

IMPORTANT. DWP Security Policies and Standards apply to DWP suppliers and contractors where explicitly stated in the Security Schedule of the contract. DWP Standards are not a cross government requirement.

Security Standard – Wireless Network (SS-019)

Chief Security Office

Date: 04/07/2017



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Version Control Table

Version	Date	Major Change

Updating policy

This Standard will be reviewed for continued completeness, relevancy and accuracy within 1 year of being granted “final” status, and at yearly intervals thereafter.

The version control table will show the published update date and provide a thumbnail of the major change. CAUTION: the thumbnail is not intended to summarise the change and not a substitute for reading the full text.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Wireless Network Security Standard provides the list of controls that are required to secure IEEE 802.11 wireless networks to a Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) approved level of security. This standard provides a list of security controls to protect citizen and operational data. It is to minimise the risk from known threats both physical and logical to an acceptable level for operations.
- 1.2. This standard is aligned to the DWP Digital Blueprint, which defines the direction for all departmental technology.
- 1.3. Furthermore the security controls presented in this standard are taken from the international best practice for Wireless Security and have been tailored for Departmental suitability.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this document is to enable teams to work to a defined set of security requirements which enable solutions to be developed, deployed and managed to Departmental security standards, which are based upon international best practice for Wireless Network deployments.
- 2.2. For further clarity and relevance, the security standard is intended to provide secure configuration advice to projects for wireless local area network deployment.
- 2.3. Secondly, this standard provides a means to conduct compliance based technical security audits.

3. Exceptions

- 3.1. Any exceptions to the application of this standard or where controls cannot be adhered to MUST be presented to an assigned Security Architect and considered for submission to the DWP Design Authority (DA) advisory or governance board, where appropriate. This MUST be carried out prior to deployment and managed through the design caveats or exception process.
- 3.2. Such exception requests may invoke the Risk Management process in order to clarify the potential impact of any deviation to the configuration detailed in this standard.
- 3.3. Exceptions to this standard MUST be maintained on a risk register for accountability, traceability and security governance reporting to senior management.

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4. Audience

4.1. This standard is intended for suppliers, solution and technical architects, developers, security groups, and also IT staff such as Security Compliance Teams, involved in securing environments for DWP systems and applications.

5. Scope

5.1. This standard is to cover systems handling data within the OFFICIAL tier of the Government Security Classification Policy (GSCP). All of the organisation's IEEE 802.11 wireless networks falling within this category will be subject to the requirements specified within this security standard. The requirements will be applied to new and existing installations.

5.2. The security control requirements laid out in this standard are product agnostic and applicable for all wireless network systems that are provisioned for departmental use.

5.3. In the event of uncertainty on the controls laid out in this standard please contact the Security Advice Centre for guidance and support on items which require clarification.

6. Security Controls Assurance

6.1. Controls presented in this standard or referred to via this standard may be subjected to a formalised IT Health Check or Penetration Test to provide evidence of adequacy and effectiveness.

7. Technical Security Control Requirements

In this document the term MUST in upper case is used to indicate an absolute requirement. Failure to meet these requirements will require a formal exemption (see section [3. Exceptions] above).

7.1. Policy and Procedures

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.1.1.	<p>A wireless network usage policy MUST be established and reviewed at planned intervals (at least annually). It must, at minimum, specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the wireless network user authentication;• access control for both employees and guest or non-employees to the wireless network;• employees accessing other wireless networks outside of the control of the employees• who has the authority to allow access points to connect to the DWP network.• which user communities are authorized to use WLAN technology and for what purposes

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Reference	Security Control Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> user responsibilities for the hardware, software and data in relation to the network and its security.
7.1.2.	DWP MUST enforce the wireless security policies through the appropriate security controls.
7.1.3.	There MUST be appropriate knowledge and training in the introduction of new wireless network systems and updated security practices, controls, procedures, and architectures.

