



Report

Life in the UK

SECURITY ASSESSMENT

1.0 Issued

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to document the findings of a security assessment, requested under BISTD Request for Work RFW 5024/3, of the handling, storage and distribution of the test material of the UK Citizen Test.

1.2 Background

The Nationality Immigration Act 2002 requires all new applicants for citizenship to demonstrate knowledge of both language and of life in the United Kingdom. One of the ways in which this may be done is by taking a specially developed citizenship test.

Candidates are required to take this test based on the Home Office publication: Life in the United Kingdom – A Journey to Citizenship.

The test will be taken on a computer at one of approximately 90 Life in the UK Test centres in the UK. The test will consist of 24 questions based on the information contained in chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the handbook "Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship". 45 minutes will be allowed for the test.

Ufi Ltd administers these tests on behalf of the Home Office. Ufi Ltd is an organisation based in Sheffield, which is responsible for Learndirect. Ufi operate a network of approximately 1,500 learning centres providing access to a range of e-learning opportunities.

1.3 Scope

The scope of this assessment was limited to security assessment of the UFi and Learndirect processes involved with data arising in connection with the citizen test. In particular:

- Physical Security
- Data Security
- Storage
- Handling
- Storage
- Distribution to IND.

The following were out of scope:

- Processes occurring post delivery to IND or government controlled networks
- Processes external to UFi and Learndirect
- Solution specific recommendations
- Product specifications
- Formal risk assessment
- Production of accreditation document set

1.4 Objectives

As confirmed at the start up meeting with [REDACTED] this assessment is not required to be a full security assessment surrounding all processes involved in conducting the Life in the UK Test.

The objectives of this assessment report are to:

- Document the state of security at selected Learndirect sites.
- Confirm the sensitivity of testing material.
- Produce a concise analysis of the security surrounding the test processes.
- Document conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of this assessment.

1.5 Assumptions

The following assumptions were made as part of this assessment:

Assumption 1. Information supplied by UFi, Learndirect and the Home Office were taken at face value, no further corroboration or confirmation of its accuracy was sought. This was not a formal audit.

Assumption 2. The answers to some of the questions asked at interview required confirmation by Ufi. These were not confirmed by Ufi within the timescale of the project and the initial answer at the interview was taken. These were:

- Confirming whether there was link security between the test centre and the test server.
- Database security

2. Approach to the Assignment

2.1 Techniques

2.1.1 Information Gathering

Information was gathered from the following sources in preparation for the assessment:

- Life in the UK Test, Test Centre Operations Manual – Quick Reference Guide, Version 1.0 August 2005.
- SPU Specification for Life in the UK Test, Ufi, Version 2.0
- Manual of Protective Security 2005, (Supplement 5)

The information was used to assist in the preparation of interview question sheets.

2.1.2 Interview

Interviews were held with the following staff:

- [REDACTED] Learn Direct Guildford
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Learn Direct Strodes College, Egham
- [REDACTED] Ufi, Learn Direct offices Holborn London

From a prepared script interviewees were asked questions about the security surrounding the conduct of the test. Opinion was also canvassed concerning impact of the disclosure, amendment or loss of test information with a view to obtaining a data sensitivity assessment.

The transcript of the reports will not be formally presented in this report but will be made available on request.

2.1.3 Feedback and Review

Interview notes were returned to the interviewees for review and agreement with the content.

This presented the opportunity for supplementary questions to be raised.