

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco  
101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105

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:

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco  
Banking Supervision and Regulation  
415-974-2923