7.2. Wireless Network General Requirements

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.2.1.	All products (e.g. access points, servers, equipment & software) MUST support WPA2 or successor standards. They must have been assured/validated prior to purchase.
7.2.2.	As a minimum, all WLAN components MUST use CCMP (utilising AES Key Wrap with HMAC-SHA-1-128) to protect the confidentiality and integrity of WLAN communications.
7.2.3.	All endpoint devices that attempt to wirelessly connect to a DWP network MUST be authenticated.
7.2.4.	The authentication method chosen for DWP wireless networks MUST be assessed as suitable for deployment by DWP Design Authority (DA).
7.2.5.	All network components MUST be configured to reduce the risk of being compromised as per SS-018 Network Security Design Standard. There must be standardized security configurations for common WLAN components, such as client devices and Access Points (APs).
7.2.6.	Unneeded network connections, network services and ports on managed endpoints, access points and authentication servers MUST be disabled to reduce attack surface (e.g. if a device is already connected to a wired network access, WLAN access is usually redundant and should be disallowed).
7.2.7.	There MUST be security functions on the external gateway to supplement the controls on the end user devices. This includes all or a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> logging all web access to audit compliance with corporate policy, and provide more situational awareness when an attack is detected elsewhere on the network anti-malware scans on files and web pages before they are loaded on the end user device reputational filtering to block potentially malicious sites based on data from cloud anti-malware services filtering out categories of sites deemed inappropriate for the workplace applying data loss protection rules to attempt to block sensitive data being accidentally sent to the Internet preventing the user from installing an untrusted root Certificate Authority's certificate
7.2.8.	There MUST be a robust boundary (with network security enforcing components) between each WLAN and the enterprise network/the internet.
7.2.9.	Boundaries of the wireless network MUST in addition comply with SS-006 Security Boundary.
7.2.10.	Where there has been DWP risk assessment approval for pre-shared keys to be used to establish network associations, they MUST be replaced frequently - at least once every 30 days.
7.2.11.	If PSKs are used to establish network associations, no key MUST be shared across multiple endpoint devices.
7.2.12.	Any certificates on the endpoints and the servers used for wireless authentication MUST be periodically updated in accordance with DWP Certificate Policy.

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Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.2.13.	Access Points, Authentication Servers other wireless infrastructure components MUST be subject to the DWP Patching Policy.
7.2.14.	Risk assessment MUST be performed to determine the necessity for additional technical countermeasures required such as wireless location services, passive/active WLAN scanners, wireless intrusion detection and protection systems, and spectrum analysis.
7.2.15.	There must be regular auditing (at least annually) of the security configurations of the Wi-Fi network components such as the client device and the access points to ensure that they comply with a minimum level of security or with DWP standard security configuration.
7.2.16.	There MUST be comprehensive WLAN security assessments (e.g. IT Health Check) at regular and random intervals, preferably at least once annually. Any detected vulnerabilities must be fixed by patching applications, OS and devices or by using secure configurations and hardening devices.

7.3. Access Points (APs)

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.3.1.	WEP and TKIP MUST be disabled in the configuration of each AP.
7.3.2.	The Service Set Identifier (SSID) of the Access Point (AP) MUST be changed from its default.
7.3.3.	Access points (APs) MUST not be connected directly to the enterprise network as this could provide an unprotected route into the network. The wireless infrastructure must be separate from the enterprise network.
7.3.4.	Access Points MUST terminate associations after a configurable time period (as assessed suitable by risk assessment).
7.3.5.	A Group Master Key (GMK), where applicable, MUST be configured on the AP with a maximum lifetime (not to exceed 24 hours).
7.3.6.	APs MUST have a logically or physically independent management support interface.
7.3.7.	The standard security configuration MUST be re-applied to an AP whenever its reset function is used.
7.3.8.	There MUST be a site survey to determine the proper location of APs, given a desired coverage area. Preferably, the estimated usable range of each AP should not extend beyond the physical boundaries of the facility.
7.3.9.	Access Points (APs) MUST be physically inaccessible to unauthorised users.

