GAO Information Security Issues Update

Presented to:

Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board
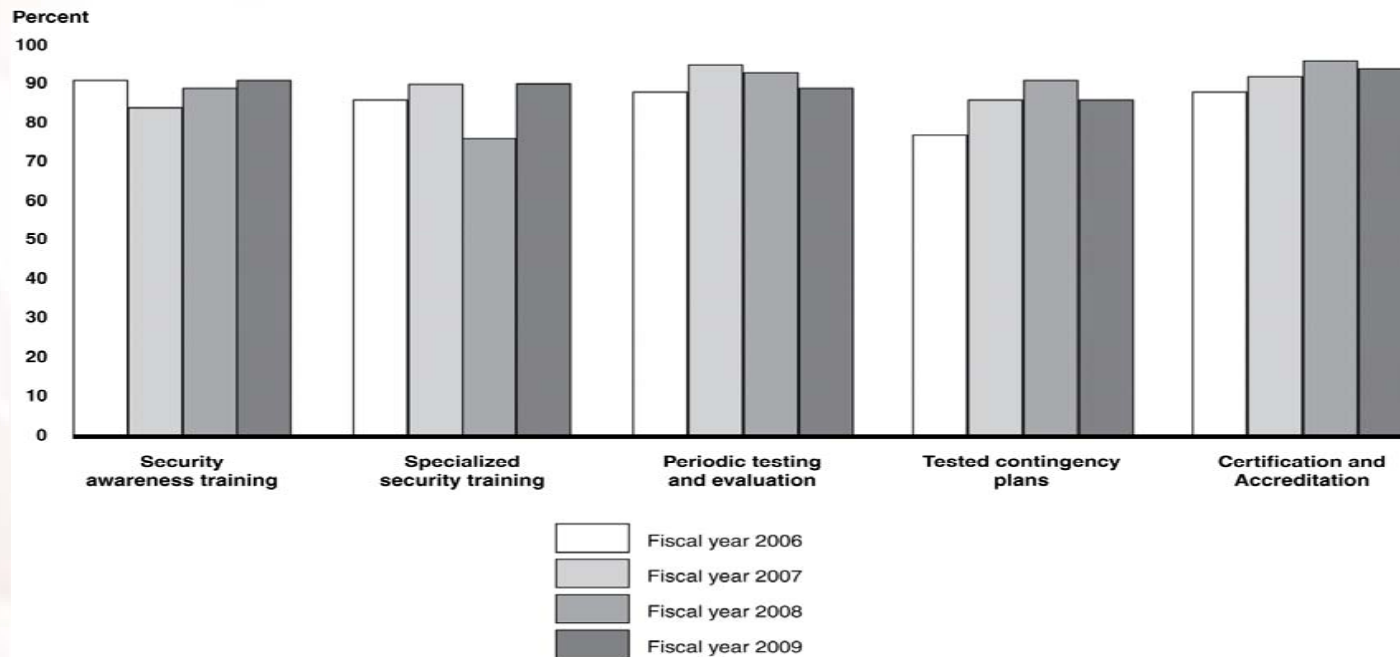
August 5, 2010

