

Vulnerability Management – Cybersecurity

21-113

July 13, 2021



The University of Texas at El Paso
Office of Auditing and Consulting

"Committed to Service, Independence and Quality"



The University of Texas at El Paso
Office of Auditing and Consulting Services

500 West University Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79968
915-747-5191
www.utep.edu

July 13, 2021

Dr. Heather Wilson
President, The University of Texas at El Paso
Administration Building, Suite 500
El Paso, Texas 79968

Dear Dr. Wilson:

The Office of Auditing and Consulting Services has completed a limited-scope audit of Vulnerability Management – Cybersecurity. During the audit, we identified opportunities for improvement and offered the corresponding recommendations in a separate management letter. We intend the recommendations will assist the department in strengthening controls and help ensure that the University's mission, goals and objectives are achieved.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by the Information Security Office staff during our audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lori Wertz'.

Lori Wertz
Chief Audit Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Auditing and Consulting Services has completed a limited scope audit of Vulnerability Management – Cybersecurity to determine adherence to State and University security controls and standards. Due to the confidential nature of the audit, we issued a separate management letter to the Information Security Office, which details specific findings and recommendations. These confidential results are exempt from the Texas Public Information Act under Texas Government Code §552.139.

Background

A vulnerability management program allows an organization to discover weaknesses (vulnerabilities) in its environment and prioritizes them for proper remediation/mitigation. If not fixed in a timely manner, these vulnerabilities can be exploited by bad actors.

We conducted the audit in accordance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* and the authoritative guidelines of the *International Professional Practice Framework* issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Audit Objectives and Scope

The objective was to assess the vulnerability management life cycle and its effectiveness in detecting, evaluating, and remediating cyber threats and vulnerabilities. We also verified that the University is in compliance with state regulations. The scope of the audit was limited to the period of September 1, 2018 to June 8, 2021.

Strengths

The Information Security Office rolled out an in-house developed vulnerability management program (VaMP) web console during the current fiscal year. System administrators (including non-centralized IT) can use the self-service VaMP web console to request or run vulnerability scans on their devices. The Chief Information Security Officer's vision is to continue automating the vulnerability management processes to improve on the effectiveness of the program and to continue to bring awareness to system administrators around campus.

Summary of Audit Results

Vulnerability Management Areas Covered	Number of Findings
1. Compliance with State Regulations and University Policies	0
2. Vulnerability Management Life Cycle	4

Conclusion

Based on the results of audit procedures performed, we conclude the Information Security Office can strengthen existing security controls by implementing the recommendations included in the separate confidential management letter.

We wish to thank the management and staff at the Information Security Office for their assistance and cooperation provided throughout the audit.

Report Distribution:

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Ms. Andrea Cortinas, Vice President and Chief of Staff
Mr. Luis Hernandez, Vice President for Information Resources
Mr. Gerard Cochrane, Chief Information Security Officer
Ms. Mary Solis, Director and Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer

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Auditor Assigned to the Audit:

Ms. Victoria Morrison