7.4. Authentication Servers (ASs)

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.4.1.	The security of any authentication server MUST be established in accordance with SS-008 Server Operating System Security Standard.
7.4.2.	Servers MUST be identified by their fully qualified domain name (e.g., as1.xyzAgency.gov) so that the name listed in the Authentication Server's certificate can be compared with the name specified in the managed endpoint device's configuration. Managed endpoints should also be configured to accept certificates only from the CA that signed the server certificates (see SS-002 PKI Security Standard for further requirements for certificates).
7.4.3.	Managed endpoints MUST be configured to specify valid Authentication Servers (ASs) by name.
7.4.4.	A Public Master Key (PMK), where applicable, MUST be configured on the AS with a maximum lifetime, preferably not to exceed eight hours.

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Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.4.5.	Any communications between each Access Point (AP) and its corresponding Authentication Servers (AS) MUST be protected sufficiently through cryptography (see SS-007 Use of Cryptography).
7.4.6.	The cryptographic software on the authentication server MUST be deployed in accordance with SS-007 Use of Cryptography.
7.4.7.	The AS MUST be configured to use authorised methods only, as assessed suitable for deployment by DWP Design Authority (DA).
7.4.8.	ASs MUST only grant authorisations for a configurable time period (as assessed suitable by risk assessment).

7.5. Enterprise Network

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.5.1.	Access to enterprise resources from a mobile wireless device MUST be in compliance with SS-016 Remote Access Security Standard.
7.5.2.	Users wishing to access enterprise network services MUST be in possession of the credentials required to pass through the VPN gateway. Wireless endpoints MUST authenticate with the VPN gateway after associating with the managed wireless infrastructure.
7.5.3.	The enterprise network MUST be periodically surveyed to confirm that APs have not been attached directly to the enterprise network. The frequency of these surveys will depend on the risk appetite and the information sensitivity of the data passing through the network.

7.6. Guest Wi-Fi

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.6.1.	Guest users should not have access to the enterprise network or the DWP intranet via the wireless network.
7.6.2.	There MUST be physical or logical network segregation between all guest traffic and corporate traffic.
7.6.3.	Guest users MUST authenticate with the guest Wi-Fi before being permitted access to Internet services.
7.6.4.	There MUST be technical controls in place to control what can be accessed.
7.6.5.	Guest user sessions MUST have a timeout period configured (as assessed suitable by risk management).
7.6.6.	Guest credentials MUST be unique and attributable to each guest user.
7.6.7.	Internet activity MUST be attributable to authenticated users such that an investigation can be successfully completed should the internet feed be used for malicious purposes.
7.6.8.	Network controls MUST protect the guest Wi-Fi from network bound attacks from the Internet
7.6.9.	If it is a web based authentication for the guest Wi-Fi, then it MUST be configured and tested to ensure compliance with good web application design and implementation (in accordance with SS-029 Securely Serving Web Content).
7.6.10.	Guest users MUST be made aware of terms and conditions (acceptable usage policy) which they must accept before accessing the Wi-Fi, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no level of confidentiality is offered to traffic passing over the wireless infrastructure. • all usage and attempts to use the Wi-Fi are monitored and this may be used for an investigation to any misuse or abuse of the system

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7.7. Partner Users

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.7.1.	Partner users MUST be able to directly access their organisation's VPN gateway without requiring authentication to the access layer (i.e. bypassing the captive portal).

