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# Understanding the Federal IT Security Professional (FITSP) Certification

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Center for American Progress  
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Federal IT Security Institute



# Overview

- Speaker Introduction
- What is FITSI?
- Why a Federal Focused Credential?
- FITSP Overview
- Certification Roles
- Candidate Requirements
- Domains
- Exam Details
- Recertification Requirements
- Maintenance Details
- Audits
- Program Updates
- Government Adoption
- ANSI Accreditation / 8570
- Training Opportunities
- Questions?

# Speaker Introduction



- Mr. Jim Wiggins
  - Cyber Security Trainer and Information Assurance Practitioner
  - 18 years of experience in IT
  - 14 years of experience in IT security
  - Federal Information System Security Association (FISSEA) “Educator of the Year” for 2010
  - holds the following IA/IT security certifications:
    - FITSP-M, CISSP, ISSEP, CISM, CISA, SCNA, SCNP, CAP, IAM, IEM, SSCP, CEH, ECSA, CHFI, LPT, TICSA, CIWSA, Security+, and MCSE: Security

# *What is FITSI?*

- FITSI = Federal IT Security Institute
- Founded in 2009
- 1000 members
- 501c6 non-profit organization
- Focused on education and certifying the federal workforce
- Supports local chapters
  - FITSI-DC
  - FITSI-CO
  - FITSI-SC
- Supports the FITSI Foundation
  - 501c3
  - Setup for charitable, research and education in the cybersecurity market

# What is FITSI?

- FITSI Foundation
  - Setup to support Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy
    - Build the Next Generation of Cyber Defenders
    - Retain Wounded Warriors in the ways of cybersecurity



# *What is FITSI?*




- FITSI Activities
  - Chapter events
  - Free online webinars
  - Discounted training
  - FITSP certification program



# *Why a Federally Focused Credential?*

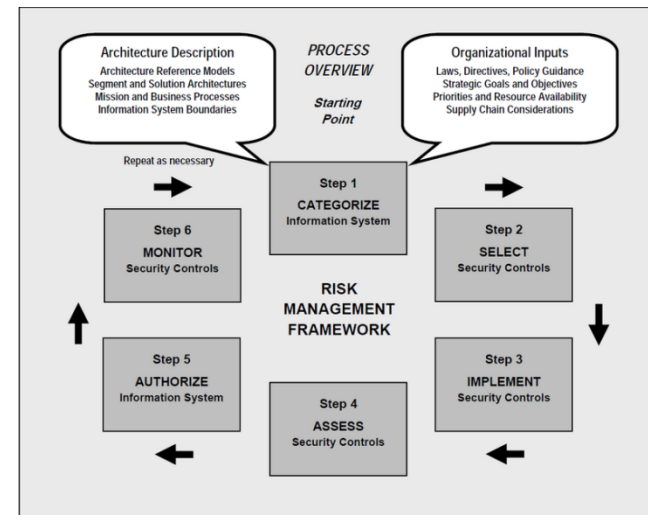


- Many high quality IT security certifications on the market
    - Not focused on the unique requirements of:
      - Federal sector
      - Federal workforce
    - Based upon international “best practices”
    - Many are one size fits all programs
      - CISO and system engineer might obtain the same credential
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# Why a Federally Focused Credential?

- All sectors of the government are adopting one standard
- Joint Task Force Transformation Initiative
  - U.S. Department of Defense
  - Office of the Director of National Intelligence
  - National Institute of Standards and Technology
  - Committee on National Security Systems

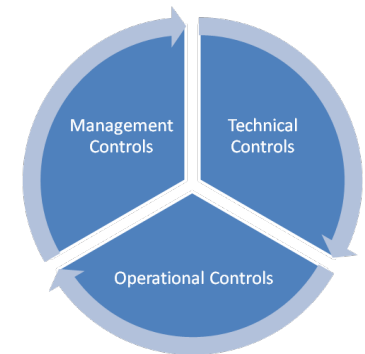
## NIST Risk Management Framework





# ***FITSP Overview***

- **Federal IT Security Professional (FITSP)**
  - An IT security certification program
  - Role-based
  - Targeted at the Federal workforce
    - Civilian personnel
    - Military
    - Contractors
  - Complements the knowledge, skills and abilities of other “generalist” security certifications
  - Based upon the standards and practices used by the United States Federal government
    - NIST, OMB, Congressional mandates



# Certification Roles

- Role-based program
  - Manager - Oversight
  - Designer - Builds
  - Operator - Maintains
  - Auditor - Reviews



# *Candidate Requirements*

- Candidates must have five years of IT security experience
- Can waive up to two years
  - Bachelors in IT or IT security
  - Master's degree in IT or IT security
  - Existing certification
- Must document experience
- Formal application process



# Domains

- Six areas of knowledge
  - NIST Special Publications
  - NIST Federal Information Processing Standards
  - NIST Control Families
  - NIST Risk Management Framework
  - Government Laws and Regulations
  - NIST Interagency Reports
- Each role has different concentration and focus of these domains
- Refer to the FITSI Candidate Handbook for each role on [FITSI.ORG](http://FITSI.ORG) for a breakdown of these domains

# Exam Details

- Computer-based exam
- 180-minute
- 150 multiple choice questions
- Many of the questions are small scenarios
  - Allow the FITSI candidate to demonstrate the level of experience and proficiency they have achieved
- Instant knowledge of results
  - Pass or fail
- Current cost of exam
  - \$295 per attempt
- FITSI membership is not required



# *Recertification Requirements*



- Certification is good for three years
- Must earn 60 CPEs each three years to maintain currency
  - FITSI has published guidance on the private member site on how to earn and report CPEs
- Must pay a \$45 Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF)



# Maintenance Details

- Must earn 60 CPEs over 3 year period
  - Examples
    - Attend security conferences - 1 CPE for each hour of IT security discussion covered in the conference
    - Attend security training classes - 1 CPE for each hour of instruction. These classes can be instructor lead (ILT), online or computer based training modules (CBTs).
    - Publish security whitepapers - 1 CPE for each hour writing a whitepaper not to exceed 5 CPE per published whitepaper
    - Publish security books - 1 CPE for each hour writing a book not to exceed 30 CPEs per published book
    - Provide IT security training classes - 3 hours of prep time for each hour of in-class time
    - Provide NIST commentary on draft documents - 1 CPE for each hour of working on submitting commentary – not to exceed 5 CPE per activity

# Audits


- All members are subject to potential audits
  - Experience background
  - Reported CPEs each year





# *Program Updates*



- Content is updated on a yearly basis
  - Members and certification holders are asked to make recommendations on newer guidance and standards
  - Leverage three primary areas for updates
    - Congress
    - OMB
    - NIST
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# Government Adoption


- Both the Department of State (DOS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have approved FITSI Certifications for their workforce!



Homeland  
Security


# ***ANSI Accreditation / 8570 / 8140***



- ANSI provides accreditation to certification bodies under ISO 17024
  - FITSI has applied for ANSI Accreditation
    - FITSP-Manager
    - Working with ANSI Assessors to determine non-conformities and required program changes
  - ANSI Accreditation is the first step towards 8570 / 8140
    - All certifications on the 8570 / 8140 are required to be ANSI accredited
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# *Training Opportunities*



- Classes are run both through FITSI and Authorized Training Partner
  - FITSI Authorized Training Center Program
    - SecureNinja
    - PhoenixTS
    - Cyber Defenses
    - Knowlogy
    - Securible, LLC
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# Questions?

- Questions and Answers

# Contact Information



## ■ Speaker Information

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## ■ FITSI Information

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# Recap

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