

The MSB and societal information security

Information security is a support task to increase the quality of societal services. The MSB has the task of supporting and coordinating work with societal information security.

Information in all its various forms is seen today as a vital resource for society to function. But information management in its various forms doesn't just meet our needs it also creates dependencies and risks. To avoid disruptions and to enable the management of crises requires appropriate preventive work with information security throughout society. The MSB has the task of supporting and coordinating that work.

The MSB's task is aimed at everything from other authorities and municipalities to the private sector and individual people. A great deal of the MSB's work in this field deals with supporting preventive measures and promoting systematic long-term work with information security on all societal levels. Security measures should aim to create a more robust form of information management both when society is in its normal condition and for the handling of serious disruptions and crises. Correctly functioning everyday security is often equated with being prepared for serious emergencies.

The MSB's task in the field of information security:

- Support and coordinate societal information security and analyse and assess global developments in the field.
- Provide advice and support, in relation to preventive work, to other authorities, municipalities, county councils, and the private sector and organisations.
- Report to the government on conditions in the information security field that can give rise to a need for measures on different levels and within different areas of society.
- Shall be responsible for a Swedish national service tasked with supporting society in its efforts to prevent and manage IT incidents.
- Administer the national strategy and action plan for information security.
- Coordinate the work of civil authorities with secure cryptographic services.
- Support media companies with their preparedness planning.
- The MSB has the right to issue regulations for government authorities when it comes to the field of information security.

Strategy and action plan for society

The MSB, in conjunction with other authorities, was commissioned by the government to produce a strategy for societal information security. The strategy applies for the period 2010-2015 and is aimed at society as a whole – government authorities, municipalities, county councils, the private sector, organisations, and individuals.

The strategy provides the direction for long-term objectives for societal information security. The goal is to attain good societal information security that promotes:

- The freedoms and rights of citizens, and personal integrity
- The function, effectiveness and quality of society
- Crime prevention and detection
- Society's capacity to prevent and cope with serious disruptions and crises
- Private sector growth
- Knowledge amongst citizens and operations about and confidence in information management and IT systems

The strategic objectives shall be met by working in five strategic areas:

- Operational information security
- The provision of competence
- Information sharing, cooperation and response
- Communication security
- Product and system security

The strategy is complemented by a national action plan with tangible suggestions for measures. The action plan is administered by the MSB and is revised every second year. The strategy is updated jointly by the relevant authorities at least every sixth year.

Regulations

On 1st February 2010 the MSB's *Regulations on information security at government authorities* (MSBFS 2009:10) came into force. These regulations stipulate that government authorities must apply a management system for information security. This entails, among other things, a requirement for authorities to classify their information, to identify and manage risks, and to continually evaluate and improve their security. The work must be run in accordance with established information security standards. The MSB has also produced regulations on the *Civil authorities' cryptology preparedness during and outside normal office hours* (MSBFS 2009:11).

SVISA – support for information security work

Several authorities and organisations cooperate within the framework of the SVISA project which is coordinated by the MSB. The goal of SVISA is to draw up recommendations, guidelines and other material that can facilitate and support information security work in both the public and private sectors. Products are published regularly on www.informationsakerhet.se

Programme for increased security in industrial information and control systems (SCADA)

The MSB's work on issues related to security in industrial information and control systems is conducted within the framework of a three-year programme. The aim of the programme is to create an increased national capacity for the prevention and handling of IT related risks and threats against the systems that steer and control vital societal services and critical infrastructure.

Communications security protection and secure cryptographic services

The MSB directs and coordinates communications security protection work and work with secure cryptographic services at the civil authorities. In addition, the MSB decides which civil authorities and other vital societal services should be allocated nationally approved cryptographic services to allow for secure cross-sector cooperation. The MSB has the right to issue regulations for civil authorities in the field of communications security protection.

CERT-SE

CERT- SE is Sweden's national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) tasked with supporting societal work on dealing with and preventing IT incidents. Since 1 January 2011 CERT-SE has been a part of the MSB. Some of CERT-SE's tasks are to respond promptly when IT incidents occur, cooperate with authorities that have specific tasks in the field of information security, and act as Sweden's point of contact for equivalent services in other countries.

Standardization

The MSB actively participates both nationally and internationally with the development of standards that touch on information security. Among other things, the MSB participates in SIS (Swedish Standards Institute) work connected to the ISO's (International Organization for Standardization) group JTC 1/SC 27 IT Security Techniques. The MSB also works with the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV) on issues that touch on the Common Criteria standard, ISO/IEC 15408 and also represents Sweden as signatory to the Common Criteria Recognition Agreement (CCRA).

Cooperation

The complexity and cross-sector nature of information security demands effective cooperation. This means cooperation between various entities in Sweden, such as, government authorities, municipalities, county councils, the private sector, and organisations; but also international cooperation. The MSB cooperates with a number of various entities on several cooperation forums.

Important cooperation forums:

- Information Security Council with representatives from the private and public sectors.
- SAMFI – Cooperation group for information security includes representatives from the Swedish Post and Telecom Agency; the Swedish National Police Board; the Swedish Armed Forces; the Swedish National Defence Radio Establishment; the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration/CSEC; and the MSB.
- Fidi SCADA and Fidi FINANS – groups for information sharing focusing on industrial control systems and the financial sector.
- Media Preparedness Council – public-private cooperation in the media sector.
- Networks like SNITS (government authorities), NIS (county councils), SWITS (research) among others.

Read more:

www.msb.se/en
www.cert.se

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