

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 1999 14:58:57 -0600  
From: Meredith Brown <racer@lanl.gov>  
Subject: Yellow Alert: Computerized Access Control

**TITLE: Yellow Alert: Computerized Access Control Issues**

IDENTIFIER: 1999-LA-LANL-ESH7-0006 DATE: March 12, 1999

**LESSONS LEARNED STATEMENT:** Computer access control system functionality should be clearly documented to ensure that vital information is readily available to new employees and other personnel who do not routinely enter data into access control systems.

**DISCUSSION:** Training personnel conducting a routine monthly discrepancy check of the Laboratory's Solid Waste Operations area badge reader access control system discovered that a contractor was granted access to a radiological control area without having completed required radiological refresher training. A more extensive check of the access control system revealed that a system default deactivation date had been entered in an incorrect field, giving the appearance that the contractor's radiological training was up to date.

The training personnel also discovered that the access control system software only evaluated the field containing the deactivation date; the personnel had thought that the system checked all training dates and denied access based on the most limiting date. However, the system is not a relational database as they believed, and all date fields other than the system default deactivation date are treated as text fields.

Approximately 60 sites at the Laboratory use the PDB-10 proprietary DOS-based access accountability software by ASTI, which is compatible with the Laboratory's badge-reader system. ASTI will be releasing a Windows-compatible version of the software that is a relational database.

**ANALYSIS:** Several factors contributed to the misunderstandings regarding system functionality. The data entry clerk had only been on the job a short time, and no written procedures were available to provide guidance on the access control system software or correct data entry procedures. Additionally, working knowledge of the software features and functionality was lost due to staffing turnover among training and management personnel.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** To prevent a recurrence, an access control procedure will be developed that will include data entry procedures. A manual backup system using training completion cards has also been implemented to ensure that training qualifications can be verified in the event that the automated access control system fails. DOE sites are encouraged to evaluate their access control software systems to determine if the actual system functionality matches the anticipated functionality.

ORIGINATOR: Los Alamos National Laboratory  
CONTACT: Gerald Winsemius 505-665-9530  
AUTHORIZED DERIVATIVE CLASSIFIER: Meredith Brown, 505-667-0604

REVIEWING OFFICIAL: Tony Stanford

DOE FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY: Configuration Management

KEYWORDS: access control, software, default date

REFERENCES: ALO-LA-LANL-WASTEMGT-1998-0005

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:** Information in this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. As a means of measuring the effectiveness of this report, please contact the originator of significant action(s) taken as a result of this report or of any technical inaccuracies you find. Your feedback is appreciated.