7.8. Audit and Monitoring

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.8.1.	Audit and monitoring MUST be done in compliance with SS-012 Protective Monitoring.
7.8.2.	Audit and monitoring information MUST be taken from the components within the architecture. Example events that must be recorded include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centralised logging on the access points MUST be enabled to record user and event activity such as client access success/failure events, authentication success/failure events, client association history, timestamps, MAC addresses, usernames, type of event, reboots, association/de-associations, identification of rogue access points. Configuration changes to the service/infrastructure, including VPN gateway and wireless infrastructure. Unauthorised changes must be investigated Traffic flows through the firewall, ensuring that any configuration errors that could allow flows from the wireless infrastructure to the internet are caught promptly
7.8.3.	In addition, where guest/partner users are permitted to connect to a wireless network, the following MUST be logged or monitored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest users that successfully authenticate to a captive portal/the guest Wi-Fi must be logged. Multiple failed attempts to authenticate to the portal should be investigated DWP must have developed an Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) for guest access that defines acceptable use of the wireless network. Guest activity must be monitored to ensure compliance with the AUP. Changes to the configuration of a captive portal/Guest Wi-Fi must be logged together with the user carrying out the change. Unauthorised changes should be investigated Attempts to access white-listed VPN gateways must be logged. Such logs may be used to investigate an attack on a white-listed gateway from the enterprise wireless infrastructure Abnormally high bandwidth usage by guests or partners must be logged and investigated further Tests must be undertaken to ensure that logged traffic flows can be attributed to individual user credentials in case malicious use needs to be investigated
7.8.4.	There MUST be both attack monitoring and vulnerability monitoring to support WLAN security. The monitoring solutions for the wireless network should provide most, if not all, of the following detection capabilities: <p><u>ATTACKS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unauthorized WLAN devices, including rogue APs and unauthorized client devices Unusual WLAN usage patterns, such as extremely high numbers of client devices using a particular AP, abnormally high volumes of WLAN traffic involving a particular client device, or many failed attempts to join the WLAN in a short period of time The use of active WLAN scanners (e.g. war driving tools) that generate WLAN traffic. The use of passive sensors cannot be detected through monitoring controls.

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Reference	Security Control Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoS attacks and conditions (e.g., network interference). Many denial of service attacks are detected by counting events during periods of time and alerting when threshold values are exceeded. For example, a large number of events involving the termination of WLAN sessions can indicate a DoS attack. Impersonation and man-in-the-middle attacks. For example, some WIDPS are able to detect these Any radio frequency jamming signal emanating from an attacker or from an accidental source. <p><u>VULNERABILITIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WLAN devices that are misconfigured or using weak WLAN protocols and protocol implementations
7.8.5.	There MUST be wireless security audit processes and procedures that identify the types of security relevant events that should be captured, and determine how audit records will be securely stored for subsequent analysis.

7.9. Access Control

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.9.1.	Access points, that are either managed individually or via centralised management facilities (to enable single admin account access), MUST have strong, unique administrative passwords (changed from default) in accordance with DWP User Access Control Policy.
7.9.2.	Users MUST only be provided with access to the wireless network and wireless network services that they have specifically been authorised to use, with users' access rights being regularly reviewed.
7.9.3.	Access and Authentication must in addition be in accordance with the appropriate controls in SS-001 Access and Authentication.

7.10. Administration

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.10.1.	As part of a privileged user management regime, the allocation and use of privileged access rights of the wireless network infrastructure MUST be restricted and controlled to authorised administrators. They must be appropriately trained and cleared network administrators.
7.10.2.	Management of the wireless infrastructure MUST be carried out over a wired interface. Where this cannot be prevented, such as when diagnosing and correcting Radio Frequency (RF) problems, the wireless management interface should be disabled when not in use.
7.10.3.	Administration and network management of WLAN infrastructure equipment (i.e., APs and ASs) MUST involve strong authentication and encryption of all communication (in accordance with SS-007 Use of Cryptography).
7.10.4.	Network management information between APs/ASs and network management servers or consoles MUST be transmitted over a dedicated management VLAN.
7.10.5.	Access points (APs) MUST support authentication and data encryption for administrative sessions (e.g. SSL/TLS v1.2 (or above) support for web-based administration and secure shell (SSH) for command-line administration).
7.10.6.	All insecure and unused management protocols on the APs MUST be disabled, and configure remaining management protocols for least privilege.

7.11. Incident management

Reference	Security Control Requirement
7.11.1.	Any security incidents relating to DWP wireless networks should be managed in accordance with SS-014 Security Incident Management Standard.

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8. Compliance

Compliance with this standard MUST occur as follows:

Compliance	Due Date
On-going	From the first day of approval
Retrospective	Within 6 months of the approval of the standard.

9. Accessibility

No user interfaces are included in this standard and accessibility is not applicable as part of this standard. However it is deemed that projects implementing this standard are obliged to incorporate accessibility functions where necessary.