Agenda

- State of Federal Information Security

- GAO Focus Areas

- Recent GAO Reports

- Q&A

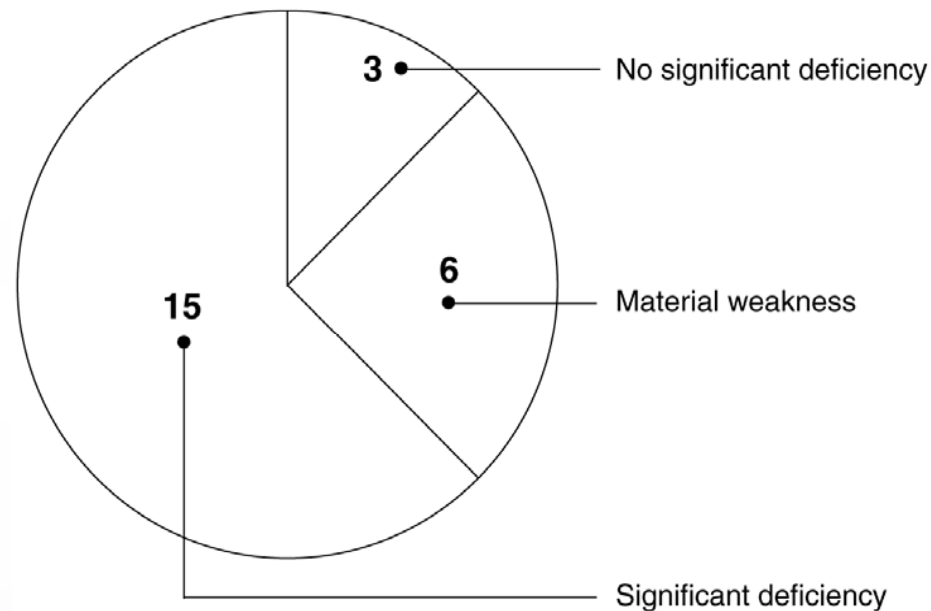# State of Federal Information Security

- **Agencies report mixed progress complying with security requirements**

Source: GAO analysis of agency data.
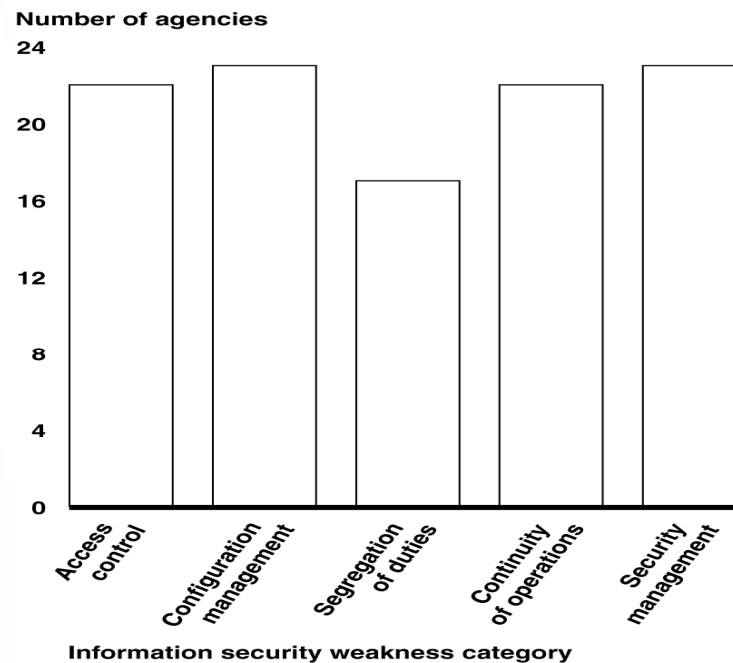
State of Federal Information Security

- **Agencies continue to report persistent weaknesses in information security**

Source: GAO analysis of agency performance and accountability report, annual financial report, or other financial statement reports for FY 2009.

State of Federal Information Security

- **Most agencies have weaknesses in most FISCAM general control areas**

Number of agencies

Information security weakness category

Source: GAO analysis of IG, agency, and GAO reports.

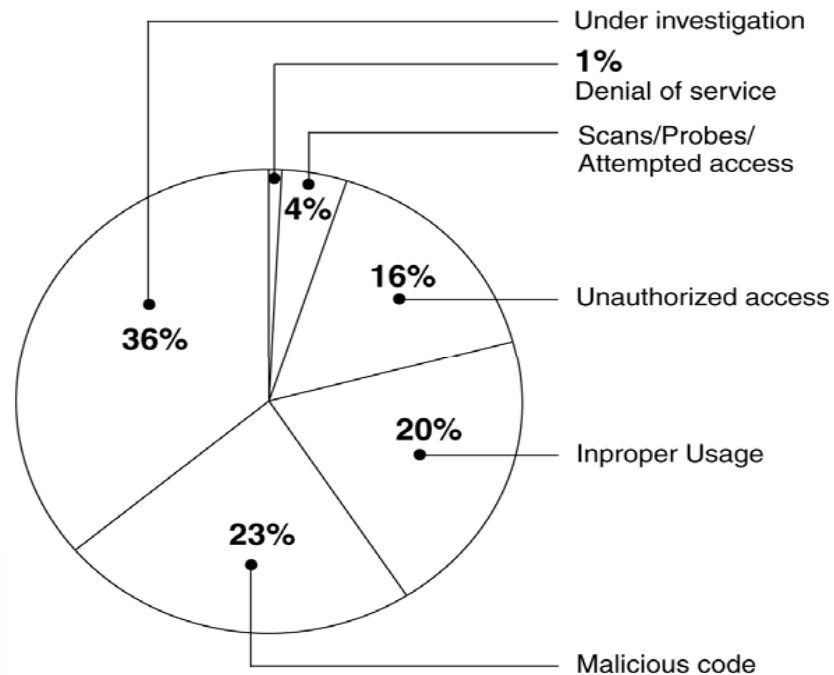# State of Federal Information Security

- **Reported security incidents have increased dramatically**

Number
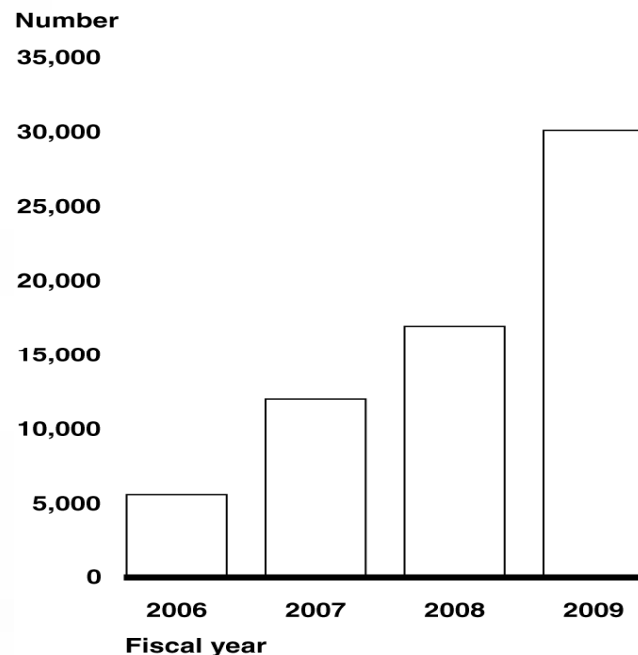
Source: GAO analysis of US-CERT data.

