Homeland Security

US-CERT

New Incident Notification Guidance

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Current Incident Process

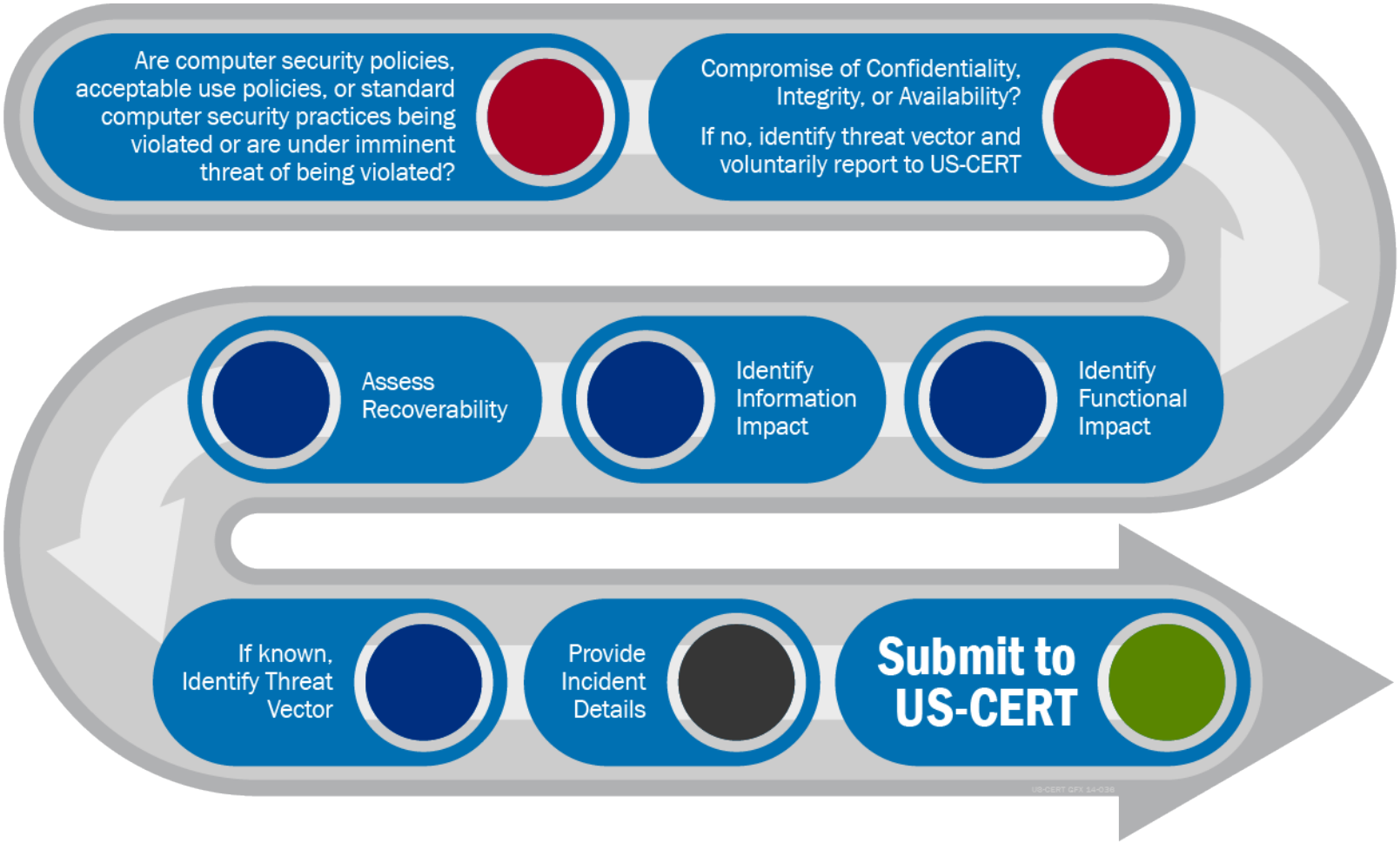
- US-CERT and federal D/As employ a 6-category system for cybersecurity incident reporting
- System last updated in 2007, largely the same as in 1996
- The 2006-era categories conflate Effects (root access, denial of service) with Causes (malware, inappropriate usage).
  - Effect = Impact
  - Cause = Method (or Threat Vector)
- Results in large volumes of un-actionable information
  - Lack of impact data
  - Poor data quality
- Primary focus on incident categorization causes delay in notification
- NIST Special Publication 800-61 Revision 2 finalized

New Federal Incident Notification

What has changed:

- Replaced Categories with Threat Vectors
- Introduced Impact Classifications
- Moved root cause analysis to “closing” phase of the incident response process
- Eliminated “non-cyber” incidents from notification requirement
- Separate mandatory from voluntary notification
- Introduced a 1-hour notification timeframe for mandatory incidents
- Greater focus on coordination and bi-directional information sharing
- Changed paradigm from “reporting” to “notification”

Incident Notification Procedure



Actions Taken

- August 2012, NIST SP 800-61 Revision 2 Finalized
- December 9th, 2013, US-CERT introduced new Federal Incident Notification Guidelines.
- December 20th, 2013, Guidelines posted to OMB MAX Portal for comment
  - Received feedback from:
    - Department of Commerce (DOC)
    - Social Security Administration (SSA)
    - Department of Labor (DOL)
    - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
    - Department of State (DOS)
    - Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
    - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
    - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- March 20th, 2014, updated Guidelines briefed at the ISIMC Meeting
- March 28th, 2014, updated Guidelines posted to OMB MAX Portal for comment
  - Received feedback from:
    - Department of Treasury (TREAS)
    - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
    - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
    - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Common Concerns Addressed

- Guidelines do not account for non-cyber PII, conflicting with OMB Memorandum (M-07-16)
- Procedures for handling Classified incidents
- What is vs what is not notifiable
- Reporting timeframe
  - Detection vs Confirmation
  - 1 hour notification suggestion from impacted to top-level security center
  - Expand timeframe for specific incidents
- Application of impact classifications/threat vector to real world incidents
- Consideration for discretionary incident submissions

Schedule (dates are tentative)

- May 23rd 2014– Complete comment ingest/adjudication and finalize Guidelines
- June 6th 2014– Finalize and approve Federal Information Security Memoranda (FISM)
- June 27th 2014– Redraft current OMB M Series Memo to eliminate “non-cyber” incidents from the computer security incident notification requirement
- June 28th 2014– Configure internal systems to accept new notification framework
- October 1st 2014 – Complete development of US-CERT incident reporting web form to accommodate new reporting framework
- October 1st, 2015 – Final cutover to new threat vectors and impact classification per the new Guidelines

Questions

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