October 10, 2014

To State Member Banks, Bank Holding Companies, Financial Holding Companies, Savings and Loan Holding Companies, and Foreign Banking Offices in the Twelfth Federal Reserve District

Financial Institutions Should Move Quickly to Address Shellshock Vulnerability

On September 26, 2014, the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) member agencies, which include the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, advised financial institutions of a material security vulnerability in the Bourne-again shell (Bash) system software. Bash is widely used in servers and other computing devices and the vulnerability could allow attackers to access and gain control of operating systems. The vulnerability, nicknamed “Shellshock,” could expose organizations and individuals to potential fraud, financial loss, operational delays, or unauthorized access to confidential information. Given the widespread use of Bash and the evolving nature of the risk, the statement outlines FFIEC member agencies’ risk mitigation expectations and provides references for management to monitor the changing threat and vulnerability landscape.

FFIEC Press Release
FFIEC Bourne-Again Shell (Bash) ‘Shellshock’ Vulnerability Alert

Additional Information

All circulars and documents are available on the Internet through the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco’s website, at http://www.frbsf.org/banking-supervision/publications/district-circular-letters/.

For additional information, please contact:

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