


Microsoft Government Security Program (GSP)

Helping address the unique security requirements of national governments



For governments, protecting their national infrastructure from online threats is critical. Governments must be able to adopt the latest software readily, and at the same time maintain their rigorous security requirements.

Throughout the history of the company, Microsoft has worked with national governments around the world to help them build and deploy more secure IT infrastructure and services to protect their citizens and national economies. In 2003, Microsoft built on these efforts to create the Government Security Program (GSP). The scope of the program has grown over time, and continues as a cornerstone of Microsoft's efforts to help address the unique security requirements of more than 30 national governments around the world.

The Microsoft GSP provides participants with controlled access to:

- Source code for important Microsoft products, which helps governments evaluate existing systems, assure the integrity of the supply chain, and design, deploy, and maintain secure computing infrastructures.
- Microsoft Transparency Centers, where governments will be able to inspect the source code from enterprise products available through the program.
- Vulnerability and threat intelligence from Microsoft to help governments respond more effectively and efficiently to computer security incidents.
- Technical information about Microsoft products and services to help governments design, develop, and implement more secure computing systems.
- Information about our core cloud services that demonstrates compliance with cloud controls, including Service Organization Control (SOC) Type II and ISO 27001 Statement of Applicability reports.

The GSP helps governments respond more effectively to computer security incidents, as well as reduce the risk of attacks, deter the attacks themselves, and mitigate exploits.

Controlled access to source code

The GSP provides transparency by giving governments controlled access to the source code for our core enterprise products. This level of transparency can help reassure customers that Microsoft products do not contain hidden “back doors.” It also enhances a government’s ability to design and build more secure computing infrastructures and adopt new technology more rapidly.

The GSP currently offers access to source code for a range of products, including:

- Windows 8.1, Windows 7, Windows Vista
- Windows Server 2012 R2, Windows Server 2012, Windows Server 2008 R2 and Windows Server 2008
- Office 2013, Office 2010 and Office 2007
- Lync 2013
- SharePoint 2010
- Windows Embedded CE 6.0, CE 5.0 and CE 4.0

Transparency Centers

Microsoft is establishing Transparency Centers to further reassure government customers of the integrity of its products. Governments will be able to inspect the source code from key enterprise products, including the ability to run tools against the source code to enable static and dynamic analysis. In June 2014, Microsoft opened the first Transparency Center in Redmond, along with plans for a Brussels location. Microsoft plans to open other centers in Europe, the Americas, and Asia, and to expand the range of products included in these programs.

Vulnerability and threat information

The GSP helps governments respond more effectively and efficiently to computer security incidents and emergencies. In addition, the GSP helps decrease the risk of attack by sharing information from Microsoft security intelligence data, which exposes malicious software and similar cyberthreats. Information shared may include known vulnerabilities that Microsoft is investigating; upcoming and released patches and security updates; and incident information. Microsoft also shares information on product security, the company’s approach to security, and its incident response process.

Technical product information

To facilitate the development and implementation of secure computer systems, the GSP gives program participants an expansive disclosure of technical information, including the design and operations documentation of Microsoft products and cloud services. Microsoft’s GSP provides further assurance that critical infrastructure, data privacy, and by proxy, the industries and citizens that governments serve are protected, by presenting governments with an appropriate level of transparency into the security of Microsoft software and services.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the Government Security Program, email GSPTeam@microsoft.com.