

**NISTIR 7298**  
**Revision 2**

# **Glossary of Key Information Security Terms**

Richard Kissel, Editor

**NIST**  
**National Institute of  
Standards and Technology**  
U.S. Department of Commerce

**NISTIR 7298**  
**Revision 2**

# **Glossary of Key Information Security Terms**

Richard Kissel, Editor  
*Computer Security Division*  
*Information Technology Laboratory*

May 2013



U.S. Department of Commerce  
*Rebecca Blank, Acting Secretary*

National Institute of Standards and Technology  
*Patrick D. Gallagher, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director*

National Institute of Standards and Technology Interagency or Internal Report 7298r2  
222 pages (May 2013)

Certain commercial entities, equipment, or materials may be identified in this document in order to describe an experimental procedure or concept adequately. Such identification is not intended to imply recommendation or endorsement by NIST, nor is it intended to imply that the entities, materials, or equipment are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

There may be references in this publication to other publications currently under development by NIST in accordance with its assigned statutory responsibilities. The information in this publication, including concepts and methodologies, may be used by Federal agencies even before the completion of such companion publications. Thus, until each publication is completed, current requirements, guidelines, and procedures, where they exist, remain operative. For planning and transition purposes, Federal agencies may wish to closely follow the development of these new publications by NIST.

Organizations are encouraged to review all draft publications during public comment periods and provide feedback to NIST. All NIST Computer Security Division publications, other than the ones noted above, are available at <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications>.

National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Attn: Computer Security Division, Information Technology Laboratory  
100 Bureau Drive (Mail Stop 8930) Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8930  
Email: [secglossary@nist.gov](mailto:secglossary@nist.gov)

- Cryptographic Alarm – Circuit or device that detects failures or aberrations in the logic or operation of crypto-equipment. Crypto-alarm may inhibit transmission or may provide a visible and/or audible alarm.  
SOURCE: CNSSI-4009
- Cryptographic Algorithm – A well-defined computational procedure that takes variable inputs, including a cryptographic key, and produces an output.  
SOURCE: SP 800-21; CNSSI-4009
- Cryptographic Ancillary Equipment – Equipment designed specifically to facilitate efficient or reliable operation of cryptographic equipment, without performing cryptographic functions itself.  
SOURCE: CNSSI-4009
- Cryptographic Binding – Associating two or more related elements of information using cryptographic techniques.  
SOURCE: CNSSI-4009
- Cryptographic Boundary – An explicitly defined continuous perimeter that establishes the physical bounds of a cryptographic module and contains all the hardware, software, and/or firmware components of a cryptographic module.  
SOURCE: FIPS 140-2
- Cryptographic Component – Hardware or firmware embodiment of the cryptographic logic. A cryptographic component may be a modular assembly, a printed wiring assembly, a microcircuit, or a combination of these items.  
SOURCE: CNSSI-4009
- Cryptographic Equipment – Equipment that embodies a cryptographic logic.  
SOURCE: CNSSI-4009
- Cryptographic Hash Function – A function that maps a bit string of arbitrary length to a fixed length bit string. Approved hash functions satisfy the following properties:  
1) (One-way) It is computationally infeasible to find any input which maps to any pre-specified output, and  
2) (Collision resistant) It is computationally infeasible to find any two distinct inputs that map to the same output.  
SOURCE: SP 800-21
- Cryptographic Ignition Key (CIK) – Device or electronic key used to unlock the secure mode of crypto-equipment.  
SOURCE: CNSSI-4009