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**FORESCOUT  
SECURITY TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE  
(STIG) OVERVIEW**

**24 October 2024**

**Developed by Forescout and DISA for the DOD**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Executive Summary

The Forescout Security Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) provides the technical security policies, requirements, and implementation details for applying security concepts to the Forescout Enterprise Manager (EM) and Forescout appliance. The STIG is a package of two STIGs that together ensure the secure implementation of the Network Device Management (NDM) function and the Network Access Control (NAC) traffic services.

Forescout provides a platform that continuously identifies, segments, and enforces compliance of every connected thing across any heterogeneous network to secure the Enterprise of Things. Forescout is vendor agnostic and integrates with compatible switches and other network infrastructure equipment to achieve full visibility into enterprise devices and enforce DOD access control policies. Devices may be managed or unmanaged, agentless or with agent, and are assessed by policy directly configured with attributes collected during the initial scan process. Forescout provides access control network services that are user aware. These services allow trusted users who are using validated endpoints configured in compliance with the organization's security policies to remain productive while protecting critical network resources and sensitive data. Forescout implements functions such as traffic filtering, authentication, access, and authorization based on computer and user privileges. Forescout also integrates with various third-party tools, allowing for the orchestration and automation of various enterprise cybersecurity functions.

An Enterprise Manager, as well as at least one appliance, should be implemented to meet redundancy and centralization requirements. The Enterprise manager allows the organization to meet centralized management requirements of multiple appliances and provides a more robust management and auditing tool. Audit tools for Forescout include the Web Portal and Enterprise Management software.

Additionally, because Forescout can also be configured for malware threat protection, guest access, and other capabilities, a complete security assessment requires assessing all modules integrated into the specific DOD implementation. Each security review must include the Forescout NDM STIG and Forescout NAC STIG, at a minimum, regardless of the role in the network architecture or modules installed. Because product STIGs are not available for all configurations/modules, use of existing generic technology STIGs may be required to secure these functions. This STIG focuses on the hardware-based Forescout platform. The Forescout virtual platform was not tested and is not part of the scope of this STIG.

### 1.2 Authority

Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 8500.01 requires that "all IT [information technology] that receives, processes, stores, displays, or transmits DOD information will be [...] configured [...] consistent with applicable DOD cybersecurity policies, standards, and architectures." The instruction tasks that DISA "develops and maintains control correlation identifiers (CCIs), security requirements guides (SRGs), security technical implementation guides (STIGs), and mobile code risk categories and usage guides that implement and are consistent with DOD cybersecurity policies, standards, architectures, security controls, and validation procedures, with the support of the

NSA/CSS [National Security Agency/Central Security Service], using input from stakeholders, and using automation whenever possible.” This document is provided under the authority of DODI 8500.01.

Although the use of the principles and guidelines in these SRGs/STIGs provides an environment that contributes to the security requirements of DOD systems, applicable NIST SP 800-53 cybersecurity controls must be applied to all systems and architectures based on the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Instruction (CNSSI) 1253.

### 1.3 Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

Severity Category Codes (referred to as CAT) are a measure of vulnerabilities used to assess a facility or system security posture. Each security policy specified in this document is assigned a Severity Category Code of CAT I, II, or III.

**Table 1-1: Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions**

Category	DISA Category Code Guidelines
CAT I	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which will <b>directly and immediately</b> result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.
CAT II	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which <b>has a potential</b> to result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.
CAT III	Any vulnerability, the existence of which <b>degrades measures</b> to protect against loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.

### 1.4 STIG Distribution

Parties within the DOD and federal government’s computing environments can obtain the applicable STIG from the DOD Cyber Exchange website at <https://cyber.mil/>. This site contains the latest copies of STIGs, SRGs, and other related security information. Those without a Common Access Card (CAC) that has DOD Certificates can obtain the STIG from <https://public.cyber.mil/>.

### 1.5 SRG Compliance Reporting

All technical NIST SP 800-53 requirements were considered while developing this STIG. Requirements that are applicable and configurable will be included in the final STIG. A report marked Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) will be available for items that did not meet requirements. This report will be available to component authorizing official (AO) personnel for risk assessment purposes by request via email to: [disa.stig\\_spt@mail.mil](mailto:disa.stig_spt@mail.mil).

