/IEC 7498)
Secure State	Condition in which no subject can access any object in an unauthorized manner.	CNSSI 4009-2015

Terms	NIST Definition	Definition Source
Security Control Automation Protocol (SCAP)	A suite of specifications that standardize the format and nomenclature by which software flaw and security configuration information is communicated, both to machines and humans. Note: There are six individual specifications incorporated into SCAP: CVE (common vulnerabilities and exposures); CCE (common configuration enumeration); CPE (common platform enumeration); CVSS (common vulnerability scoring system); OVAL (open vulnerability assessment language); and XCCDF (eXtensible configuration checklist description format).	CNSSI 4009-2015 (Adapted from NIST SP 800-126 Rev. 2)
Security Controls	A safeguard or countermeasure prescribed for an information system or an organization designed to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of its information and to meet a set of defined security requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIST SP 800-161 (Adapted from FIPS 199) • NIST SP 800-171 (Updates to version published June 2015) • NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 (Adapted from FIPS 199)
Security Policy	The rules and requirements established by an organization that governs the acceptable use of its information and services, and the level and means for protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of its information.	NIST SP 800-130
Service	A software component participating in a service-oriented architecture that provides functionality or participates in realizing one or more capabilities.	NIST SP 800-95 (Open Grid Services Architecture Glossary of Terms)
Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT)	The SAT identifies the maximum dollar value for an acquisition that can use the simplified acquisition procedures, which are used to reduce administrative costs and promote efficiency and economy in contracting.	CDM Tools SIN Ordering Procedure Document
Situational Awareness	Within a volume of time and space, the perception of an enterprise's security posture and its threat environment; the comprehension/meaning of both taken together (risk); and the projection of their status into the near future.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Software as a Service (SaaS)	The capability provided to the consumer is to use the provider's applications running on a cloud infrastructure. The applications are accessible from various client devices through either a thin client interface, such as a web browser (e.g., web-based email), or a program interface. The consumer does not manage or control the underlying cloud infrastructure including network, servers, operating systems, storage, or even individual application capabilities, with the possible exception of limited user-specific application configuration settings.	NIST SP 800-145
Spam Filtering Software	A program that analyzes emails to look for characteristics of spam, and typically places messages that appear to be spam in a separate email folder.	NIST SP 800-69
Special Item Numbers (SINs)	Alpha-Numeric values assigned to supplies and services which are categorized in each Schedule. It is a categorization method that groups similar products, services, and solutions together to aid in the acquisition process	List of Schedules GSA web page
Statement of Work (SOW)	An SOW describes the terms and objectives of a project or service contract, and includes the scope of work required to meet the objectives, costs, deliverables, timeliness, and other expectations. GSA.gov has a dedicated webpage with samples of technology SOWs.	Sample Technology Statements of Work web page
Strong Authentication	A method used to secure computer systems and/or networks by verifying a user's identity by requiring two-factors in order to authenticate (something you know, something you are, or something you have).	CNSSI 4009-2015 (DoDI 8420.01)
Threats	Any circumstance or event with the potential to adversely impact organizational operations (including mission, functions, image, or reputation), organizational assets, or individuals through an information system via unauthorized access, destruction, disclosure, modification of information, and/or denial of service. Also, the potential for a threat-source to successfully exploit a particular information system vulnerability.	FIPS 200 (Adapted from CNSSI 4009)
Token Authenticator	The output value generated by a token. The ability to generate valid token authenticators on demand proves that the Claimant possesses and controls the token. Protocol messages sent to the Verifier are dependent upon the token authenticator, but they may or may not explicitly contain it.	NIST SP 800-63-2
Transmission Security (TRANSEC)	Measures (security controls) applied to transmissions in order to prevent interception, disruption of reception, communications deception, and/or derivation of intelligence by analysis of transmission characteristics such as signal parameters or message externals. Note: TRANSEC is that field of COMSEC which deals with the security of communication transmissions, rather than that of the information being communicated.	CNSSI 4009-2015
Trust	A characteristic of an entity that indicates its ability to perform certain functions or services correctly, fairly, and impartially, along with assurance that the entity and its identifier are genuine.	NIST SP 800-130

Terms	NIST Definition	Definition Source
Validation	Confirmation (through the provision of strong, sound, objective evidence) that requirements for a specific intended use or application have been fulfilled (e.g., a trustworthy credential has been presented, or data or information has been formatted in accordance with a defined set of rules, or a specific process has demonstrated that an entity under consideration meets, in all respects, its defined attributes or requirements).	CNSSI 4009-2015
Vulnerability Assessment	Systematic examination of an information system or product to determine the adequacy of security measures, identify security deficiencies, provide data from which to predict the effectiveness of proposed security measures, and confirm the adequacy of such measures after implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNSSI 4009-2015 • NIST SP 800-161 • NIST SP 800-39 • NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 • NIST SP 800-30
Vulnerability Scanning	A technique used to identify hosts/host attributes and associated vulnerabilities.	NIST SP 800-115
X.509 Certificate	Public key certificates that contain three nested elements: 1) the tamper-evident envelope (digitally signed by the source), 2) the basic certificate content (e.g., identifying information and public key), and 3) extensions that contain optional certificate information.	NIST SP 800-57 Part 2