State of Federal Information Security

- **Types of reported security incidents varied**

Source: GAO analysis of U.S. CERT data.

State of Federal Information Security

- **Agencies face many challenges securing IT resources**
  - Computing environments are highly complex, dynamic
  - Multitude of vulnerable or defective software
  - Cyber threats to federal systems are growing, evolving

- **Several initiatives are underway to enhance security**
  - Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative
  - Trusted Internet Connection / Einstein
  - Federal Desktop Core Configuration
  - Cyberscope

GAO Focus Areas

FISMA
- Mandate Report
- Annual Report Analysis
- NARA Information Security
- Security Frameworks

Emerging Issues
- Cyberspace Policy Recommendations
- Private/Public Partnership Expectations
- Web 2.0 Social Media Services
- Cybersecurity Human Capital
- Cyber Crime Laws & Enforcement
- CI Sector Cybersecurity Standards

Privacy
- OPM FISD
- DHS National Immigration Info Sharing Operation
- e-Verify
- Electronic Prescriptions

Consolidated Financial Statements
- IRS
- BPD/Federal Reserve   - TARP
- FDIC   - FHFA
- SEC   - SOSI
- OIGs   - BCFP

Critical IT Systems & Infrastructure
- NNSA Supercomputers CP & Security
- State Security System
- Wireless Security
- IRS e*File

**Training/Methodology
& External Liaison**
- FISCAM
- GAO Internal Controls
- Internal/External Training
- Technical Assistance to Hill
- OMB/NIST/NASCIO

Recent GAO Reports

- GAO-10-872T, Information Management: Challenges in Federal Agencies' Use of Web 2.0 Technologies (July 2010)

- GAO-10-855T, Information Security: Governmentwide Guidance Needed to Assist Agencies in Implementing Cloud Computing (July 2010)

- GAO-10-606, Cyberspace: United States Faces Challenges in Addressing Global Cybersecurity and Governance (July 2010)

- GAO-10-834T, Cybersecurity: Continued Attention Is Needed to Protect Federal Information Systems from Evolving Threats (June 2010)

Recent GAO Reports

- GAO-10-466, Cybersecurity: Key Challenges Need to Be Addressed to Improve Research and Development (June 2010)

- GAO-10-727T, Information Security: Veterans Affairs Needs to Resolve Long-Standing Weaknesses (May 2010)

- GAO-10-513, Information Security: Federal Guidance Needed to Address Control Issues with Implementing Cloud Computing (May 2010)

Recent GAO Reports

- GAO-10-528, Information Security: Opportunities Exist for the Federal Housing Finance Agency to Improve Controls (April 2010)

- GAO-10-536T, Information Security: Concerted Response Needed to Resolve Persistent Weaknesses (March 2010)

- GAO-10-237, Information Security: Concerted Effort Needed to Consolidate and Secure Internet Connections at Federal Agencies (March 2010)

- GAO-10-202, Information Security: Agencies Need to Implement Federal Desktop Core Configuration Requirements (March 2010)

Recent GAO Reports

- GAO-10-355, Information Security: IRS Needs to Continue to Address Significant Weaknesses (March 2010)

- GAO-10-338, Cybersecurity: Progress Made but Challenges Remain in Defining and Coordinating the Comprehensive National Initiative (March 2010)

- GAO-10-361, Electronic Personal Health Information Exchange: Health Care Entities' Reported Disclosure Practices and Effects on Quality of Care (February 2010)

- GAO-10-230T, Cybersecurity: Continued Efforts Are Needed to Protect Information Systems from Evolving Threats (November 2009)

Recent GAO Reports

- GAO-10-28, Actions Needed to Better Manage, Protect, and Sustain Improvements to Los Alamos National Laboratory's Classified Computer Network (October 2009)

- GAO-10-2, Information Security: NASA Needs to Remedy Vulnerabilities in Key Networks (October 2009)

- GAO-09-617, Information Security: Concerted Effort Needed to Improve Federal Performance Measures (September 2009)

- GAO-09-546, Information Security: Agencies Continue to Report Progress, but Need to Mitigate Persistent Weaknesses (July 2009)

GAO Contact

Greg Wilshusen

Director, Information Security Issues

202-512-6244

wilshuseng@gao.gov

www.gao.gov

Questions and Answers