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National Security and Technology

The article in the book discussed the national security and technology. The article emphasized that sometimes simplicity of technology can be effective, but this is not always the case. The various branches of the government are reevaluating the technologies they use and how secure they are.

“A senior governmental advisory group is planning to unveil a system this summer that will grade public and private information networks on their vulnerability”¹. Symantec Corp., one of the leading companies in the effort, their CEO John Thompson says that seventy-five percent of the group National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) is complete. This council’s job is to test the security of the national security and the economic networks. Fourteen different measurement are to taken into account including the damages that can happen if the networks are compromised. The grade is going to be broken down into three categories, “base metrics, which are calculated once and never adjusted; temporal metrics, which can change over time as new countermeasures or threats become apparent; and environmental metrics, which are adjusted based on factors that are directly relevant to specific networks. The score from those three classes will be combined to produce a final vulnerability rating”¹. The committee is looking for more inputs from the industry on how to test the system. Testing is important for this kind of system because the system needs to be tested in real world situations to see if it is going be able to perform with the kind of result that is expected.

Resources:

¹ Federal advisory group will grade network vulnerability. < <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0404/041304d1.htm>>

Federal advisory group will grade network vulnerability. David McGlinchey
April 13, 2004.
< <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0404/041304d1.htm>>