



Diplomatic Security Service's Cybersecurity Program

The primary mission of the Diplomatic Security Service's (DSS) Cyber and Technology Security (CTS) Directorate is to safeguard the U.S. Department of State's information and IT assets at more than 275 locations around the world. This includes protecting a global cyber infrastructure comprising networks, systems, information, and mobile devices.



DSS also oversees the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Affairs Cybersecurity Center (FACC), a state-of-the-art facility that maintains a 24/7 watch on the Department's global cyber infrastructure. This enables cybersecurity experts to respond in near real-time to malicious activities. The FACC Cyber Incident Response Team serves as the 24/7 "hot line" for the Department's trained Information Systems Security Officers (ISSOs) to file reports of malicious activity affecting embassies and posts from around the world.

Since its formation in 1986, DSS has continued to mature its cybersecurity capabilities. The organization established CTS as a separate directorate in May 2017 to more fully leverage its advanced technology and operational security expertise to identify and respond to cyber risks and threats. This includes security challenges originating from hackers, rogue operators, nation states, and insider threats. CTS core responsibilities include:

- Cyber Incident response
- In-depth analysis of malicious activity/attempted intrusions
- Cyber threat intelligence analysis and reporting
- Vulnerability assessments and testing
- Technical security assessments
- Cyber policy and awareness
- Law enforcement investigations and technical surveillance

DSS keeps pace with the latest techniques and technology employed by malicious cyber actors to ensure the State Department is positioned to defend against cyber adversaries and make informed risk management decisions. DSS personnel and programs provide the subject matter expertise and integrity to facilitate the secure deployment of emerging technologies and positive change throughout the department.

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