10. Security Standards Reference List

Document Name	Location	Version
Exceptions Process	Blueprint Online	n/a

11. Reference Documents

[CESG Architectural Patterns: Wireless Networking, October 2015, Issue No 1.1](#)

[NCSC End User Devices Guidance](#)

[NIST Special Publication 800-97: Establishing Wireless Robust Security Networks – A guide to IEEE 802.11i](#)

[NIST Special Publication 800-153: Guidelines for Securing Wireless Local Area Networks \(WLANs\)](#)

12. Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
Access Point (AP)	The access point provides an endpoint with wireless access to services on a wired network. An AP logically connects endpoints with a distribution system (DS), which is typically an organization's wired infrastructure. APs can also logically connect wireless endpoints with each other without accessing a distribution system.
Captive portal	A captive portal presents an authentication page to guest users that require access to the Internet. This may be used to control access and provide auditing capability to support governance.
Enterprise users	Enterprise users are employees of DWP. They will usually be given use of a managed wireless endpoint.
Endpoints	A wireless endpoint device. Typical examples of endpoints are laptop computers, personal digital assistants (PDA), mobile

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Term	Definition
	phones, and other consumer electronic devices with IEEE 802.11 capabilities.
Guest users	Guest users are likely to be users visiting the HMG department requiring Internet access. Guest users will typically be in possession of an unmanaged endpoint.
Hardening	Process of securing a system by reducing its surface of vulnerability
Managed component	A managed component is one that is managed by the enterprise deploying the wireless solution. The enterprise will have increased confidence about the integrity, configuration and maintenance of such components. Managed components should be patched according to an enterprise patching policy and may have additional technical protections designed to protect their confidentiality and integrity.
Partner users	Partner users will typically be employees of a department that has a trust relationship with the HMG department deploying the wireless solution. This, for example may be employees from a different HMG department.
Service Set Identifier (SSID)	The SSID is a text string used to identify a wireless network. SSIDs are usually broadcast from APs.
Unmanaged component	An unmanaged component is one where the enterprise has very little confidence about its integrity, configuration and maintenance because they do not control the component. The lack of confidence in these areas increases the risk of compromise to the networks to which it connects.

13. Glossary

Abbreviation	Definition
AP	Access Point
AS	Authentication Server
CCMP	Counter Mode with Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) Message Authentication Code (MAC) Protocol
DOS	Denial of Service
DA	Design Authority (DA)
DWP	Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)
GMK	Group Master Key
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
PMK	Pairwise Master Key
PSK	Pre-shared Key
TKIP	Temporary Key Integrity Protocol
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WEP	Wired Equivalent Privacy
WIDPS	Wireless Intruder Detection and Prevention System
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network
WPA	Wi-Fi Protected Access
WWAN	Wireless Wide Area Network

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14. Controls Catalogue Mapping

The table below shows how the controls in this standard map to the DWP Controls Catalogue and thereon to control points in international security standards including but not limited to ISO/IEC 27002:2013, NIST 800-53, and the OWASP Application Security Verification Standard (ASVS).

SS-019 Wireless Security STANDARD	DWP Controls Catalogue - Baseline Control Set	
Control Statement	Control Reference	Descriptor
10.1.1	AC01	An access control policy shall be established, documented, and reviewed based on business and information security requirements.
	PL01	A set of policies for information security shall be defined, approved by management, published and communicated to employees and relevant external parties.
	PL02	The policies for information security shall be reviewed at planned intervals or if significant changes occur to ensure their continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness.
10.1.2	AC16	Access to information and application system functions shall be restricted in accordance with the access control policy.
10.1.3	HR01	All employees of the organisation and, where relevant, contractors shall receive appropriate awareness education and training and regular updates in organizational policies and procedures, as relevant for their job function.
10.2.1		
10.2.2	CY06	Policies and procedures shall be established, and supporting business processes and technical measures implemented, for the use of encryption protocols for protection of sensitive data in storage (e.g., file servers, databases, and end-user workstations), data in use (memory), and data in transmission (e.g., system interfaces, over public networks, and electronic messaging) as per applicable legal, statutory, and regulatory compliance obligations.
10.2.3		
10.2.4		
10.2.5		
10.2.6		

