DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY
CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS AND TEST FACILITY (DCTF)
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IN REPLY
REFER TO:

DCTF

17 September 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR RE:SRC

SUBJECT: Masking Shunt MS100SC

The MASKING SHUNT was brought to our attention in 2002. The introduction indicated that the SHUNT would obfuscate MAC addresses thus providing an additional security layer. The concept was that the SHUNT would enhance the computer network security devices, such as a firewall, by rendering them invisible to external traffic.

We had the opportunity to observe and work with Re:SRC's SHUNT during Re:SRC's privately funded Proof of Concept and Prototype phases. Once Re:SRC had developed its Beta system, DISA Slidell conducted testing in a laboratory environment consisting of two separate networks, several UNIX and Windows platforms, Raptor, Sidewinder and CISCO PIX firewalls. We created and executed numerous test scenarios, which included packet traces using ethereal, Solar winds, Network Inspector and Solaris snoop utilities.

The MAC addresses of the firewalls were obscured on each test and network-mapping attempts were unsuccessful.

The SHUNT operates without degradation to the network, and adds a layer of network security. DCTF's observations and experience with the operation of the properly installed SHUNT confirm that the SHUNT appreciably enhances the effectiveness of computer network security devices, such as a firewall, by rendering them invisible to external traffic. The SHUNT provides an additional option for secure network design\architecture.

DEWEY L. GARRETT
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