### 1.6 Document Revisions

Comments or proposed revisions to this document should be sent via email to the following address: [disa.stig\\_spt@mail.mil](mailto:disa.stig_spt@mail.mil). DISA will coordinate all change requests with the relevant DOD organizations before inclusion in this document. Approved changes will be made in accordance with the DISA maintenance release schedule.

## 1.7 Other Considerations

DISA accepts no liability for the consequences of applying specific configuration settings made on the basis of the SRGs/STIGs. It must be noted that the configuration settings specified should be evaluated in a local, representative test environment before implementation in a production environment, especially within large user populations. The extensive variety of environments makes it impossible to test these configuration settings for all potential software configurations.

For some production environments, failure to test before implementation may lead to a loss of required functionality. Evaluating the risks and benefits to a system's particular circumstances and requirements is the system owner's responsibility. The evaluated risks resulting from not applying specified configuration settings must be approved by the responsible AO. Furthermore, DISA implies no warranty that the application of all specified configurations will make a system 100 percent secure.

Security guidance is provided for the DOD. While other agencies and organizations are free to use it, care must be given to ensure that all applicable security guidance is applied at both the device hardening level and the architectural level due to the fact that some settings may not be configurable in environments outside the DOD architecture.

## 1.8 Product Approval Disclaimer

The existence of a STIG does not equate to DOD approval for the procurement or use of a product.

STIGs provide configurable operational security guidance for products being used by the DOD. STIGs, along with vendor confidential documentation, also provide a basis for assessing compliance with cybersecurity controls/control enhancements, which supports system assessment and authorization (A&A) under the DOD Risk Management Framework (RMF). Department of Defense AOs may request available vendor confidential documentation for a product that has a STIG for product evaluation and RMF purposes from [disa.stig\\_spt@mail.mil](mailto:disa.stig_spt@mail.mil). This documentation is not published for general access to protect the vendor's proprietary information.

AOs have the purview to determine product use/approval in accordance with (IAW) DOD policy and through RMF risk acceptance. Inputs into acquisition or pre-acquisition product selection include such processes as:

- National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) evaluation for National Security Systems (NSS) (<https://www.niap-ccevs.org/>) IAW CNSSP #11.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cryptographic Module Validation Program (CMVP) (<https://csrc.nist.gov/groups/STM/cmvp/>) IAW federal/DOD mandated standards.
- DOD Unified Capabilities (UC) Approved Products List (APL) (<https://www.disa.mil/network-services/ucco>) IAW DODI 8100.04.

## 2. ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

A security assessment of Forescout must consist of a review of device hardening and the access control and threat protection function. Thus, the Forescout NDM STIG and the Forescout NAC STIG are required for all security reviews.

### 2.1 Security Assessment Information

The following list of core security plug-ins is provided as a reference for security assessors and installers. Plug-ins beyond those listed below have not been assessed for use in DOD and are not approved as part of the core Forescout operations in DOD.

- DHCP Classifier: The latest DHCP fingerprints for device classification.
- Hardware Watchdog: Automatically restarts a service if it stops.
- HPS Applications: In-depth discovery and management of software and applications on Windows endpoints.
- HPS Inspection Engine: Inspect, manage, remediate, and control Windows endpoints.
- HPS NIC Vendor DB: Map Network Interface Controllers (NIC) to their vendors based on their MAC address.
- HPS Vulnerability DB: Vulnerability database; updates soon after release from Microsoft.
- Macintosh-Linux Property Scanner: Inspect, manage, remediate, and control Mac and Linux endpoints. Should be disabled if not in use.
- NBT Scanner: Obtains the user logged on to a given host and the MAC address of that host and also discovers the NetBIOS name of the host.
- Reports: Generates reports.
- Switch: Switch integrations.
- Syslog: Send and receive Syslog messages. Should be disabled if not in use.
- Technical Support: Automatically analyze an extensive range of log files on Forescout and optionally send them to the Forescout support team for further investigation.
- User Directory: Resolves endpoint user details and performs endpoint authentication via authentication and directory servers.
- Wireless: Wireless Controller and Access Point integrations. Should be disabled if not in use.