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SS-019 Wireless Security STANDARD	DWP Controls Catalogue - Baseline Control Set	
10.2.7		
10.2.8		
10.2.9	NT02	Network environments and virtual instances shall be designed and configured to restrict and monitor traffic between trusted and untrusted connections. These configurations shall be reviewed at least annually, and supported by a documented justification for use for all allowed services, protocols, and ports, and by compensating controls.
10.2.10		
10.2.11		
10.2.12		
10.2.13		
10.2.14		
10.2.15		
10.2.16	AP03	Information about technical vulnerabilities of information systems being used shall be obtained in a timely fashion, the organisation's exposure to such vulnerabilities evaluated, and appropriate measures taken to address the associated risk
10.3.1		
10.3.2		
10.3.3		
10.3.4		
10.3.5		
10.3.6		
10.3.7		
10.3.8		
10.3.9		
10.4.1		
10.4.2		
10.4.3		

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SS-019 Wireless Security STANDARD	DWP Controls Catalogue - Baseline Control Set	
10.4.4		
10.4.5		
10.4.6		
10.4.7		
10.4.8		
10.5.1		
10.5.2	AC19	Where required by the access control policy, access to systems and applications shall be controlled by a secure log-on procedure.
10.5.3		
10.6.1		
10.6.2		
10.6.3	AC04	A formal user registration and de-registration process shall be implemented to enable assignment of access rights.
10.6.4		
10.6.5		
10.6.6		
10.6.7		
10.6.8		
10.6.9		
10.6.10	FR01	The organisation shall define and apply procedures for the identification, collection, acquisition and preservation of information, which can serve as evidence.
10.7.1		
10.8.1	EV01	Event logs recording user activities, exceptions, faults and information security events shall be produced, kept and regularly reviewed.
10.8.2	FR01	The organisation shall define and apply procedures for the identification, collection, acquisition and preservation of information, which can serve as evidence.
10.8.3	AS03	Rules for the acceptable use of information and of assets associated with information and information processing facilities shall be identified, documented, and implemented.
	FR01	

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SS-019 Wireless Security STANDARD	DWP Controls Catalogue - Baseline Control Set	
		The organisation shall define and apply procedures for the identification, collection, acquisition and preservation of information, which can serve as evidence.
10.8.4	FR01	The organisation shall define and apply procedures for the identification, collection, acquisition and preservation of information, which can serve as evidence.
	AP03	Information about technical vulnerabilities of information systems being used shall be obtained in a timely fashion, the organisation's exposure to such vulnerabilities evaluated, and appropriate measures taken to address the associated risk.
10.8.5	AP07	Policies and procedures shall be established, and supporting processes and technical measures implemented, for timely detection of vulnerabilities within organizationally-owned or managed applications, infrastructure network and system components (e.g., network vulnerability assessment, penetration testing) to ensure the efficiency of implemented security controls. A risk-based model for prioritizing remediation of identified vulnerabilities shall be used. Changes shall be managed through a change management process for all vendor-supplied patches, configuration changes, or changes to the organization's internally developed software. Upon request, the provider informs customer (tenant) of policies and procedures and identified weaknesses especially if customer (tenant) data is used as part the service and/or customer (tenant) has some shared responsibility over implementation of control.
10.9.1	AC19	Where required by the access control policy, access to systems and applications shall be controlled by a secure log-on procedure.
	AC20	Password management systems shall be interactive and shall ensure quality passwords.
10.9.2	AC02	Users should only be provided with access to the network and network services that they have specifically been authorised to use.
	AC14	Asset owners shall review users' access rights at regular intervals.
10.10.1	AC08	The allocation and use of privileged access rights shall be restricted and controlled.
	AC21	The use of utility programs that might be capable of overriding system and application

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SS-019 Wireless Security STANDARD	DWP Controls Catalogue - Baseline Control Set	
		controls shall be restricted and tightly controlled.
10.10.2		
10.10.3		
10.10.4		
10.10.5		
10.10.6		