

Office Hours – August 2018

Topic: IT Scoping & Electronic Data Flow

The following are questions from the audiences and responses from the moderators compiled from every IT Scoping & Electronic Data Flow Office Hours Call held.

Summary of Questions:

- 1. How does the Office of Safeguards conduct the Preliminary Security Evaluation (PSE) call and scope a collection vendor, if the vendor is physically located in a different area?**
 - a. After the initial PSE call with the agency, Safeguards will set up a mini-PSE call with the vendor and discuss the handling of federal tax information (FTI) within their system. Then, we'll decide if the vendor is within scope of the on-site review.
- 2. How much time is there between the post-PSE email and the on-site review?**
 - a. Safeguards will send all necessary information with the post-PSE email. Although it's case-by-case, the review team will try to send out all information a few weeks before the on-site review.
- 3. How long will the review team be on site?**
 - a. The agency will get a notification letter about 2-3 months before the on-site review with the review date. The team will be on site for three days, beginning with the opening conference Tuesday and ending with the closing conference Thursday. The review timeline may differ, if third party vendors are in other locations.
- 4. What applications/systems is Safeguards considering as Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)?**
 - a. A full desktop with access to FTI counts as VDI. We commonly see VMWare Horizon and Citrix XenDesktop as VDI solutions. .
- 5. Which Safeguard Computer Security Evaluation Matrix (SCSEM) does the agency use for VDI?**
 - a. Agencies may use the generic VDI SCSEM that's in the virtualization folder of the SCSEM package dated March 15, 2018.