THE SECURITY BUZZ

The Office of Security at the National Processing Center Newsletter January 2008 / Issue 7

AROUND NPC

Security Checklist
NPC-1126
Authentication
Biometrics

Emergency preparedness & actions to take are where?

On our website at http://cww/osy/ look under "INFORMATION" then click on link to "SECURITY CHECKLIST" to access a handy abbreviated checklist of security procedures everyone should be familiar with. It addresses categories such as Admittance to property, Camera/Camcorder Pass, Emergencies, Inspections, Parking, and Securing Property & Information.

New form on OSY website to assist handicapped employees is…

On our website at http://cww/osy/ look under "INFORMATION" then click on link to "FREQUENTLY USED FORMS" to access security forms used at the NPC. You can find the NPC-1126 "NPC Disability Parking" application, which has been recently added. You can prin the form to take to your physician, instead of making a trip to the Health Unit or Customer Security Services Office. Once completed by your physician the form can be mailed by inner officer mail or hand delivered to the NPC Health Unit Bldg. 63D bay. The Office of Security is offering this service to assist our Handicapped employees in expediting their request for Handicapped parking.

What is authentication, and are you authenticated?

Authentication is the process of establishing an individual's identity and determining whether individual federal employees or contractor's are who they say they are. Authenticating to a computer can be as simple as logging on with a user name and password or PIN. Authenticating your identity usually takes two of these three things: something the user has (ID card, security or software token or cell phone), something the user knows (password, pass phrase or PIN), something the user is (biometric identifiers, such as fingerprint, retina scan, signature or voice recognition or others.)

ASK BUZZ

"BUZZ"

Buzz says, do you know what biometrics are?

You've been hearing for years about "biometrics", but do you know what it means? Maybe you've heard about biometrics at the movies, on television, or radio when discussing new security technology, but didn't exactly understand it. In a nutshell biometrics is a measurable physical characteristic used to recognize the identity of an individual. Biometric characteristics can be divided in two main classes, Physiological are related to the shape of the body. The oldest traits, that have been used for more than 100 years, are fingerprints. Other examples are face recognition, hand geometry and iris recognition. Behavioral are related to the behavior of a person. The first characteristic to be used, still widely used today, is the signature. More modern approaches are the study of keystroke dynamics and of voice. Strictly speaking, voice is also a physiological trait because every person has a different pitch, but voice recognition is mainly based on the study of the way a person speaks, commonly classified as behavioral. Other biometric strategies are being developed such as those based on retina, hand veins, DNA, odor, and more.

OSY WEBSITE

How do you get to the OSY website?

Go to our Internet Explorer website: http://cww.npc.census.gov/osy/.

NEXT ISSUE

What can you look forward to in the next issue?

Information on, hard versus soft targets, secure web addresses and more.

CONTACT INFO

If you have questions or suggestions, who do you contact?

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